



# FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 23, 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. Potts and Associates Legislative Updates

Zak Kennedy presented the Board with updates concerning what is happening this year with the Covid-19 related process of how the bills are being heard. There are fewer bills and fewer that have been passed out of committee this year. Discussion on the following bills.

[SHB 1152](#) Supporting measures to create comprehensive public health districts

[HB 1110](#) Concerning the composition of local boards of health

[SHB 1332](#) Concerning property tax deferral during the COVID-19 pandemic

[HB 1410](#) Protecting taxpayers from home foreclosure

9:18 a.m. **Approval of Minutes**

*February 9, 2021 Commissioners Meeting Minutes*

❖ *Commissioners' Meeting Minutes were approved as presented*

9:19 a.m. **Hanford Communities Update**

Hanford Communities Executive Director David Reeploeg presented the Board with a PowerPoint presentation. He started with the formation of Hanford Communities in 1994 and its objectives for the coordination of local government involvement and Hanford cleanup issues.

He introduced the Governing Board and Administrative Board.

Mr. Reeploeg reviewed the changes that took place in 2020. In May 2020, Hanford Communities transitioned to TRIDEC Operation. In September 2020, they signed an Ecology Grant with updated scope of work. There is a new website: [www.HanfordCommunities.org](http://www.HanfordCommunities.org). New Communications: Social Media (Facebook/Instagram/YouTube) and Quarterly Newsletters.

2021 Outlook included New Administration- DOE Changes and DOE Reorganization, New Congress, Hanford Site Contract Changes.

Priorities included 2021 Issue Agenda, High Level Waste Interpretation, Hanford Regulatory Approach, Direct Feed Low Activity Waste Facility, Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility, 324 Building (300-296 Waste Site) and Local Business Subcontracting.



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9:40 a.m. **Public Comment**

- Lawanda Hatch followed up on her comments from last week on appreciation Commissioner Will McKay and Commissioner Amanda McKinney. She made a comment on Commissioner Peck’s involvement.
- Commissioner Peck responded to Ms. Hatch’s accusation and asked her to contact the Commissioners to verify, as her sources are incorrect.

9:44 a.m. **Approval of Fund Expenditure Warrants**

02/23/2021

Franklin County Commissioners:

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

Action: As of this date, 02/23/2021

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:	00368431 - 00368581	\$1,030,188.00
EFT Check Numbers:	00000733 - 00000748	\$58,561.61
		<u>\$1,088,749.61</u>

<u>Fund Expenditures</u>	<u>Amount Issued</u>
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$587,957.67
AUDITOR O & M	\$22.48
COURTHOUSE FACILITATOR	\$575.99
BOATING SAFETY	\$45.32
JAIL COMMISSARY	\$17,570.66
ENHANCED 911	\$589.00
COUNTY ROADS	\$232,068.86
SOLID WASTE	\$3,351.93
CAP OUTLAY ONE QTR PCT TAX	\$195,547.07
THE HAPO CENTER RENEW & REPLAC	\$271.34
THE HAPO CENTER	\$2,212.76
FRANKLIN COUNTY RV PARK	\$1,666.08
MOTOR VEHICLE	\$46,870.45

In the amount of: \$1,088,749.61

The motion was seconded by: Brad Peck  
Approved Telephonically

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](http://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 February 23, 2021 for payment totaling \$1,088,749.61. Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion carried.*



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9:44 a.m.      **Approval of Salary Clearing and Emergency Management Payroll**

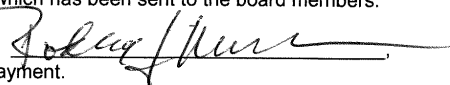


1016 N 4th Ave, Pasco,  
WA 99301  
509-545-3502

February 23, 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.

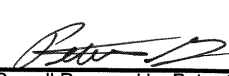
Action: As of this date, February 23, 2021  moves that the following warrants be approved for payment.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Salary Clearing Payroll:</b>		
Net Payroll Checks	00368392-00368395	\$ 7,902.02
Net EFT Payroll Checks	00031872-00032131	\$ 453,878.91
Deduction and Contribution Checks	00368396-00368413	\$ 491,807.27
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 953,588.20</b>
<b>Emergency Mgmt Payroll:</b>		
Net EFT Payroll Checks	00031868-00031871	\$ 7,726.60
Deduction and Contribution Checks	00368414-00368430	\$ 12,217.44
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 19,944.04</b>
<b>Grand Total All Payrolls</b>		<b>\$ 973,532.24</b>

In the total amount of **\$973,532.24**

The motion was seconded by Brad Peck Approved Telephonically and passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

  
The attached payroll has been approved by Auditor or Deputy

  
Payroll Prepared by Peter Gadomski

❖ **Commissioner Mullen moved to approve Salary Clearing and Emergency Management Payroll totaling \$973,532.24. Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion carried.**



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9:45 a.m. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

1. Resolution 2021-040 Appointment of Mid-Columbia Libraries Board of Trustees Ivone Guillen
2. Resolution 2021-041 Open Space Advisory Committee 2021
3. Resolution 2021-042 Memorandum of Understanding between Lourdes Health and Franklin County Corrections.

❖ *Commissioner Mullen moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Peck seconded with discussion on # 2. After discussion, the motion carried.*

9:49 a.m. **Public Comment**

- Hector Alamillo voiced his concerns on speeding on Wernett Road between Road 44 and 48. He appreciated the Commissioners listening to his concerns.

9:52 a.m. **Administration Office Business**

The County is in Phase 2, which allows for in person meetings, however, there is limited space in Commissioners Meeting room. Masks are required. The Governor has not introduced Phases 3 and 4 as of yet.

9:56 a.m. **Executive Session** RCW 42.30.110 (1) (f) receive and evaluate complaints or charges against public officer or employee.

Commissioner Didier recessed into Executive Session at 9:57 a.m., for up to 30 minutes to receive and evaluate complaints or charges against public officer or employee. Invited to attend were the Commissioners, Administrator Keith Johnson, Human Resources Director Carlee Nave, Prosecuting Attorney Shawn Sant and Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jennifer Johnson. Clerk of the Board Karin Milham was dismissed.

Commissioner Didier reconvened the Regular Meeting at 10:28 a.m. with no action taken.

10:29 a.m. **Executive Session**

RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) to discuss with legal counsel: litigation or potential litigation.

Commissioner Didier recessed into Executive Session at 10:29 a.m., for up to 20 minutes to discuss with legal counsel regarding litigation or potential litigation. Invited to attend were the Commissioners, Administrator Keith Johnson, Human Resources Director Carlee Nave, Prosecuting Attorney Shawn Sant, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jennifer Johnson and Clerk of the Board Karin Milham.

Commissioner Didier reconvened the Regular Meeting at 10:49 a.m. with no action taken.

❖ *Commissioner Didier moved to terminate Mr. Johnson immediately as Administrator and start the process of hiring an interim Administrator as soon as possible. Hearing no second the motion failed.*

Commissioner Didier requested the redistricting of Franklin County done as soon as possible.



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Commissioner Peck commented that Administrator Keith Johnson does his job extremely well and he disagreed with the previous motion.

Commissioner Mullen noted a lack of leadership and some problems in the Administrators Office and suggested we look into hiring additional help.

- ❖ ***Commissioner Peck moved for Board authorization for Human Resources to move forward expeditiously in a search and a hiring process for the Deputy County Administrator position that we've discussed previously, and thanked fellow Commissioner Mullen for recognizing the issue here may be that we've asked one man to do two or three jobs, and getting him the additional help that he needs is an opportunity to see where the performance issues really exist. Commissioner Mullen seconded with discussion.***

Commissioner Mullen asked if the Commissioners had a say in the hiring of Keith's Assistant. Commissioner Peck was unaware of any rules that answer this question; however, he deemed it inadvisable to hire someone over Keith's objections. He did think that the Board should have the opportunity to discuss with Keith what our views are of the candidates.

- ❖ ***Commissioner Didier moved to amend the motion that the Commissioners make the decision of the Administrator Assistant for the Administrators Office. Commissioner Mullen seconded.***

Commissioner Peck believed it was inappropriate for the Commissioners to hire a Chief Deputy Administrator.

Commissioner Mullen did not believe it was second-guessing. Because of his being new and seeing inadequacies, he wished to be a part of the hiring process.

- ❖ **All in favor of the amended motion say aye. Commissioner Didier aye, Commissioner Peck nay and Commissioner Mullen remained silent. Motion failed.**
- ❖ **All in favor of Keith hiring and Administrative Assistant for the Administrators Office say aye. Commissioner Peck aye, Commissioner Didier nay and Commissioner Mullen made a new motion.**
- ❖ **Commissioner Mullen made a motion that the Commissioners be involved in the decision making process along with Keith Johnson.**

Administrator Keith Johnson offered guidance on the matter, that he would bring the recommendation to the Board and make it a collective decision.



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❖ *Commissioner Mullen made a motion to follow the advice of the County Administrator on hiring the position with the input of the County Commissioners. Commissioner Peck seconded. All in favor say aye. Motion carried 2-0 with Commissioner Didier abstaining.*

**Adjourn**

With no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

DRAFT