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DEC 03 2024

BOARD of CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES for the week of November 25-29, 2024

WORK SESSION – 9 a.m.

The work session convened at 9 a.m., Monday, November 25, 2024. Present were Commissioners Ozias, Johnson and French, and Administrator Mielke.

Items of discussion per the agenda published November 21 were:

- Calendar/Correspondence
- Resolution reappointing various members to the Homelessness Task Force
- Resolution reappointing Jeff Ward to the Marine Resources Committee
- Resolution appointing Nathan Hughes to the Permit Advisory Board
- Resolution appointing Christi Baron and Sean Coleman to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee
- Discussion and next steps regarding Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to acquire approximately 342 acres adjacent to Hoko River State Park
- Purchase order to acquire an armored rescue vehicle
- Agreement addendum with Forks Police Department for administrative support or training
- Discussion and next steps regarding installing human trafficking signage and help buttons in courthouse bathrooms
- Resolution authorizing expenditures from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund for the approved 2025 Lodging Tax funding applications
- Resolution authorizing the Board of Equalization to convene
- Termination letter to Sequim Open Air Market for American Rescue Plan Act Funds ARPA
- Agreement amendment 1 with Habitat for Humanity of Clallam County for American Rescue Plan Act Funds ARPA
- Discussion on proposed budget revisions to be considered on December 10
- Discussion of proposed supplemental appropriations to be considered on December 10
- Discussion of proposed debatable emergencies to be considered on December 10

Meeting concluded at 10:44 a.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair French called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Also present were Commissioners Ozias and Johnson and Administrator Mielke.

REQUEST FOR MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN: CMOM to adopt the agenda as presented, CRJs, mc

PUBLIC COMMENT

- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on 6f
- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on Washington State Association of Counties conference, U.S Forest Service meeting, items 2a, 2b and 6e
- Robert James, Sequim, commented on special interests, taxpayers, recycling, Tribes, secret backdoor deals

CONSENT AGENDA

1a Approval of vouchers for the week of November 18

The Following warrants and electronic payments are approved for payment:

Accounts Payable:	Total
Warrant numbers: 9932104; 9932196-9932268; 9932313-9932478	\$953,476.65
Electronic payments dates: n/a	\$0.00
Total Accounts Payable:	\$953,476.65

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MINUTES for the week of November 25-29, 2024
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- 1b Approval of minutes for the week of November 18
- 1c Resolution reappointing Gene Unger, Amanda Stanley, Marie Marrs, Jim Haguewood, Dr. William Kintner, and Robert Pepin to the Lake Sutherland Steering Committee
- 1d Resolution reappointing Roberta Stoneman, Teresa Barrett, Pamela Hicks, Jonathan Andrus, and Laura Johns to the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
- 1e Resolution reappointing Bruce Fernie to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board
- 1f Resolution reappointing John Hunter to the North Pacific Coast Marine Resources
- 1g Resolution reappointing Adele Kelly to the Clallam Bay Sekiu Sewer Advisory Committee
- 1h Resolution reappointing Steve Deutermann to the Civil Service Commission
- 1i Resolution reappointing Jon Cash to the Crescent Community Advisory Council
- 1j Resolution reappointing Craig Jaeger to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to adopt the consent agenda, CMOs, mc

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- CMO commented on Washington State Association of Counties conference, Washington State University Extension Office Programs, elected as Vice President to the Washington State Association of Counties, Legislative Steering Committee update
- CRJ commented on the Washington State Association of Counties conference, Carbon Workgroup
- CRJ commented on Washington State Association of Counties conference,

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

- 2a Agreement amendment 3 with Clallam County Public Works for 2022 Lodging Tax Funding – Olympic Discovery Trail

ACTION TAKEN: CMOM to approve, CRJs, mc

- 2b Agreement amendment 2 with Clallam County Public Works for 2023 Lodging Tax Funding – Olympic Discovery Trail

ACTION TAKEN: CMOM to approve, CRJs, mc

- 2c Agreement with U.S. Department of Transportation for the RAISE Grant

ACTION TAKEN: CMOM to approve, CRJs, mc

- 2d Agreement amendment 1 with Western Olympic Peninsula Betterment Association “Feeding 5000” for American Rescue Plan Act Funding ARPA

ACTION TAKEN: CMOM to approve, CRJs, mc

- 2e Agreement with Sourcewell to provide access to Sourcewell’s Cooperative Purchasing Program

ACTION TAKEN: CMOM to approve, CRJs, mc

BIDS AND AWARDS

- 3a Request to extend the bid opening for the Old Olympic Highway Resurfacing Project C1263 to December 17, 2024 at 10 a.m.

ACTION TAKEN: CMOM to move the bid opening to December 17, 2024 at 10 a.m., CRJs, mc

ADMINISTRATION

- 4a Purchase order to acquire an armored rescue vehicle

ACTION TAKEN: CMOM to approve, CRJs, mc

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 5a Call for hearing notices to be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. regarding an Ordinances amending Clallam County Code 5.100 Consolidated Fee Schedules 300-A Planning Division Fee Schedule and 310-A and 310-B Building Division Fee Schedule

ACTION TAKEN: CMOM to issue notice, CRJs, mc

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5b Resolution establishing growth and housing allocations for Clallam County and the incorporated city jurisdictions therein, as part of the periodic update of the Comprehensive Plan

ACTION TAKEN: CMOm to adopt, CRJs, mc

HEARING(S)

7a Consideration of resolution adopting the following Debatable Emergencies:

Multiple Funds – 2023 shared services cost allocation true up/\$473,882

General Fund Reserves

- 2023 shared services cost allocation true up/- \$473,882
- 2023 shared services cost allocation true up/\$15,843

Mark Lane, briefed the Board

ACTION TAKEN: CMOm to open the public hearing, CRJs, mc

- No one provided testimony

ACTION TAKEN: CMOm to close the public hearing and adopt, CRJs, mc

7b Resolutions on proposed Levies for the General Purpose Property Tax, The Road Fund Property Tax and Conservation Futures Property Tax

Mark Lane, briefed the Board

ACTION TAKEN: CMOm to open the public hearing, CRJs, mc

- The following provided testimony:
 - Eric Fehrmann, Sequim
 - John Worthington, Sequim
 - Jeff Tozzer, Sequim
 - Karen Parker, Sequim
 - Pepai Whipple, Sequim
 - Dan Shottthafer, Port Angeles
 - Pamela Caldwell, Port Angeles
 - Adam Ramey, Sequim
 - Kim Butler, Port Angeles
 - Bob Bagwell, Sequim
 - Piya Kyan, Sequim
 - Karin Cummins, Sequim
 - Ed Bowen, Sequim
 - Rose Marshall, Port Angeles
 - Mitch Nove, Sequim
- The following sent in written testimony: Thomas Mickel, Sam McCullough, Paul Schmidt, Bryant Alleman, Janice Ramey, Carol Rutledge, Rideller, Mike Frick, Leonard Hills, Sheryl Greer, Richard Lustig, Elizabeth Terrill, Sheila Bernard, Chad Jay, Toyia Hatten, RJ Hatten, Viking Girl, Donna Spivey, Julie Hendrickson, George Joyner, Michael Carter

ACTION TAKEN: CMOm to close the public hearing, CRJs, mc

ACTION TAKEN: CMOm to adopt a Resolution for General Purpose Property Tax, CRJs, mc

ACTION TAKEN: CMOm to adopt a Resolution for the Road Fund Property, CRJs, mc

ACTION TAKEN: CMOm to adopt a Resolution for Conservation Futures Property Tax, CRJs, mc

BUDGET

6a Resolution for consideration to adopt the following Budget Reductions:

Multiple Funds – 2023 shared services cost allocation true up/\$15,843

ACTION TAKEN: CMOm to adopt, CRJs, mc

6b Resolution for consideration to adopt the following Budget Revisions:

Sheriff – Jail – Allocating underspent Corrections salary line due to staffing shortages to Norpoint Protective Services contract/\$37,500

ACTION TAKEN: CMOm to adopt, CRJs, mc

- 6c Resolution for consideration to adopt the following Supplemental Appropriations:
Sheriff – 911 Enhanced – Due to additional tax revenue received for Enhanced 911, revenue and expenditure lines need to be increased to receive and disburse unanticipated extra funds/\$60,000
HHS – Operations – Additional funding from WA State Department of Health Consolidated Contract Amendment to support public health employees through learning, training, safety & workplace enhancements/\$112,000
Parks & Facilities – Fair – Additional funding from State Pari-Mutuel and Logging Show Purse Sponsorship to fund increased costs of County Fair/\$26,009

ACTION TAKEN: CMOM to adopt, CRJs, mc

- 6d Notice that the following budget revisions will be considered by Resolution on December 10:
HHS-Operations – The budget is being revised to purchase a printer and to cover professional services that occurred throughout the year/\$31,000
HHS-Environmental – The budget is being revised to reallocate funding to homeowner Incentives for onsite septic system repairs/\$15,000

ACTION TAKEN: CMOM to issue notice, CRJs, mc

- 6e Notice that the following supplemental appropriations will be considered by Resolution on December 10:
Parks & Facilities-Capital Projects – Additional funding received for WSDA Fair Program Grant to fund the fairgrounds dog barn/\$79,000
WSU Extension – Additional funding received from Department of Ecology and subaward from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through Jamestown Tribe for drought response/\$25,888
NonDept-Emergency Communication Tax – To reflect disbursement of higher than expected Emergency Communication Tax revenue based on pacing/\$15,000

ACTION TAKEN: CMOM to issue notice, CRJs, mc

- 6f Resolution calling for a hearing to be held December 10 at 10:30 a.m. to consider the following debatable emergencies:
HHS-Chemical Dependency Mental Health – Additional funding to personnel benefits to cover unbudgeted costs remaining in 2024/\$600
HHS-Homeless Task Force – Additional funding to personnel benefits to cover unbudgeted costs remaining in 2024/\$600
DCD-Lower Dungeness Floodplain – Additional funding to accommodate remaining expenditures of the project so that the Recreation Conservation Office grant can be fully utilized before it expires 12/31/2024/\$100,000
Hearing Examiner – Additional funds needed for Code Enforcement Hearing Examiner/\$23,000
NonDept-Affordable Housing Sales Tax – Additional funding needed for unanticipated 3% COLA adjustment on 7/1/2024/\$1,500
NonDept-Indigent Defense – Estimated additional funding needed for anticipated renewal of the Public Defense agreement/\$100,000

ACTION TAKEN: CMOM to adopt, CRJs, mc

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Karin Cummins, Sequim, commented on Clallam County Taxes, Tribes, Department of Interior
- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on Wild Olympics, SB 1254
- Ed Telenick, Sequim, commented due to the BOCC vote he's confirming he and his wife are leaving the Community, public hearing start time, Department of Community Development, property taxes

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- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on North Olympic Development Council, federal grants, world government policy, Tribes
- Eric Fehrmann, Sequim, commented on attending meetings, interrupting during meeting, inflation, President Biden, meetings
- Jeff Tozzer, Sequim, commented on raising taxes

Meeting concluded at 12:00 p.m. and continued to 9 a.m., Monday, December 2, 2024.

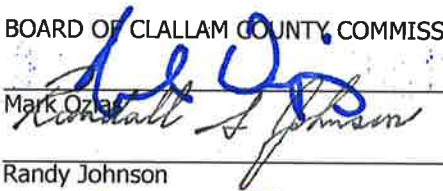
The Board of Commissioners attended a WSAC virtual update and Coffee with Colleen during the week of November 25.

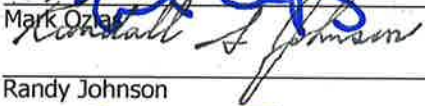
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of December 2024.

ATTEST:


Lori Gores, MMC, Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Mark Ozlar


Randy Johnson


Mike French



BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC HEARING

Resolutions on proposed Levies for the General Purpose Property Tax, The Road Fund Property Tax and Conservation Futures Property Tax

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that any testimony that I give is true and accurate. Please print name and address clearly.

№	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
✓ 1	Erie Fehrman	Erie Fehrman	102 W 1st St SE
✓ 2	XXX TOZER		
✓ 3	Karen Parker	Karen Parker	Belenski Pl Sequim
✓ 4	Thomps ASH		1430 MARINE DR SEQUIM
✓ 5	DAN SHOTHAFER	Dan Shothaffer	214 Alder St D. N.
✓ 6	Pamela Caldwell	Pamela Caldwell	1225 Leo Lane P.A
✓ 7	Alex Papp	Alex Papp	1725 Woodlark
✓ 8	Kim Butler	Kim Butler	1403 Rook Dr PA
✓ 9	Jim Bacon	Jim Bacon	566 Elk Hollow Sequim
✓ 10	LESLIE FURLOW	Leslie Furlow	120 GREYHOUND - SEQUIM
✓ 11	Bob BAGWELL	Bob Bagwell	118 GREYHOUND - SEQUIM
✓ 12	PIYA KYAN	Piya Kyan	35 McINNES PL - SEQUIM
13			
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Public Hearing

November 26, 2024

Item H2 – Written Testimony

Gores, Loni

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2024 12:53 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Online Form Submission #6166 for Submit a Complaint or Request Information

Submit a Complaint or Request Information

First Name	Thomas
Last Name	Mickel
Email	thomasmickel@comcast.net
Phone	4254298197
Subject	Private property well plumbing and electrical
Comments	I have a well permit from Clallam county and I drilled a well. No problem. I want to know how to do the plumbing and electrical to the well pump. If I ask 5 electricians and plumbers questions about this I get 5 different answers. Can the plumbing and electrical be in the same trench? Some local electricians say NO. Some say YES. The well pump installers say YES. What is the real answer? If I ask WA L&I they say that they have no jurisdiction over plumbing. If I ask Clallam employees they say they have no jurisdiction over electrical. Frustrating. I'd like to do this correctly but it seems most people just punt!

Please Note

This form is not for emergencies. If you have an emergency, please phone 911.

If you want to request public records, [visit our Public Records page](#) instead.

When submitting information, please allow up to 14 days for a response.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Gores, Loni

From: Sam McCullough <samdeltafarm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 6:53 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Property taxes

We do not want the tax burden put on responsible home owners, NO to new taxes, bring spending under control, stop letting tribes take land off taxable status.

Gores, Loni

From: Paul Schmidt <pschmidt3013@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 7:25 AM
To: Ozias, Mark; French, Mike; Johnson, Randy; Gores, Loni
Subject: Pending tax increase vote

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pschmidt3013@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Don't you dare raise our taxes.

Not after it's crystal clear that your collective ineptness and lack of attention to detail has resulted in millions of dollars of inexcusable waste and excess, namely:

- 1) A \$370,000 contract that you were completely unaware of despite approving tens of thousands in monthly payments to a hired consultant.
- 2) \$4 million taxpayers' money given to Peninsula Behavioral Health's permanent supportive housing facility. The new construction will provide luxury homeless housing for approximately \$350,000 per unit. The building, described as "not exclusively dry" (meaning substance abuse will be tolerated), will feature air conditioning, water and mountain views, a rooftop terrace, and a dog washing station.

This is an absurd use of taxpayer dollars, especially as most of your constituents don't live in dwellings that are as luxurious.

- 3) Entering into a \$125,000 contract with the Olympic Peninsula Humane Society months before its executive director's compensation was increased by 48 percent. That \$125,000 represents a staggering \$3,000 per animal.

- 4) A ballot printing error that cost the County \$159,000, to which Commissioner French blythely replied that "sometimes small mistakes are made." That \$159,000 represents more money than four working-poor families earn a year in Clallam County. French, your arrogance is exceeded only by your ineptness.

Each of you campaigned as champions of fiscal management. Collectively, you are failing miserably. Don't you dare raise our taxes to cover up your incompetence.

Paul Schmidt
300 N. Sequim Ave. #16
Sequim WA

Gores, Loni

From: Bryant Alleman <22bike44fun@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 8:20 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: commissioners not accountable

Please no tax increase.

It seems an audit should take place to
see how much is wasted.

It appears corruption is rampid in all levels of government.

what would happen if all citizens decided not to pay property tax

Gores, Loni

From: Janice Ramey <sequimers2@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 8:20 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: For Mark Ozias

Dear Sir,

Please don't raise our taxes!!!! You are taxing people out of their homes. Instead, cut your excessive spending.

Janice Ramey
1081 3 Crabs Rd
Sequim, WA 98382

Sent from my iPad

Gores, Loni

From: Janice Ramey <sequimers2@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 8:24 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: For Mike French

Dear Sir,

Do not raise our taxes. Use fiscal responsibility to eliminate wasteful spending.

Janice Ramey

Sent from my iPad

Gores, Loni

From: Carol Rutledge <nvorsano@olympen.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 8:50 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Uncontrolled spending

I ask our 3 Clallam County commiss
Sent from my iPad

Gores, Loni

From: rideller <rideller@olypen.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 9:26 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Striping Brigadoon Blvd

You don't often get email from rideller@olypen.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Could you please send road striping crew to Brigadoon Blvd. We had the road chip sealed years ago but never got a center lane stripe. Thank you. Dungeness heights neighborhood.

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

Gores, Loni

From: mrfrick@olypen.com
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 9:44 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Tax's

I see that the county is looking at Rasing our property tax's I for one would like to see the county do something with the monies like update Black Diamond Rd. and this would be from the bridge to the top at little river road intersection. I don't understand why Black Diamond Road keeps being pushed to the back of the line. So, if you're going to rase our property tax and saying it's for roads then show us some progress on updating black diamond road.

Mike Frick
123 Alice RD.

Gores, Loni

From: LEONARD HILLS Owner <shashii@centurylink.net>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 10:08 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Taxes

Dear Sirs, If you want to fund all these questionable projects, use your own money! Do not raise property taxes to cover your mistakes Leonard Hills Sequim WA.

Gores, Loni

From: Sheryl Greer <smgreer5162@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 11:06 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: tax increase

Good Morning Lori-

I am writing to express concern regarding the proposed 1% increase in property taxes in Clallam County. As a homeowner, I believe that the current rate at which the assessed value of properties is increasing is unsustainable for many residents.

Over the past four years, the assessed value of my home has risen by 112%, significantly impacting my ability to afford the growing tax burden. This trend of increased assessment values results in higher property taxes without a corresponding real property value increase. Wage increases do not keep pace with the burden this county imposes on property owners.

I would appreciate clarification on the county's goals for these assessments and how they intend to address the growing concern of making Clallam County living costs unaffordable. I understand that county funding is essential, but so are the needs and financial realities of residents who have invested in the community. Cut back as all of us have had to do.

Sincerely,
Sheryl Greer,
Sequim, WA

--

Sheryl

Gores, Loni

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 11:19 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Online Form Submission #6169 for Contact the Clerk of the Board

Contact the Clerk of the Board

First Name	Richard
Last Name	Lustig
Email	Ricklustig@hotmail.com
Phone	3604771715
Subject	Tax increase
Comments	Retired homeowners cannot afford to keep funding all the schools and homeless programs, find another way to fund it via sales tax or something else your taxing us out of our homes

Please Note

This form is not for emergencies. If you have an emergency, please phone 911.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Gores, Loni

From: Elizabeth Terrill <tomliz232@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 11:26 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Uncontrolled Spending

I am sorry to say that this is typical when we elect democrats to run things. All they know how to do is spend other people's money. No responsibility whatsoever. Maybe you should take the money out of your own pockets to replace funds you took and threw away and still wanting to waste on your pet projects. Hopefully, the citizens of this county will think twice about re-electing these people next time.

A voting tax paying citizen

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Gores, Loni

From: Sheila Bernard1 <shebeloving@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 11:26 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Tax increase

I do not support the increase of my property tax tax. I believe that it is not fair for the tax paying citizens of this county to Bear the burden of our county commissioners, allowing taxable properties to come off the tax rolls when they are purchased by tribes. I believe after a certain amount of property purchased by tribes they should have to contribute to taxation of Roads. Why should the taxpayers of Calum County have to repair roads that travel through tribal lands?

I also have a problem with Peninsula behavioral health permanent housing solution, where each unit is costing \$350,000. My own home doesn't cost \$350,000. You have hard working taxpayers that are struggling to pay for their own homes and to maintain them And you want to give the homeless better quality homes than most of us live in. I say reduce it take away the dog washing station and the rooftop balcony, and I believe the place should be dry. Most of those people that are gonna be accessing them have a history of mental health and substance use there should be required Treatment while in those apartments with a timeframe of after so many years they transition to another place welfare and these resources were established for a temporary need not lifetime needs we are going broke to support people who cannot support themselves.

Thank you!

Sheila Bernard

Gores, Loni

From: Chad Jay <cjaycellphone@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 12:03 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Comments to Board of Clallam County Commissioners Nov 26 2024 meeting

Board of Clallam County Commissioners
RE: Increase in general fund and road fund property taxes
November 25, 2024

Please accept my comments herein regarding the Board of Clallam County Commissioners' resolutions to establish a 1% increase in the general purpose property tax and a 1% increase in the road fund property tax.

While I understand that the commissioners are authorized to raise these property taxes by up to 1% annually, I have not been impressed with the county's fiscal management of our tax dollars. An example is the Towne Road project. The project was a debacle, leading to a vast increase in the overall cost of the project that could have been avoided and is now being shouldered by county taxpayers. Mismanagement included the premature breaching of the old levee by Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, a supposed partner with the county on the project, followed by efforts by the Board of Commissioners to halt the completion of the levee project, all of which resulted in additional years of delay and cost overruns. I look forward to the public hearing on December 3, 2024 to discuss the County's expense budget for the 2025 calendar year.

Chad Jay
173 Twin View Road
Sequim, WA
907-230-8556

Gores, Loni

From: Toyia Hatten <toyiaarenee@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 12:05 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Against tax increases for road and general funds

Hello,

My husband and I are homeowners in Port Angeles, and we are writing to let you know we oppose the proposed 1% tax increases for the road fund and the general fund. Please use the funds you already collect in a wiser manner, and seek more outside money from grants and from the state before raising taxes again in Port Angeles. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Toyia & RJ Hatten

Gores, Loni

From: Viking Girl <sequimfarms@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 12:19 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Fw: Will commissioners raise taxes this week?

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

No! To tax hikes on already struggling citizens!!!

the waste, grift, and back door dealings with the tribe have to stop!

From: CC Watchdog <clallamcountywatchdog+countywide@substack.com>

Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 6:08 AM

To: sequimfarms@hotmail.com <sequimfarms@hotmail.com>

Subject: Will commissioners raise taxes this week?

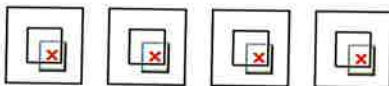
Forwarded this email? [Subscribe here](#) for more

Will commissioners raise taxes this week?

Public hearing this Tuesday for two 1% property tax increases

Jeff Tozzer

Nov 25



Tomorrow, during a public hearing, the County Commissioners will consider two 1% property tax hikes for both the road and general funds. Public comment is allowed virtually or in person.

Tuesday, November 26th, 10:30 am

Commissioners' Boardroom

Clallam County Courthouse, 223 East 4th Street, Room 160,
Port Angeles

The meeting can be attended virtually by clicking [here](#) and following instructions at the top of the agenda.

Additionally, comments can be submitted to all three commissioners by emailing the Clerk of the Board at Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov

The past year has seen uncontrolled spending by the commissioners on several projects:

- Last month, a citizen pointed out that in February, the County had entered into a \$370,000 contract that the commissioners were completely unaware of despite approving tens of thousands in monthly payments to the hired consultant.
- Four million in County funds have been given to Peninsula Behavioral Health's permanent supportive housing facility. The new construction will provide luxury homeless housing for approximately \$350,000 per unit. The building, described as "not exclusively dry" (meaning substance abuse will be tolerated), will feature air conditioning, water and mountain views, a rooftop terrace, and a dog washing station.
- Without knowing the cost of caring for each animal, the County entered into a \$125,000 contract with the Olympic Peninsula Humane Society months before their executive director's compensation was increased by 48%. The cost was later revealed to be a staggering \$3,000 per animal.
- In response to constituents' questions about a ballot printing error that cost the County \$159,000, Commissioner French explained that "sometimes small mistakes are made."

Two months ago, CC Watchdog asked this of the commissioners and county leaders:

"In February 2023, Joe Donisi presented a plan to the commissioners that would complete the road (2 lanes with 4-foot shoulders) by relying entirely on grant dollars from the RCO and Floodplains by Design grants. There was a chance the County would have to reach into the Roads fund, but REET

would remain untouched. At the same meeting, the commissioners decided not to send the project out to bid and the opportunity to pay for the project with non-county funds was missed. The \$1 million "Floodplains" grant was spent down to \$330k, and days before it expired, the County awarded it to JST (without a competitive bidding process) for additional engineered logjams.

Could you tell me how much Towne Road has cost the County since then? The \$1.6 million RCO grant was still available, but Nordland's bid was \$1.8 million. I know the consultant received an additional \$500k recently, and I assume that was due to all the changes. The curb added at least \$80k. How much (grants excluded) has the County spent on Towne Road since February 2023?"

It's a basic question that requires an accounting of tax dollars spent. However, the commissioners have refused to answer it. DCD Director Bruce Emery, who managed the project and will oversee construction of the upcoming \$40 million Dungeness River off-channel reservoir, replied:

"I have been attempting to collect the information you are requesting, but it has been difficult with my range of other obligations. I did spend some time yesterday and this morning on your questions. Unfortunately, my Financial Specialist is out today, and I am at a point that requires her assistance. I hope to get additional information next week and provide you with a response. My apologies for the delay."

That was six weeks ago. Fortunately, public records are available when elected officials refuse to share how our money is spent.



"Total REET/Roads Expenditures \$1,200,680.50."

County Engineer Joe Donisi estimated that completing Towne Road would cost the county \$1.4 million once the commissioners had passed up the grant

funding, and this document suggests that his guess was remarkably close. The county spending was triggered by Commissioner Ozias exaggerating the number of petitions and signatures received asking that Towne Road remain closed (while omitting that *more* signatures had been received asking for it to remain open.)

When asked why he halted a \$20 million, decades-long, multiagency project based on fictitious data, Commissioner Ozias replied: "I have not counted the exact number of names on a given petition or kept a log of "for" and "against" emails as it is not a popularity contest."

No one suggested that reopening the road was a popularity contest. It was a project designed, engineered, funded by, and promised to the public. Deciding to keep Towne Road closed showed that the commissioners can leave projects unfinished while relying on false data. Their refusal to address the unnecessary spending of \$1.2 million in taxpayer money while planning to raise taxes proves that the commissioners have embraced a culture of carefree spending.

For a County that has had to slash services and raise fees while facing over a \$4 million deficit, that significant expense could have been easily avoided if the commissioners had listened to their engineer's and legal counsel's warnings. Yet, there has been no accountability, explanation, or reflection on what spending habits have landed the commissioners in this predicament — just a desire for more money.

The County Commissioners don't have a *budget* problem. They have a *spending* problem.



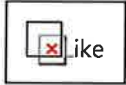
Commissioner French said he would prioritize fiscal responsibility.



Commissioner Ozias aimed to maintain a healthy county budget.



Commissioner Johnson stated the importance of remaining hyper-vigilant of economic circumstances.



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1052 Jamestown Rd, Sequim, WA 98382

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Gores, Loni

From: donna-tom@outlook.com <laceygrl88@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 2:58 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Taxes?

You don't often get email from laceygrl88@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

You need to stop the bleeding of our tax dollars! Are you really trying to force us all out? Why is Town Rd. not open? Tax dollar spent wisely? Humane Society? Why is \$3,000 per dog being spent? Why would they need to pay 50 volunteers? There are lots of people that really volunteer. Who gave raises? Is anyone accountable anywhere in this county? Sincerely Donna Spivey

Gores, Loni

From: Julie Hendrickson <jhendrickson@olypen.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 3:35 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: proposed tax hike

You don't often get email from jhendrickson@olypen.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To: Mark Ozias, Mike French, Randy Johnson-

I am writing in regards to the proposed 2-1% property tax hikes that you are considering for both the road and general funds in Clallam County.

During this past year there has been uncontrolled spending by you on several projects-

Without knowing the cost of caring for each animal, the County entered into a \$125,000 contract with the Olympic Peninsula Humane Society months before their executive director's compensation was increased by 48%. The cost was later revealed to be a staggering \$3,000 per animal.

- In response to constituents' questions about a ballot printing error that cost the County \$159,000, Commissioner French explained that "sometimes small mistakes are made."
- Last month, a citizen pointed out that in February, the County had entered into a \$370,000 contract that the commissioners were completely unaware of despite approving tens of thousands in monthly payments to the hired consultant.
- Four million in County funds have been given to Peninsula Behavioral Health's permanent supportive housing facility. The new construction will provide luxury homeless housing for approximately \$350,000 per unit. The building, described as "not exclusively dry" (meaning substance abuse will be tolerated), will feature air conditioning, water and mountain views, a rooftop terrace, and a dog washing station.

In February 2023, Joe Donisi presented a plan to the commissioners that would complete the road (2 lanes with 4-foot shoulders) by relying entirely on grant dollars from the RCO and Floodplains by Design grants. There was a chance the County would have to reach into the Roads fund, but REET would remain untouched. At the same meeting, the commissioners decided not to send the project out to bid and the opportunity to pay for the project with non-county funds was missed. The \$1 million "Floodplains" grant was spent down to \$330k, and days before it expired, the County awarded it to JST (without a competitive bidding process) for additional engineered logjams.

County Engineer Joe Donisi estimated that completing Towne Road would cost the county \$1.4 million once the commissioners had passed up the grant funding, and this document suggests that his guess was remarkably close. The county spending was triggered by Commissioner Ozias exaggerating the number of petitions and signatures received asking that Towne Road remain closed (while omitting that *more* signatures had been received asking for it to remain open.)

When asked why he halted a \$20 million, decades-long, multiagency project based on fictitious data, Commissioner Ozias replied: "I have not counted the exact number of names on a given petition or kept a log of "for" and "against" emails as it is not a popularity contest."

No one suggested that reopening the road was a popularity contest. It was a project designed, engineered, funded by, and promised to the public. Deciding to keep Towne Road closed showed that the commissioners can leave projects unfinished while relying on false data. Their refusal to address the unnecessary spending of \$1.2 million in taxpayer money while planning to raise taxes proves that the commissioners have embraced a culture of carefree spending.

For a County that has had to [slash services](#) and raise fees while facing over a [\\$4 million deficit](#), that significant expense could have been easily avoided if the commissioners had listened to their [engineer's and legal counsel's warnings](#). Yet, there has been no accountability, explanation, or reflection on what spending habits have landed the commissioners in this predicament — just a desire for [more money](#).

The County Commissioners don't have a *budget* problem. They have a *spending* problem.

The lack of transparency by our elected Commissioners in providing answers to questions from the residents of Clallam County is disturbing. All three of you promised "maintaining a healthy budget, "prioritizing fiscal responsibility" and "being hyper vigilant of economic circumstances if you were elected as County Commissioners. It seems like none of you were really honest about the promises you made to the people who trusted and voted you into office.

I am against raising property taxes for those of us hard working residents of Clallam County who are struggling to make ends meet already. It seems to me that there are other ways to fix your budgeting problem-quit overspending on projects that are not beneficial to all of us as a community and quit allowing certain tribal groups from not paying their fair share and taking on the responsibility to the community as they should be.

Julie Hendrickson

Clallam County Resident for the past 57 years.

Julie Hendrickson

Gores, Loni

From: G M Joyner <gmjoyner53@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 3:49 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Clallam County tax increases

You don't often get email from gmjoyner53@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Do not increase any taxes on property owners. To close budget gaps, cut spending on programs that are financially inefficient, such as the new luxury apartments for the homeless. Stop kowtowing to the Tribe. One gets the idea they own the county council, lock, stock and barrel. It's truly a case of the tail (518 people) wagging the dog (the rest of Clallam County).

George Joyner
Sequim

Gores, Loni

From: Michael Carter <scamr7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 9:53 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Opposition to 1% Levy increase on property tax.

You don't often get email from scamr7@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Long,

As a city resident and property owner I have opposition to these tax increases due to how this will affect low income renters and those who own their homes and live on a restricted budget during these hard times. More money isn't the answer all the time. How about cuts and working on a budget and focus on real issues of crime and drugs in our community.

V/R,
Michael Carter

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)