

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEETING MINUTES
June 15, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

- The meeting, held in the Port of Grays Harbor Commission Chambers, Aberdeen, was called to order by Chairman Tim Alstrom at 6:30 p.m. Flag salute was held and attendance was called.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

➤ Members:

- City Councilmember Tim Alstrom (City of Aberdeen)
- City Councilmember John Lynn (City of Ocean Shores)
- City Councilmember Carl Sperring (City of Cosmopolis)
- City Councilmember John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)
- City Councilmember Tom Boling (City of Elma)
- Councilwoman Clarinda Pies Underwood (Quinault Indian Nation)
- Commissioner Russ Skolrood (Grays Harbor PUD)
- Allison Grubbs (Timberland Regional Library)
- Mayor Vini Samuel (City of Montesano)
- Leonard Barnes (Port of Grays Harbor)
- Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)

➤ Staff:

- Vicki Cummings, Executive Director
- Zana Dennis, Office Coordinator

➤ Guest:

- Dave Timmons

A quorum was established.

3. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

➤ **Action: Approval of Current Meeting Agenda**

Chairman, Tim Alstrom, asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

John Pellegrini made a motion to approve; second, Carl Sperring. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Action: Approval of May 2017 Minutes**

Chairman, Tim Alstrom, asked for approval of the May 2017 Minutes.

Carl Sperring made a motion to approve; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Chairman, Tim Alstrom, reported that June claims and June payroll were reviewed and approved.

➤ **Action: Approval of June Claims Batch #17-06 and June Payroll**

Chairman, Tim Alstrom, asked for approval of the June Claims, Batch #17-06 in the amount of \$4,390.35 and June 2017 Payroll in the amount of \$14,316.83.

Carl Sperring made a motion to approve; second, John Lynn. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

➤ **Discussion: WSDOT Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Pilot Program Grant**

Unfortunately we were not successful in acquiring grant funds for this project. 11 entities applied and only 3 entities were awarded grants and we ranked 4th out of the 11. Although no matching funds were required, the entities that were awarded had more than 50% matching funds. Of the three projects that were funded, the first two were submitted by Energy NW and the third was by an Oregon Non-profit (Forth Mobility). Energy NW is the heavy hitter for electric power in the NW and Forth Mobility is an Oregon based philanthropic non-profit. We received really good feedback on our application, but we only had 22% in match funds. So due to the lack of funds we didn't rank higher. But, we did top the list of other applicants so that is a good sign. We will continue to fine tune our information and work on identifying additional funding sources in order to be prepared for additional grant opportunities.

➤ **Discussion: EPA Brownfield and Assessment grant**

GHCOG was successful in obtaining a \$600,000 EPA Brownfield and Assessment grant for the Cosmopolis, Aberdeen and Hoquiam coalition, which GHCOG will administer. We are currently working with the EPA on the scope of work and will submit that by June 22nd. A negotiation period happens, and then the final work plan is submitted in mid-July. By September 30th the cooperative agreements will be awarded so that the projects can begin. At that time we will have community wide open house and explain what the project looks like moving forward. It will be a three year project where we work with identified Brownfields and assess how to best redevelop and utilize the properties.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **Action: Resolution #614, Grays Harbor Council of Governments 2018 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Plan**

Vicki asked for approval of GHCOG's annual six year TIP, which includes nine planned projects awaiting future federal transportation funding and one project for Surface Transportation Program Administration that is anticipated to receive federal transportation funding in 2019.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Action: Resolution #615, GHCOG contract with Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments**

As the Regional Transportation Planning Organization's (RTPO) lead planning agency, Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) has entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the GHCOG for the performance of regional transportation planning activities for and in Grays Harbor County. GHCOG has completed a scope of work and will receive a maximum of \$35,000 under the Agreement.

John Pellegrini made a motion to approve; second, Clarinda Underwood. Motion passed unanimously.

4. ALL- STAFF REPORT

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Awarded EPA Brownfield Grant.
- Working on Regional Transportation Plan updates.
- Continue to meet with TAC about STP obligations.
- Attending RTPO meeting on Friday, June 16th.
- Held 3rd Corridor Sketch Workshop today.
- Working on Park Plans for Montesano, Westport and Hoquiam.
- Awarded pre-engineering study funds via Freight & Rail Division for East Aberdeen Mobility Project Project.

➤ **Zana Dennis, Office Coordinator**

- Helping with 2018-2023 county wide TIP building and review.
- Working on Montesano Park Plan with Theresa.
- 2017 STP obligations continue to be a focus to ensure we hit our obligation target.
- Gave a 2017 budget update.
- Starting to work on 2018 budget.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- None

7. MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT

➤ **Grays Harbor Transit, Ken Mehin**

- Ridership is up 18% from this time last year.
- Sales tax was up 8%.
- Sunday service is strong.
- People like the new GPS service.

➤ **Quinault Indian Nation, Clarinda "Pies" Underwood**

- Had to do a new ballot due to a data entry error and Pierre Augare was re-elected.
- Fawn Sharp is running for National Council of American Indians President.
- Have had some beach safety issues so had to close beach.
- Have lots of construction projects at Quinault, but only one construction manager.

➤ **City of Elma, City Councilmember Tom Boling**

- The Summit Pacific Wellness Center is moving forward.
- The School District opened a new 15,000 sq. ft. transportation co-op facility.

- City of Ocean Shores, City Councilmember John Lynn
 - Study sessions on the Shoreline Master Plan & Pinnacle/Convention Center.
 - Held a homeless and hunger symposium.
 - New Fire Chief from Arizona.
 - No Surf and Rescue Team in Ocean Shores has become a cause of concern.
 - The weekend of June 10th was the Flag Day Parade.
 - The weekend of June 17th is Sand and Sawdust Festival.
 - City is looking at how to proceed with the Point Brown project.

- Port of Grays Harbor, Leonard Barnes
 - Pasha has been busy. Lots of high and wide. Procured a new account.
 - Logs are way ahead of budget forecast for 2017.
 - Paul Willis bought out what used to be Quinault Log. He does a lot for the area.
 - AGP is working on Midwest expansion that will bring product our way in future.
 - REG has changed business plan. No coal or crude, but looking at other products to bring into the Port that ORMA, Tribes and community at large will support.
 - Pot Ash company is looking at possible build out at T3 in Hoquiam.
 - Overstock is in full operation at Satsop.
 - Fuller Hill is under construction and will be hiring about 60 people once open.
 - Satsop Public Tours are underway and available to book.
 - Fishing is busy in Westport.

- City of Cosmopolis, City Councilmember Carl Sperring
 - Planning for the 2017 Festival in the Park, Sunday following Logger's Playday.
 - Started work on Mill Creek Dam, camera with time lapse photo's on city website.

- Grays Harbor PUD, Commissioner Russ Skolrood
 - PUD had 18,000 miles of line and a lot of trees. 75% of outages are due to tress, so have been investing in tree trimming to increase reliability.

- City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Tim Alstrom
 - Fire abatement is a continuing problem and a long legal process in Aberdeen.
 - June 17th is start of the summer park programs w/ the library, schools and YMCA.
 - Hiring a new HR Director.
 - The outreach the Port is doing is great!

- City of Hoquiam, City Councilmember John Pellegrini
 - Public Hearing for TIP is on June 26th.
 - 2nd Public Comment period on Crude Oil brought up a lot of questions. Brian Shay announced that Contanda and REG are looking at other commodities to bring in that the community will agree with.
 - Tentative Pot Ash operation looking at Terminal 3.

- Timberland Regional Library, Allison Grubbs
 - Sent in a grant in hopes of getting funding for a digital space lab.
 - Lynn Smith is now Circulation Assistant, so the Westport library will be hiring.
 - The new Elma library manager, Dee, came from the Shelton library.
 - The Westport Advisory Board has a vacancy.

