

GRAYS HARBOR  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 16, 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 7:00 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)
- Mayor Rob Bearden (City of Westport)
- City Councilmember Carl Sperring (City of Cosmopolis)
- City Councilmember John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)
- Clarinda “Pies” Underwood (Quinault Indian Nation)
- Commissioner Russ Skolrood (Grays Harbor PUD)
- Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Mayor Vini Samuel (City of Montesano)
- Mayor Jim Sorensen (City of Elma)
- Allison Grubbs (Timberland Regional Library)
- Commissioner Randy Ross (Grays Harbor County)

➤ Staff:

- Vicki Cummings, Executive Director
- Theresa Julius, GIS Coordinator

➤ Guest:

- Dennis Engel, WSDOT
- John Wynands, WSDOT

A quorum was established.

3. **INTRODUCTION**

**John Wynands, Regional Administrator, WSDOT Olympic Region**

Mr. Wynands introduced himself as the new Regional Administrator. He told the members he was happy to be working with Grays Harbor and looked forward to helping us meet our transportation needs.

4. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

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

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

*John Pelegrini made a motion to approve; second, John Lynn. Motion passed unanimously.*

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

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

*John Lynn made a motion to approve; second, Clarinda Pies Underwood. Motion passed unanimously.*

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

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

➤ **Action: Approval of March Claims Batch #17-03 and March Payroll**

Chairman, Tim Alstrom, asked for approval of the March Claims, Batch #17-03 in the amount of \$4,484.57 and March 2017 Payroll in the amount of \$14,316.83.

*John Lynn made a motion to approve; second, Jim Sorensen. Motion passed unanimously.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

➤ **Action: GHCOG Meeting Time Change**

At the February meeting members discussed whether or not they would like to change the board meeting time from 7pm to 6:30pm. The board decided they would prefer that GHCOG staff conduct a survey so the members and the alternate members were able to weigh in prior to making a final decision. The survey had 10 responses total, all in favor of moving the meeting to 6:30pm. To allow for sufficient notification to the public the GHCOG board meetings will not be starting at 6:30pm until the June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting.

*Jim Sorensen made a motion to change the GHCOG Full council meeting time from 7:00pm to 6:30pm; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed unanimously.*

➤ **Discussion: GHCOG/Gateway Center Tenancy**

Due to an article in the newspaper stating that GHCOG was planning to move its offices to the Gateway Center, the Administrative Sub-Council felt it necessary to inform the board that GHCOG had not made any commitment regarding tenancy. The board as a whole will be fully involved in making such a decision. Tim Alstrom discussed some preliminary pros and cons related to moving the GHCOG office. He asked for comments and suggestions from the other board members. One of the major impediments to the move is unknown lease costs. The board will address the topic again at a later date once more information is provided.

**NEW BUSINESS**

➤ **Discussion: WSDOT EV Infrastructure Pilot Program**

GHCOG has been keeping the board abreast of this potential grant program for the past year. The grant application is finally supposed to come available on March 31<sup>st</sup> and will be due on May 12<sup>th</sup>. This grant is very complex, as it requires public-private partnership and various other requirements. Ideally the grant application should be a proposal for the entire corridor, not individual proposals. Zana sent out a pre-grant email on March 6<sup>th</sup> to all the cities and board members.

- **Discussion: Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding allocation and expenditure schedule**

Vicki updated the board on the increase to our STP funding allocation and WSDOT's new obligation target requirements. As the lead agency for Grays Harbor, GHCOG is responsible for distributing STP funds and ensuring that entities receiving those funds obligate their projects by the required deadline. GHCOG has a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting scheduled to distribute additional funds and address obligation requirements. Staff will forward TAC recommendations to the GHCOG board for approval at the April 20<sup>th</sup> GHCOG meeting.

## **5. ALL- STAFF REPORT**

- **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Completed the work program for the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- Hosting Phase II of the Corridor Sketch Workshop on 3/31.
- Attending the SWRTPO/UPWP meeting on 3/31.
- Moving forward with the Westport Park Plan. Had open house. Surveys available.
- Met with the .09 Committee to establish Bylaws. Next step is to develop the application.
- Working directly with 2017 STP projects. ROW seems to be the big issue.

- **Theresa Julius, GIS Coordinator**

- Working with RTPD on the Transportation Alternatives Program. On application review team.
- Working on lots of spreadsheets for the STP Obligation Targets.
- Working with the Aberdeen Fire Department on multiple maps.
- Meet with Doug from City of Montesano about updating their Park Plan.

## **6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None

## **7. MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

- **City of Hoquiam, Councilmember John Pellegrini**

- Joined Chehalis Basin Flood Authority.
- Held two timber sales.
- Raising ambulance rates.

- **Grays Harbor Transit, Ken Mehin**

- Close to settling labor union contract.
- Sunday bus service will become permanent in May.
- Youth bus program runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Tickets are \$20 for the entire season.
- Close to having GPS tracking on the buses. In Beta testing now.

- **Quinalt Indian Nation, Clarinda Pies Underwood**

- Provided annual calendars for GHCOG members.
- Pies thanked Larry Workman for his photos, calendars and years of service.
- Finished working on the annual reports.
- The Nation had a lobby day with legislators.

- Met with Governor Inslee at Nisqually.
- City of Montesano, Mayor Vini Samuel
  - Looking for a Public Works Director.
  - Thanked GHCOG staff for assistance with transportation project obligation.
  - 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of volunteer fire department.
  - Moving forward on annexation, developer constructing eight houses.
  - Working with Chehalis Basin Flood Authority to support needed fixes for the treatment facility.
- City of Ocean Shores, City Councilmember John Lynn
  - Working with Legislature on HB 1201 (approved) and Senate Bill 5193, to allow facilities districts to spread costs over 40 years.
- Timberland Regional Library, Allison Grubbs
  - Annual Library in the Park program beginning soon.
  - Beginning 360 Library Assessment.
  - Hoquiam and Elma Libraries teaming up for home schooling program.
  - Have been hosting Humanities in Washington Speakers.
  - New software installed to enable easier/more stable Wi-Fi printing.
- City of Westport, Mayor Rob Bearden
  - CORPS completed new revetment around the Marina.
  - New flagpole installed at the museum.
  - Close to purchase of a large tent for events.
  - Port replaced sheet pile from dock 3 to 11 also replacing sidewalk and fencing.
  - Getting ready to replace sewer station pump.
  - Great clam tides and bottom fishing open.
  - High School robotics club took 6<sup>th</sup> in state. Raising funds to go to the national competition in Texas.
- City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen
  - Moving forward on Annexation proposal.
  - Getting ready to break ground on E. Main Street project.
- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Randy Ross
  - Working to get tax title property back on the rolls to allow sale at fair market value.
  - Need several new software programs to allow different departments to integrate information.
  - Wanting to engage in preliminary discussion with those who would be interested locating in the Gateway center.
- City of Cosmopolis, City Councilmember Carl Sperring
  - The Mill Creek dam project was awarded to Quigg.
  - Entered into an agreement with the Quinault Nation to purchase three patrol cars and provide fire arm training in return.

- Grays Harbor PUD, Commissioner Russ Skolrood
  - Discussed impacts of state policy on budget and rates.
  - Eight years ago capital budget was \$20 million, today its \$7.5 million. Had 185 employees, today down to 160.
  - I937 costs \$12 million per year for power the utility district doesn't need.
  
- City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Tim Alstrom
  - Urged members to check out the GHCOG website if they haven't done so in a while. Great information.
  - Mayor Larson is going on a trade mission to China.
  - Century Link is laying a lot of fiber for high end high speed internet.
  - Will be doing \$800,000 of paving this summer due to Transportation Benefit District funds.
  - Steam Donkey Brewery opening this month.
  
- WSDOT, Dennis Engel
  - Upcoming Corridor Sketch meeting to address deficiencies and identify which to fund.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
 115 S. Wooding St.  
 Aberdeen, Washington 98520

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Tim Alstrom  
 Chair

Date

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Vicki Cummings  
 Executive Director

Date