



FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING
MAY 4, 2021

The Minutes of the Board of Commissioners proceedings are not verbatim. Access to an electronic audio recording of meetings are available on the Franklin County website or upon request.

9:00 a.m.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Commission Chairman Clint Didier called the Franklin County Commissioners' Regular Board Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., in the Commissioners' Meeting Room in the Franklin County Courthouse located at 1016 North Fourth Avenue, Pasco, Washington.

Commissioners Present: Commission Chair Clint Didier, Chair Pro Tem Rocky Mullen and Member Brad Peck

9:00 a.m. **Approval of Minutes**

- ❖ *April 13, 2021 Commissioners Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.*
- ❖ *April 20, 2021 Commissioners Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.*

9:01 a.m. **Certificate of Appreciation- Director of IS Kevin Scott**

Commissioner Didier read a letter of appreciation to Kevin Scott for his many years of service to the County. Commissioner Mullen and Commissioner Peck thanked Kevin for his great work.

9:04 a.m. Commissioner Didier opened the Closed Record Hearing on CUP 2021-01.

AHBL Contractor Nicole Stickney presented the Board with information on the Columbia Bluff Subdivision 2021-01: An application requesting approval to subdivide three parcels, which total approximately 10.1 acres into 9 single-family residential lots.

Ms. Stickney asked the Commissioners if they had any ex parte communications or any conflict of interest with this parcel. The Commissioners answered no.

The Planning Commissioner did recommend a preliminary approval of SUB 2021-01, based on six findings of fact and six conditions of approval.

9:14 a.m. Commissioner Didier closed the Closed Record Hearing.

- ❖ *Commissioner Mullen moved to approve resolution 2021-089, Columbia Bluffs SUB 2021-01. Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion carried.*

9:15 a.m. Commissioner Didier opened the Closed Record Hearing on CUP 2020-05, Jeffery Burns.

Planning and Building Director Derrick Braaten brought an application for deviation from Franklin County land subdivision regulations. The request is to allow for a 2-parcel short-plat of an approximately 5-acre property.



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The recommendation of the Planning Commission is a denial of the application.

❖ *There was no motion to approve and the application failed.*

9:39 a.m. **Public Comment**

- Pasco Land Owner asked the Commissioners to be mindful of the AP-20 zoning and reevaluate the statues. Inequity in land use from the river area to the 395 area.
- Lawanda Hatch voiced her concerns on obtaining a redistricting committee and the sense of urgency to do so.
- George Dockstader asked the Commissioners to obtain staffing help in the Planning Department. He supports 2% tax deferral from Ben Franklin transit to go bi-county projects. He would like to see an email list for Commissioners meetings and business.
- Administrator Keith Johnson explained that there are two positions posted for the Planning and Building Department to alleviate the backlog of permits.
- Mr. Johnson announced that there would be a bi-county Commissioners Special Meeting on June 2, 2021 to discuss a possible 1% tax deferral from Ben-Franklin Transit to a Mental Health project. Also, discussion on the Juvenile Justice Center.

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FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
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REGULAR MEETING
MAY 4, 2021

9:50 a.m. Approval of Fund Expenditure Warrants

05/04/2021

Franklin County Commissioners:

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer by RCW 42.24.080, expense reimbursement claims.

Action: As of this date, 05/04/2021

Move that the following warrants be approved for payment:

Certified by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been sent to the board members.

Warrants \ Check Numbers:	00370481 - 00370609	\$426,581.22
EFT Check Numbers:	00000804 - 00000806	\$8,068.76
		<u>\$434,649.98</u>

<u>Fund Expenditures</u>	<u>Amount Issued</u>
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$320,402.21
AUDITOR O & M	\$97.42
TREASURER O & M	\$1,150.00
COURTHOUSE FACILITATOR	\$525.00
JAIL COMMISSARY	\$14,588.75
COUNTY ROADS	\$29,024.96
SOLID WASTE	\$138.92
BF MENTAL HEALTH	\$1,847.49
THE HAPO CENTER	\$24,467.49
FRANKLIN COUNTY RV PARK	\$2,618.28
MOTOR VEHICLE	\$20,880.30
FR CO UNEMPLOYMENT	\$18,909.16

In the amount of: \$434,649.98

The motion was seconded by [Signature]

And passed by a vote of 3 to 0

Reviewed by the County Administrator: [Signature]

The attached vouchers have been approved by Auditor or Deputy:
Matt Beaton

[Signature]
Vouchers Audited By:
Paola Mendoza

www.co.franklin.wa.us/auditor

❖ Commissioner Mullen moved to approve Fund Expenditures audited and certified by the auditing officer for warrants prepared for the week of May 4, 2021 for payment totaling \$434,649.98. Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion carried.



FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING
MAY 4, 2021

9:51 a.m. Approval of Salary Clearing and Emergency Management Payroll



1016 N 4th Ave, Pasco,
WA 99301
509-545-3502

May 4, 2021

Franklin County Commissioners:

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer by RCW 42.24.080, expense reimbursement claims certified by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been sent to the board members.

Action: As of this date, May 4, 2021 Rodney Mullen moves that the following warrants be approved for payment.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Salary Clearing Payroll:		
Net Payroll Checks	00370361-00370366	\$ 10,721.72
Net EFT Payroll Checks	00033198-00033456	\$ 497,070.04
Deduction and Contribution Checks	00370476-00370480	\$ 343,217.52
	Total	\$ 851,009.28
Emergency Mgmt Payroll:		
Net EFT Payroll Checks	00033194-00033197	\$ 8,014.61
Deduction and Contribution Checks	00370472-00370475	\$ 5,422.68
	Total	\$ 13,437.29
	Grand Total All Payrolls	\$ 864,446.57

In the total amount of **\$864,446.57**

The motion was seconded by Rand Paul and passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Matt Beaton
The attached payroll has been approved by Auditor or Deputy

Peter Gadomski
Payroll Prepared by Peter Gadomski

❖ **Commissioner Mullen moved to approve Salary Clearing and Emergency Management Payroll totaling \$864,446.57. Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion carried.**



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9:51 a.m. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Resolution 2021-091 Personal Services Contract between Michael Henry and Juvenile Justice Center
2. Resolution 2021-092 Approval of Additional Planner Position
3. Resolution 2021-093 Public Works Contract between Franklin County and KPFF Inc. for Services on CRP 629- Muse Drive Bridge

❖ *Commissioner Mullen moved to approve the Consent Agenda items 1-3. Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion carried.*

9:52 a.m. Administration Office Business

Administrator Keith Johnson Update

- He asked the Commissioners if they were available June 2, 2021 for a Bi-County Commissioners Meeting. They were in consensus to hold this meeting on Wednesday June 2.
- Discussed a proposed a public hearing meeting for May 18, 2021 to discuss the “Controlled Substance Ordinance,” if the Governor does not sign the state bill pertaining to this.
- Mr. Johnson and Commissioner Mullen presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Tri-City Chamber, which provided an update on Franklin County.
- He met with the Port of Pasco to work on projects in the Reimann Industrial Center area.
- He continues to work on the Shoreline Reconveyance.
- He is working on the American Recovery Act with other entities.
- He ordered an appraisal of the Wilson House to verify its worth.

Commissioner Didier asked if there were any updates on organizing a redistricting committee. Mr. Johnson directed the question to Attorney Shawn Sant. Mr. Sant mentioned that we have been served and that he will work with Attorney John Safarli and the litigants to form whatever committee might be agreeable to resolve that lawsuit.

Commissioner Mullen Update

- He sat in on the WSAC redistricting webinar. Their recommendation is to set up the redistricting committees now so that when the census numbers come in, they will be ready to work on the maps.
- He spoke with Dr. Raul Garcia who has concerns over the matric to collect COVID data. Dr. Garcia had positive thoughts on Franklin County’s ability to start opening.



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Commissioner Peck Update

- Commented that listening to the differences of doctors opinions makes it difficult for the public.
- The WSAC webinar on redistricting is focused mostly on the state districts.
- Had a meeting with CRAB County Road Administration Board and had a broad range of transportation issues.
- He participated in LSC Legislative Steering Committee
- Shoreline Reconveyance discussion
- Tri-City Chamber meeting

Commissioner Didier Update

- Hanford Communities meeting
- Workforce Development meeting
- Attended the meeting where Assessor John Rosenau, Chief Deputy Assessor Piper Mitchell and Chief Appraiser Nikki Morgan presented a PowerPoint on Personal Property tax to the public. Commissioner Mullen said it was very informative.
- Questioned the possibility of mandated vaccinations.

Commissioner Mullen asked Public Works Director Matt Mahoney when the postings of the Planning positions will take place. Mr. Mahoney explained that the postings are taking place and the Contracting agency AHBL is working extra to help in the Planning Department.

Human Resources Director Carlee Nave stated that they have advertised in several venues to fill the positions.

Mr. Mahoney would like to see the public portal used more frequently to help in the process of permits. It would make the process run smoother.

10:24 a.m. Public Comment

- Lawanda Hatch appreciated Commissioner Mullen's comments on the redistricting. She would like to see a redistricting committee put together as soon as possible. She appreciated Dr. Garcia's input on COVID issues.
- Commissioner Peck responded to Ms. Hatch's allegations on redistricting.
- Steve Bauman voiced his concerns with the Planning and Building Department and the challenges in obtaining permits. He would like to be part of the solution. There is a real problem with affordable housing in Franklin County.
- Michelle Andre appreciated the civility and candor of the Board when dealing with tough issues. She supports the builders of this area. She appreciated the Commissioners' updates.



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- Assessor John Rosenau spoke on the Agriculture Real and Personal Property Tax meeting his office presented to the public. He and his staff are working on a web base system to allow public access to information on the Franklin County website. It has been a challenge filling the open appraiser position.

10:41 a.m. Public Comment

- Dr. Raul Garcia voiced his opinion after seeing the numbers that he is cautiously optimistic about where we are with the COVID pandemic. He would like to see better transparency and more consistency in the way we capture data. He reported that 80 percent of people over the age of 65 have been vaccinated. With continued administering of vaccinations, reduction in hospitalizations, and those who have had COVID all contribute to an optimistic outcome. We need to get an end game plan. He hoped that we do not go back to phase 2.

10:46 a.m. Redistricting Discussion

Commissioner Mullen asked about the normal process of Redistricting. Commissioner Peck explained the difference between State Legislative Districts and County Districts.

Commissioner Mullen would like to move forward with getting a Redistricting Committee put together and start meetings with the public.

- ❖ *Commissioner Mullen moved to move forward with organizing a committee to redistrict the County. Commissioner Didier seconded with an amendment that we make this a nine person board and the Administrator is the organizer of this meeting, and the nine person board would be a person from the Auditors office, a person from Pasco Hispanic Chamber, a person from the Pasco Chamber, a person from the Farm Bureau, a person from the Cattlemen's Association, each Commissioner gets to pick one person, and one person from IS(Information Services). This would be a nine-person committee headed up by Keith Johnson that would be ready to move when the census report comes out. Commissioner Mullen seconded the amendment.*

Discussion on the amendment did not take place. Commissioner Peck wanted discussion on the main motion in creating a redistricting committee. He was concerned with harmony and mutual understanding of where we are going. Commissioner Peck asked Commissioner Didier and Commissioner Mullen if there was any discussion on this. Commissioner Didier and Commissioner Mullen replied no, only what has been discussed during Commissioner Meetings.

10:59 a.m.

- ❖ *Clint Didier moved to end discussion and to vote on the amendment and to vote on the motion. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion to end discussion and to vote.*



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- ❖ *First, Commissioner Didier moved to vote on the amendment of the nine-person board, including the entities I put forth. The motion carried 2:0 Commissioner Peck nay.*
- ❖ *Second, Commissioner Didier moved to create this nine-person committee to draw maps for Franklin County, so that the Commissioners remove themselves from all appearance of gerrymandering.*
- ❖ *Commissioner Didier moved to end discussion on the primary motion. No second.*

Discussion

- ❖ *Commissioner Didier moved to approve the main motion to create a redistricting committee. Motion carried 2:0 with Commissioner Peck abstaining.*

Commissioner Didier asked Administrator Keith Johnson to move forward with the process of obtaining a redistricting committee and preparing the committee with whatever action is needed to be ready when the census becomes available.

Adjourn

With no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Chair

Clerk of the Board

Date