

October 16, 2023

The Board of Garfield County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday October 16, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers at the Garfield County Courthouse.

Present were: Chairman Justin Dixon, Member Jim Nelson, Clerk of the Board McKenzie Lueck and the public.

The Board started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board opened the meeting for public comments. There were no public comments.

Road Supervisor, Steve Gormsen, gave the road report. The graders worked on the following roads; Washboard, Bratcher Grade, New York Gulch, and Kuhl Ridge graded. Steve stated that Willie spent most of the week raking because he was pulling the shoulders of roads in and in doing so brought some larger rocks with it. He also had to service his grader so he wasn't able to operate it very much last week. The crew installed a culvert on the Dutch Flat and Storey Road intersection and there were some pot holes throughout the County that were patched. Steve informed the Board that there was a problem with the mower last week, so it is in the shop getting worked on. There were a few projects in the shop last week; a snow plow for E259 was finished, a grader was serviced, and the mower was and still is being worked on. The crew is going to finish striping this week and will be putting delineators up. As soon as the mower is fixed they will start mowing again. Steve is going to check the power at the dodge building to make sure it has been disconnected so the crew can take it down and then get that area seeded. Steve informed the Board that there is another culvert that will be installed on Skyhawk, but they're waiting until the farmers are done seeding because the crew will have to shut down the road for the day. They're hoping to finish that before winter.

Chairman Dixon asked Steve and Engineer Wege about the facilities review the County's risk pool completed. Engineer Wege stated that they have done a quick review of the facilities that pertain to his department and there are items that are easily remedied. He stated that he had invited a safety salesman to go through the shop a few months ago and they provided the same safety recommendations. He said there were only two things that had costs associated with them; purchasing a flammables cabinet, and moving the shower to a more accessible location which would include some plumbing and labor which the crew could do. Chairman Dixon asked about the status of the landfill, stating that the Board doesn't think they are going to look at a bird habitat in the future. Steve said County Road would like to get the bird stuff out of the landfill and then use the building for storage for equipment that doesn't currently have a place to be stored inside. There was discussion regarding various potential hazards that were noted on the facilities review that pertain to the bird pen and Engineer Wege pointed out that they could easily be remedied by removing the bird pen. Chairman Dixon stated that there needs to be some sort of post closure landfill program. Steve informed Chairman Dixon that the landfill was closed and all of the proper steps were taken. It is only a transfer station now and ecology has signed off. Chairman Dixon asked how many wells there were up there and Steve said that he would get him that information. Commissioner Nelson stated that he isn't a big proponent of raising birds because it doesn't help the overall population in his opinion and any cost to the county isn't

money well spent. The Board was in agreement that the bird program has outlived its useful life. Chairman Dixon explained that the program was put on by Puget Sound Energy, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Garfield County to mitigate habitat loss and help return stock to different areas throughout the county. The County raised and released pheasants but it was very time consuming. The discussion regarding the facilities review continued and Steve stated that the crew is working on a safety program for monthly maintenance safety checks on various items including the fire extinguishers starting at the beginning of the year.

Ashlyn Deatherage, County Road Business Manager, provided the Board with a Public Works budget book for their view.

Engineer Wege provided the board with a quote for hauling a shed to the transfer station for Naslund Disposal. The building that is currently being used by Naslund Disposal's employee is a health risk due to being infested with rodents. Naslund Disposal has purchased a tough shed for their employee, so County Road is going to move haul it up there and prep the site before placing it on the site. The quote was in the amount of \$1,685.16, but Engineer Wege stated that it does not include the wiring needed on the building. Chairman Dixon asked about the phone that is at the site and requested they get rid of the landline if there is cell phone service there. Chairman Dixon requested Engineer Wege to verify there is cell service there before ending the landline service. Engineer Wege stated he would do that. He also informed the Board that the new shed will have heat and power, but the employee will still need to use the bathroom located in the transfer station building. Engineer Wege has spoken with the Department of Ecology because the Solid Waste Management department has several grants but none of them will contribute to this because of the parameters of those grants. Engineer Wege requested LATC funds to cover these costs if possible, because he reviewed the solid waste budget but it appears that budget zeroes out and there are not additional funds available. Commissioner Nelson asked how often the transfer station gets used and Engineer Wege stated that it gets used every Saturday in the summer months, and every other Saturday during fall/winter. There was discussion regarding the use of the transfer station and how it provides for the county in nonmonetary ways. Engineer Wege stated that Naslund Disposal has already purchased the shed.

Engineer Wege stated that the ad for the consultant is published this week in all of the required publications. Chairman Dixon stated that contractors are not wanting to do business in Washington State due to legislative changes and there was discussion regarding a few companies that are in trouble for not publishing the rate of pay for open positions. Commissioner Nelson stated that Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) is exploring the idea of putting contractors on payroll so the counties can hire from that pool. Commissioner Nelson is going to keep tracking WSAC's movement on hiring contractors and keep Engineer Wege updated on the situation. Engineer Wege stated that it was costly for the county to advertise for consultants, saying its going to cost close to \$1,000.00 to advertise for one consultant position.

Virginia Wiseman, Development Manager of the Board Cloudwalker Wind Project with Enel Green Power North America, gave a presentation to the Board on the project. The Cloudwalker Wind Project is a green energy project that is planned to take place in Garfield County. Enel Green Power has been measuring the wind resources in Garfield County in the area of the planned site since February 2022. They have installed six meteorological evaluation towers; two

in 2022 and four in 2023 to measure the wind in that area. They have been conducting environmental and cultural studies, working closely with US Fish and Wildlife and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as, the state historic preservation office and tribes. The project is scheduled to be operational on September 1, 2026, at the earliest. The project will take place on 30,000 acres. Commissioner Nelson asked how many of those acres would be occupied by infrastructure and Virginia stated that only 1-2% of the 30,000 would actually be occupied. The site will be located in the north east portion of Garfield County.

Virginia continued that the environmental work was done early on in the project, which looked at any potential critical flaws, and included avian use studies and big game observations. Virginia stated that these studies have to be done for two years before they can move forward and they will wrap those studies up this month. Enel has completed two raptor nest surveys, as well as, bat acoustic studies that will also wrap up this month. They have done predictive modeling and drafted work plans to share with the tribes. Enel has completed multiple environmental, cultural, interconnection, and engineering steps of this project, but there is a lot more work to be done before the project is operational. Chairman Dixon asked who the interconnection agreement is with and Virginia informed the Board that the agreement is with Avista.

Virginia stated that the Cloudwalker Wind Project will have open houses on November 8<sup>th</sup>, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Pomeroy Spinners Maple Hall, located at 699 Columbia Street, Pomeroy, WA, and another open house on November 9<sup>th</sup>, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the City of Lewiston Community Center Cutthroat Room, located at 1424 Main Street, Lewiston, ID. The open houses are an opportunity for individuals to learn more about the project and get questions answered, as well as meet the Enel team.

Virginia continued that they are hoping to get the conditional use permit by December. There are two other studies that will be conducted in 2024; a threatened and endangered species study and wetlands and cultural resources field work study. There was discussion regarding the construction portion of the project, which she stated includes hundreds of workers and millions of dollars in local spending. Chairman Dixon asked if the locations of the substations were available and if so, how large they would be. Virginia stated that they anticipate purchasing 5 acres of land for the substation, potentially 10 acres at the most. There was discussion regarding Enel leasing the land for the substation and Virginia stated that they typically like to purchase the land the substation is on. She stated that they don't have an exact location or size, but once the design is done they will have a better idea. She informed the Board that once the construction is over, Enel will survey the damage of the land via drones and pay to get the land back to its original state. She stated that the longest phase of the project is the operations and maintenance phase. There was discussion regarding the activities around the wind towers once they are in the operation and maintenance phases and Virginia stated that there would be no areas of the project, other than the substation, that Enel would close off from normal activities, including farming and hunting. She stated that those activities would be at the land owner's control.

Virginia spoke about the decommissioning process, which is about 30-40 years from the start of the project. Enel tries to recycle as much as possible and a lot of the turbines are recyclable. Enel has a 'no landfill pledge' on their blades stating that they will be repurposed.

Commissioner Nelson asked how many leases the project currently has and Virginia stated that they currently have 27 or 28 leases and are hoping to lease about 4,000 more acres. She stated that the landowners have been very welcoming. She stated that of the 4,000 acres they would like to lease, about 1,500 acres is on state land and that takes a little more time to work out. Commissioner Nelson asked if they have heard anything from community members that are opposed to the project and she stated that there have been people that haven't been interested in leasing but they have not received any opposition that wasn't something they could address. Commissioner Nelson stated that the location is close to the Clarkston/Asotin area and he is concerned that a lot of benefits will go to the neighboring county instead of staying in the host county. Virginia stated that the O&M facility will be located in Garfield County. Virginia also stated that the tax revenue will be in Garfield County.

Chairman Dixon asked what questions had been brought to her that might be relevant for the Board to know. Virginia stated the biggest concern that she's heard is regarding the farming operations after the facilities are built. She continued that they have been working on language in the leases to state that the land owners and tenant farmers will be involved in helping place the roads for efficient farming. She stated that another item that has been brought to her attention is the effect on the view shed; she stated that Enel knows the turbines are visible in the landscape and are starting their view shed analysis and should have that available for the open house. Chairman Dixon asked about hunting activities in the project area. Virginia stated they don't control if there's hunting on the land, it is up to the land owners, but they do ask that there's communication with their employees for safety reasons. She continued that they only have the wind rights in their leases and all other activities are governed with the land owners. Chairman Dixon asked about farming operations, specifically the notification needed for spraying- Enel would ask for a 24 hour notice if there are restrictions required for re-entry. Commissioner Nelson asked about the size and quantity of the turbines and Virginia stated that they haven't selected the model yet, but the turbines are larger now than they have been in the past which allows them to place fewer of them and provide more efficiency. She stated that they are estimating 85-100 turbines. The Board thanked her for her time.

The Board recessed from 10:03 to 10:13.

Greg Sharp, County IT Coordinator, joined the Board to discuss replacing the County's server. He stated that the current server is scheduled be replace next year, and that the warranty will be up in February of next year. He would like to replace and upgrade the server, maximizing the input and output and increasing the speed. He provided the Board with a three phase plan to upgrade which includes purchasing a server, a backup server, a storage array, and a server for backup only. Greg stated that currently, the County has one server. The quote he gave the Board was in the amount of \$60,000. He informed the Board that he does have experience working with the company that provided the quote and they also provide a discount on the parts. He gave the Board a three phase plan he would like to complete over the next three years. There was discussion regarding cloud based backup utilities for situations with ransomware attacks. Ashlyn Deatherage, Public Works Business Manager, provided the Board with an estimated allocated cost spreadsheet. Chairman Dixon asked what the intended implementation date was for this project and Greg stated that it would probably take about 30 days for the parts to get here and get installed and stated that the sooner this is done, the better for the County. Chairman Dixon asked

if the quote was the installed price, and Greg confirmed that it was. There was discussion of January as a timeline to get the project started. There was discussion regarding the purchasing process and reference made to the procurement policy and the impact it will have on this project. Chairman Dixon stated that he would like to take this information to the risk pool and see if this will help our premiums for cyber insurance and he was in support of it. Greg informed the Board that he has reached out to Dell regarding extended warranty costs and he would let the Board know those costs as soon as he received them. Chairman Dixon asked Engineer Wege to assist with reviewing the procurement policy and directing the purchasing process.

Rachel Anderson, Information Specialist for Garfield County's Aging and Disability Resource Center, joined the Board to discuss a few different contracts. The first contract is the Basic Food Outreach FFY 2024 with People for People. This contract provides funding for signing people up for food stamps. Rachel stated that this is an annual contract and this year it's providing funding in the amount of \$9,354. The contract does require the County provide a 50% cash match. Rachel requested this contract be signed via docsign. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to sign the contract as presented, and the motion passed unanimously.

The second contract Rachel discussed with the Board was the ADRC Agreement No. 2024, which she explained, is the annual ALTC agreement that the Board typically signs. This agreement was increased from \$84,000 to \$112,000 due to changes of job duties and increased work load. Rachel talked with Lori Brown, Executive Director of the Southeast Washington Aging and Long Term Care Council of Governments, last Thursday about extra job duties, which include outreach to lower income, minority, and non-English speaking individuals. Rachel is also going to develop a marketing mailer that can go out in the mail to get outreach to people that she doesn't currently serve. She spoke about going to the food bank every other month to get outreach to people that might be in need there. She informed the Board that she will also be working with Washington Cares act, which people will become eligible for in 2025. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve and sign the performance agreement No. 2024, Chairman Dixon seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the Memorandum of Understanding with Pomeroy Partners for Healthy Families Coalition. Commissioner Nelson gave a brief overview that the Board and Prosecutor Newberg have already reviewed and approved this, and the Board has signed it but when it was sent to the coalition's lawyers they determined the funds didn't need to run through Quality Behavioral Health, instead the funds would be provided to the coalition directly. Commissioner Nelson stated that these funds would be used for drug/alcohol prevention at the school which includes providing salary assistance for the Student Assistance Professional position. Chairman Dixon requested to hold the MOU until next week so Commissioner Ledgerwood had the opportunity to review it and the Board could all be present for its approval.

Chairman Dixon stated that the Board received a draft personnel policy and that he was hoping to get a draft of the deputies' agreement this week. Chairman Dixon stated that he had spoken with the deputies' president and informed them of the draft of the personnel policy and will be in communication with them to get them a draft of the deputies' agreement as soon as available.

Commissioner Nelson stated that he ran into Commissioner Hall from Columbia County and in Columbia County they are tracking costs associated with contracting out jail services. There was discussion regarding scheduling a meeting with the Board, the Judge, the Sheriff, and the Prosecuting Attorney about what to do with our jail and what is in the best interest of the County.

Commissioner Nelson stated that the Legislative Steering Committee had their county tour last week and it went really well and was well perceived from the other counties. There was productive networking.

There was discussion regarding the meeting scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Dixon stated they will postpone that meeting.

The Commissioners regular meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. with the next regular meeting set for Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Chambers at the Garfield County Courthouse.

/s/ McKenzie Lueck  
Attest: Clerk of the Board

/s/ Justin Dixon  
Chairman, Board of Garfield County Commissioners