



FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING AND
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 4, 2022

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.

7:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Commission Chairman Clint Didier called the Franklin County Commissioners' Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., at the HAPO CENTER 6600 Burden Blvd, Pasco, Washington

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

Typo Correction on Commissioner Assignments *Resolution 2021-307*

Tri-Cities Regional Chamber was added to resolution 2021-30 and Commissioner Mullen will be the assigned Commissioner.

7:02 p.m. **Approval of Minutes**

December 21, 2021 Commissioners Meeting Minutes approved as presented.

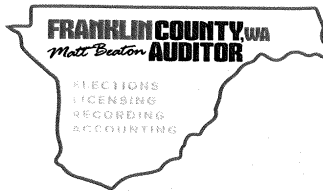
Left Blank Intentionally



FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING AND
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 4, 2022

7:04 p.m. Approval of Fund Expenditure Warrants



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

01/04/2022

Franklin County Commissioners:

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

Action: As of this date, 01/04/2022

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:	00377567 - 00377629	\$216,657.42
EFT Check Numbers:	00001025 - 00001026	\$1,062.00
		<u>\$217,719.42</u>

Fund Expenditures	Amount Issued
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$192,311.80
AUDITOR O & M	\$531.61
TREASURER O & M	\$426.00
JAIL COMMISSARY	\$7,388.35
COUNTY ROADS	\$798.99
ENDING HOMELESSNESS	\$8,372.20
BF MENTAL HEALTH	\$14.50
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	\$45.00
THE HAPO CENTER	\$7,545.22
FRANKLIN COUNTY RV PARK	\$126.08
MOTOR VEHICLE	\$159.67

In the amount of: \$217,719.42

The motion was seconded by: Barry Peck

And passed by a vote of: 7 to 0

Reviewed by the County Administrator: Jeff A. Burckhard

The attached vouchers have been approved by Auditor or Deputy:
Jeff Burckhard

Vouchers Audited By:
Paola Mendoza

- ❖ *Commissioner Mullen moved to approve Fund Expenditures audited and certified by the auditing officer for warrants prepared for the week of January 4, 2022 for payment totaling \$217,719.42. Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion carried.*



FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING AND
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 4, 2022

7:04 p.m. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

1. Resolution 2022-001 Termination of Contract between Jennifer M Azure and Juvenile Justice Center
2. Resolution 2022-002 Agreement 2022HHAASHCN Between Human Services And Safe Harbor Crisis Nursery
3. Resolution 2022-003 Appointing Angie Pacheco to Mid-Columbia Libraries Board of Trustees
4. Resolution 2022-004 2022-2024 Appraisers Collective Bargaining Agreement
5. Resolution 2022-005 2024 Roads Collective Bargaining Agreement

❖ *Commissioner Mullen moved to approve consent agenda items 1-5.
Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion carried.*

7:06 a.m. **Commissioner/Administrator Updates**

Administrator Keith Johnson update
Completed some Continued Education classes
WSAC discussion on Health Boards

Commissioner Peck update
WSAC discussion on Health Boards and new requirements
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee
Nominated to be on the Washington State Aviation Aeronautical Advisory Board

Commissioner Mullen update
Received numerous calls from constituents on redistricting

Commissioner Didier update
Benton Franklin Workforce Development meeting
Numerous calls from constituents in regards to property taxes and open space act

7:08 a.m. **Public Comment**

- Jeffery Robinson was concerned legality of meeting without safety protocols. He believed the statement made, "Latinos are unmotivated to vote" during a previous meeting, was racist. He thought the Commissioner should apologize.
- Lawanda Hatch was in the meeting, which spoke of unmotivated voters and clarified that the Commissioners opinion was that instead of bringing lawsuits upon the county, the plaintiffs should be working harder to get the Latinos registered to vote. She asked that there be no political expediency on the backs of the community.



FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING AND
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 4, 2022

- Citizen assured the Commissioners that calling someone unmotivated is not the most racist thing you can say.
- Patti Bailie voiced her concerns on the Assessors letter seemed threatening. She suggested changing the verbiage.
- George Dockstader concerned with the Commissioners that have held positions on the Ben Franklin Transit and complain about the tax that could be used for Mental Health issues. He suggested they run a campaign and do something about it.

7:18 p.m. **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING Redistricting Map**

❖ *Commissioner Didier opened the open public hearing at 7:18 p.m.*

Commissioner Peck explained his position of choosing map #3 in the last meeting, however, seeing no movement in the other Commissioners to choose a different map, he compromised and went with map #2 in order to comply with the obligation in proposing a map.

He will accept map #1 or #3. However, he chooses map #3 and will stay there.

Commissioner Mullen asked for the demographer's recommendation. Administrator Keith Johnson said the demographer did not give a recommendation at this time. Commissioner Mullen voiced his opinion that map #2 is the only one that does not lean towards the packing and cracking term.

Commissioner Didier asked Administrator Keith Johnson if he knew of the percentages of each map, and when he had knowledge of such data. Mr. Johnson replied that he had some data that was given to the committee; however, the latest data was given to him yesterday and he shared it with Commissioner Mullen, since he asked for it. Commissioner Didier wanted to know why this information was not given to him, as this would have made a difference in the map of his choosing. He was concerned that he had not been given this data to make an informed decision. Had he known that map # 4 was 86% Latino, (considered packing), he would have never voted for map #4.

Commissioner Didier asked Commissioner Mullen to read the data he received on the percentages of each map.

#1=81.1% #2=67.8% #3=80.5% #4=79.4% #5=73.3% #6=80.8%

Commissioner Peck said the numbers are not based on eligible voting age and until we have those demographic numbers, these numbers listed are of no help in distinguishing cracking and packing.



FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING AND
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 4, 2022

Prosecuting Attorney Shawn Sant explained that the Demographer was made available to the Redistricting Committee for any questions they might have. He spoke of the December 31, 2021 deadline for the Commissioners to choose a proposed map. The Commissioners then have the opportunity to tweak the map as needed based on public opinion and demographer input.

- Jeffery Robinson voiced his opinion that map#1 or map#3 are the only ones that could possibly pass in court. He was concerned with the lack of transparency.
- George Dockstader said the Committee worked their tails off on behalf of the county and held meetings for the community to attend. The meetings were transparent and if people did not show up for the meetings, it was on them, do not complain.
- Lawanda Hatch asked how the maps could be proposed without the demographer's numbers. Someone is not doing their job, because every Commissioner should have had the numbers for each map given to them last week. She thanked the Redistricting Committee for their hard work and time that they put into this process.
- Kurt Didier said if the data goes strictly on voting Latino only, then none of the maps will satisfy the courts. It would be an even bigger disadvantage to them if the county chose district only.
- Dave Cortinas has followed the Yakima lawsuit and others. He does not support any of the maps and believes they are all out of compliance.
- Citizen thanked the Committee and Commissioners for taking this redistricting seriously and standing up for our county.
- Steven Bauman has attended every meeting and does not understand how we have gotten to this point and the maps do not comply. He was concerned that three Commissioners all have different information on this subject. The Commissioners are in charge and need to get the information from those who have the information.
- Administrator Keith Johnson read a letter on behalf of Felix Vargas, who was on the redistricting committee. He opposes Map#2 that the Commissioners voted on in December.
- Lupe Cardenas was part of the Redistricting Committee and worked hard to come up with a map with the demographer. Map #2 fits more with what the demographer recommended. He was surprised that the Commissioners were not given the information the committee had on data. Everyone has an equal right to vote.
- Ms. Pamela thanked the Committee and was concerned that the Commissioners chose the similar map to what exists currently. Pasco deserves more than one Commissioner. She read the definition of racism. She does not like her tax dollars spent this way.



FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING AND
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 4, 2022

- Commissioner Peck clarified state and federal laws, as well as cracking and packing.
 - Lupe Cardenas suggested following the demographers recommendation.
 - Lawanda Hatch appreciated the clarification. There are four representatives in the city of Pasco. The city of Mesa and city of Connell have a majority of Latino voters. She supports Map #2 as it keeps all of the voting Latinos together.
 - Jeffery Robinson is not concerned about the politics he is concerned with following the law.
 - Dave Cortinas suggested proposing a fair map.
 - Kevin Heinen concerned about why each Commissioner is not getting the same information. He stated that the Commissioners are not racist nor is Franklin County.
 - Jake Dorsey suggested using Nation Builder, which is an app that can use demographic data for campaigns.
 - Steve Simmons suggested that having the information from the demographer is extremely crucial to make a decision on maps. By using the demographer, the Commissioners can make an informed decision on a map that complies with the laws.
 - Leo Peralez assisted with City of Pasco and the ACLU. There seems to be a lack of information to make a determination, from what he has observed from this meeting. He believes in a collaborative approach and rid the decisiveness.
- ❖ ***Commissioner Didier left the Public Hearing open to continue to the next meeting.***

Commissioner Didier wished everyone a happy new year.

Adjourn

With no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Chair

Clerk of the Board

Date