



FRANKLIN COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

STEPHEN BAUMAN
DISTRICT 1

ROCKY MULLEN
DISTRICT 2

CLINT DIDIER
DISTRICT 3

County Administrator Brian Dansel

NIGHT MEETING
MAY 21, 2025

The Minutes of the Board of Commissioners' proceedings are not verbatim. Access to an electronic audio recording of the meeting is 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 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room in the Franklin County Courthouse at 1016 North Fourth Avenue, Pasco, Washington.

Commissioners Present: Commission Chair Clint Didier, Chair Pro Tem Rocky Mullen, and Member Stephen Bauman.

7:01 P.M. **Adoption of the Current Agenda**

Commissioner Bauman moved to amend the agenda by moving item six under Regular Business as the Consent Agenda item, "Invitation to the tribes for participation in the update process for the 2026 Comprehensive Plan."

Commissioner Mullen seconded, and the motion carried. Votes 3-0

7:01 P.M. **Public Comment**

1. Lawanda Hatch
2. Matt Beaton, Franklin County Auditor
3. Michelle Andres
4. Janae Merrill

7:14 P.M. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Bauman moved to approve the Consent Agenda items one through six as presented.

Commissioner Mullen seconded, and the motion carried. Votes 3-0

1. Warrants: Approval of Warrant Registers (weekly) and Payroll Rosters (bi-weekly)
2. Minutes May 14, 2025, Commissioner's Meeting Minutes



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3. Resolution 2025-0152 Office of Public Defense Coordinator Step Exception.
4. Resolution 2025-0153 Updating the Franklin County Veterans Assistance Fund and Procedures.
5. Resolution 2025-0154 Professional Services Agreement with Attorney Peyman.
6. Request for Consensus: Invitation to the tribes for participation in the update process for the 2026 Comprehensive Plan.

7:14 P.M. **Regular Business**

All three commissioners gave their consensus to the County Administrator to proceed with the Budget Strategy for action.

7. Presentation Budget Strategy to Mitigate 2025-2026 Budget Shortfalls. *Presented by Brian Dansel, County Administrator.*

7:34 P.M. **Continuation of the Closed Record Appeal and Closed Record Public Hearing**

The chair reconvened the Closed Record Appeal and Closed Record Public Hearing (Quas-Judicial) – A Planned Unit Development (PUD): challenge of SEPA mitigation measure #2 PC condition of approval recommendation, and approval of the PUD with conditions. “Underwood Planned Unit Development” File # Appeal 2025-01 / PUD 2024-01 / SEPA 2024-24)

After continued deliberation, Commissioner Mullen made a motion for an inadvertent discovery protocol as a mitigation measure to be implemented during any construction. Commissioner Bauman seconded the motion, with further discussion.

After the discussion, the motion was carried with a unanimous 3-0 vote.

Adopting the Application

Commissioner Bauman moved to adopt the Underwood planned unit development in accordance with the provisions of Franklin County Development



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Regulations as recommended by the Planning Commission, with four findings of fact and 10 conditions of approval, with the SEPA approved conditions. Commissioner Mullen seconded the motion, and it carried with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioner Bauman moved to instruct staff to prepare the Ordinance with the approved motions. Commissioner Mullen seconded the motion, and it carried, with votes of 3-0.

The chairman closed the Closed Record Appeal and Closed Record Public Hearing (Quasi-Judicial).

7:47 P.M. Commissioner/Administrator Updates

Brian Dandel, County Administrator

- He had a meeting with Eric Johnson, former County Administrator, to discuss economic development, ILAs, and .09 funding.
- Invested time with the City of Pasco regarding the HAPO Center Interlocal Agreement.
- Attended the Historical Preservation Committee's Meeting.
- Negotiated with Tri-Cities Monitoring Inc. regarding the services in the Courthouse Guard Shack.
- He also expressed his gratitude to all of the volunteer employees who helped in the 2025 Employee BBQ, highlighting the big work done by Jenniffer Wagner and her crew (Facilities Department), and Margo Wilder and her team (HR Department).
- Provided brief information regarding a request for Public Records.
- Requested a consensus from the Board to add a category item in the upcoming agendas as "Correspondence", which was given unanimously.
- Provided information to the board regarding two pieces of correspondence that will be added to the agenda the following week.
- Provided the Board with the requested draft of the Litigation Communication Plan for the County and a Corresponding Resolution
- Participated in a couple of meetings in the State.



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Commissioner Bauman

- He expressed gratitude for the Administrator's deep commitment and dedication to the County.
- Thanked all the volunteers in the Facilities and HR Departments, and acknowledged all the generous providers who made the 2025 Employee BBQ possible.
- He also extended his gratitude to the Assessors' department for inviting him to one of the employees' swearing-in ceremonies.
- Attended multiple meetings at the HAPO Center.
- Participated in the WSAC virtual assembly.
- Met with the District Court Office and with the Administrator to address a couple of issues.
- He had a meeting with the Franklin County Housing Authority
- Participated in the Pre-Agenda meeting with the Administrator.
- Met with a member of Benton County.
- Attended a meeting with Eric Johnson, the former County Administrator, to discuss the possibility of him becoming a contractor for Franklin County.

Commissioner Mullen

- Attended the Visti Tri-Cities and provided information on future events.
- Participated in a Board of Health meeting where the ADUs and the housing shortages were discussed.
- He also highlighted the wolves' attacks in different areas in the state.

Commissioner Didier

- Participated in the Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition Board Meeting.
- He also had the Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Stakeholder meeting.
- Attended the Benton-Franklin Council of Government meeting.
- He participated in the Board of Health meeting.
- Addressed phone calls regarding taxation rates.
- He also mentioned a letter received from the County Road Administration Board, which gave Franklin County a certificate of good practice.



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- Another letter he mentioned was from the Washington State Department of Transportation as an answer to the County letter sent regarding State Route 17 in Franklin County.

8:05 P.M. **Public Comment**

- Michelle Andres
- Lawanda Hatch
- Wes McCart, Planning and Building Director
- Peter Harpster

8:09 P.M. **Other Business**

Commissioner Bauman moved to amend the agenda by adding a potential action item. Commissioner Mullen seconded the motion, and it carried, with votes of 3-0.

Commissioner Bauman moved to approve Resolution 2025-0155, Adoption of a Litigation Communication Plan with Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney's Office as presented. Commissioner Mullen seconded the motion and carried it with a unanimous vote of 3-0.

8:12 P.M. **Executive Session (as needed)**

The Board recessed to an executive session under RCW 42.30.110.(1)(i)(iii) Litigation.

Attendees: The Board of Commissioners, County Administrator, and Legal Counsel.

The Night meeting was scheduled to resume at 8:43 pm.

Extensions:

1. At approximately 8:43 p.m., the Clerk of the Board reconvened the meeting and announced a 10-minute extension of the executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(iii). The meeting was set to resume at 8:53 p.m.



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With no business being made, the chair reconvened the Night meeting at approximately 8:53 pm.

8:55 P.M. **Other Business**

Commissioner Bauman proposed amending the Agenda by adding a potential action item. Commissioner Mullen seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Bauman moved to instruct the County Administrator to advertise to amend the Ordinance of Franklin County Indemnification. Commissioner Mullen seconded, and the motion carried. Votes 3-0

8:56 P.M. **Adjourn**

With no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

8:57 P.M. **Call Workshop Agenda**

8:57 P.M. **Approval of Workshop Agenda**

8:57 P.M. **Public Comment**

None

8:57 P.M. **Workshop**

- HAPO Center, Presented by Mike McCall, HAPO Manager
- County Benefits, Presented by Margo Wilder, HR Director

9:45 P.M. **Public Comment**

- Wes McCart
- Michelle Andres



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9:51 P.M. **Adjourn**

A closed session followed the Night meeting.


Chair


Ernest Auman
Clark of the Board

5-28-2025
Date