



CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2025

MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

Chair Susan Fisch called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Monday, October 13, 2025. Also present were Commissioners Jeff Tozzer, Alex Fane, Patti Morris, Ron Richards, Rod Fleck, Bill Benedict, Mark Hodgson, Ron Cameron, Paul Pickett, Chris Noble, Christy Holy, Cathy Walde, and Nina Sarmiento. Jim Stoffer was excused.

REQUEST FOR MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Pickett requested to remove the item regarding CRC Security from the agenda

ACTION TAKEN: Pickett moved to remove the CRC Security agenda item, Fane seconded, motion passed (8 voted in favor, 3 voted opposed and 2 abstained)

Richards requested to add the following agenda item:

What authority does a Superior Court Judge have to set policy for the whole Courthouse, especially when the court is not in session. Has the legislative authority of the County Commissioners been assumed by a Superior Court Judge (copy of his email correspondences to the Executive Committee is attached to the minutes under correspondences received).

ACTION TAKEN: Richards moved to consider asking the Prosecuting Attorney's Office what authority a Judge has to designate the whole County Courthouse as a no carry zone, Tozzer seconded, motion failed

Richards requested to have a discussion regarding if Clallam County government should be hiring private security firms to provide armed guards in the Clallam County Courthouse.

ACTION TAKEN: Richards moved if private security firms should be hired to provide security for the Clallam County Courthouse or should the Charter require only official Deputy Sheriff's to provide the protection, no seconded, motion failed

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Minutes September 22, 2025

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as presented

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on Hurricane Ridge, baseball game, BOCC Town Hall recommendation, questions and answer session with the Commissioners, roads and trails.
- Dr. Sarah Huling, Clallam County, commented on BOCC Town Hall proposal, ethic proposals, Open Public Meetings Act fines.

CORRESPONDENCES

Gores noted receipt of correspondences from Commissioner Fisch, Commissioner Tozzer, Commissioner Richards, Rebecca Lynn Horst, and Clerk Gores (see attached).

BUSINESS ITEMS

- **BOCC Townhall proposed amendment (Step 4): Commissioner Sarmiento**

Fisch reminded the Commission that the Townhall proposed amendment is at step 2. She read the following into the record:

Step 4:

HOLD MEETING TO ADOPT AMENDMENT: The proposed Charter Amendment shall be placed on the agenda for a roll-call vote by the Commission. A majority vote in favor of the proposed Charter amendment will be required to file such amendment with the Auditor for submission to the voters in the manner required by the Charter. The Commission shall make no substantive changes to the language of a proposed amendment at this meeting. If the Commission decides to make substantive changes, the process returns to Step 2.

Step 3:

GIVE NOTICE TO PUBLIC: Notice must be given to the public after the meeting at which the Commission approves a final draft of the proposed amendment and three days before the meeting at which the Commissioners will vote.

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES of October 13, 2025
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Proposed amendment:

Each member of the Board of County Commissioners shall conduct at least one town hall meeting in their Commissioner District each year, and all members of the Board of County Commissioners shall conduct at least one town hall meeting in each commissioner's district each year, said meetings to occur outside of normal working hours. Notice of such meetings must be posted at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

CRC Members held discussion regarding the BOCC Town Hall Meetings amendment.

ACTION TAKEN: Sarmiento moved to approve the Resolution and forward to the Clallam County Auditor for the 2026 ballot, Hodgson seconded, motion passed

(11 voted in favor, 2 voted opposed, and 1 abstained)

Sarmiento said she would like to have Clerk Gores obtain signatures on the resolution, and forward to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and Clallam County Auditor.

- **Ethics Review Board proposed amendment: Commissioner Cameron**

Cameron commented that the committee is coming close to proposing an amendment for the next meeting on October 27. He requested adding the proposed amendment for step 2 on the next agenda. The next Ethics Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025. CRC Members held discussion.

- **CRC security: Commissioner Tozzer**

Item was removed from the agenda.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Land Acquisition Committee**

Richards updated that there has not been another meeting. He noted Stoffer resigned from the committee. He commented that after the presentation from Administrator Mielke he thought it might be good to not have a meeting for a while. He didn't see what change could be made. He stated his concerns about. CRC Members held discussion.

REPORTS

- **Chair Report – Commissioner Fisch**

No Chair report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to three minutes

- Denise Lapio, Sequim, commented on security issue
- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on Lands Acquisition Committee, Planning Commission in Charter, 6-year Transportation Improvement Project, water
- Dr. Sarah Huling, Clallam County, commented on Bureau of Indian Affairs letters
- Karin Cummins, Sequim, commented on Security Service Northwest, defund the Policy, senior tax exemption
- Teresa Miller, Sequim, commented on BOCC Town Hall Resolution

GOOD OF THE ORDER/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Discussion regarding completing Charter Review Commission work – Patti Morris

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting concluded at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk of the Charter Review Commission

Approved: 10/27/25

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION 2025 – Roll Call Voting – October 13, 2025
Y – Yes, N- No, A-Absent, Abstained

	Motion to remove CRC Security discussion - Pickett	Motion to approve the BOCC Town Hall Meetings Resolution and forward to the Auditor for the 2026 ballot - Sarmiento
Susan Fisch	Y	Y
Bill Benedict	Abstained	N
Jim Stoffer	A	A
Jeff Tozzer	N	Y
Alex Fane	Y	Y
Ron Cameron	Y	Y
Pattie Morris	Y	Y
Chris Noble	Y	N
Paul Pickett	Y	Abstained
Ron Richards	N	Y
Rod Fleck	Abstained	Y
Mark Hodgson	Y	Y
Christy Holy	Y	Y
Cathy Walde	A	Y
Nina Sarmiento	N	Y
Yes	8	11
No	3	2
Abstained	2	1
Pass or Fail	Passed	Passed

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET

Public Comment on Agenda Items – 1st Session

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.

No	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
1	Ed Bowen	EB	PO Box CB
2	Bonnie Bless-Boenish	BBB	242 Ward Lane, Sequim
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
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CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET

General Public Comment – 2nd Session

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.

Nº	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
1	Denise Lapio	Denise Lapio	Sequim, WA
2	Ed Bowen	Ed Bowen	POB MI CB
3			
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Ed Bowen
Public Comment
10/13/25

RCW 35.63.060 Powers of commissions. The commission may act as the research and fact-finding agency of the municipality. To that end it may make such surveys, analyses, researches and reports as are generally authorized or requested by its council or board, or by the state with the approval of its council or board. The commission, upon such request or authority may also:

(1) Make inquiries, investigations, and surveys concerning the resources of the county, including but not limited to the potential for solar energy development and alternative means to encourage and protect access to direct sunlight for solar energy systems;

(2) Assemble and analyze the data thus obtained and formulate plans for the conservation of such resources and the systematic utilization and development thereof;

(3) Make recommendations from time to time as to the best methods of such conservation, utilization, and development;

(4) Cooperate with other commissions and with other public agencies of the municipality, state and United States in such planning, conservation, and development; and

(5) In particular cooperate with and aid the state within its territorial limits in the preparation of the state master plan provided for in RCW 43.21A.350 and in advance planning of public works programs.

In carrying out its powers and duties, the commission should demonstrate how land use planning is integrated with transportation planning. [2002 c 189 s 1; 1988 c 127 s 1; 1979 ex.s. c 170 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.63.060. Prior: 1935 c 44 s 10; RRS s 9322-10.]

Severability—1979 ex.s. c 170: See note following RCW 64.04.140.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

CORRESPONDENCES RECEIVED

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 2:26 PM
To: Mielke, Todd; Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Gores, Loni; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Subject: FW: Response to Security Questions

Forwarding for Commissioner Fisch.

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

From: Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 2:16 PM
To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Response to Security Questions

Loni: Please forward to the Commission and Administrator Mielke.

Attached is the email chain from Commissioner Stoffer to the Executive Committee regarding meeting recommendations including security. As you can see, Commissioner Stoffer's email was not forwarded to anyone. I responded to it once I had been cc'd on an email chain between Commissioner Ozias, Sheriff King and Administrator Mielke.

I will also be forwarding the email chain begun by Commissioner Ozias requesting security for CRC meetings. You will see from that chain that I thanked Sheriff King after a decision had already been made.

There were no EC meetings held and no discussions regarding Commissioner Stoffer's email.

Susan

From: Stoffer, Jim <jim.stoffer@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 3:08 PM
To: Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>; Hodgson, Mark <mark.Hodgson@clallamcountywa.gov>; Noble, Chris <chris.noble@clallamcountywa.gov>

Cc: Stoffer, Jim <jim.stoffer@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: RE: CRC Meeting Procedures

Thank you

Thank You

Jim Stoffer

Clallam County Charter Review Commissioner

Jim.Stoffer@clallamcountywa.gov

360.775.9356

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Fisch, Susan" <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>

Date: 7/17/25 12:35 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: "Stoffer, Jim" <jim.stoffer@clallamcountywa.gov>, "Hodgson, Mark"

<mark.Hodgson@clallamcountywa.gov>, "Noble, Chris" <chris.noble@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: Re: CRC Meeting Procedures

All:

I have been copied on emails between Commissioner Ozias and Sheriff King about security at CRC meetings. Sheriff King is working on this and sounds confident that Northwest Security Services will be present from this point forward.

Susan

From: Stoffer, Jim <jim.stoffer@clallamcountywa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 6:56 AM

To: Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>; Hodgson, Mark <mark.Hodgson@clallamcountywa.gov>; Noble, Chris <chris.noble@clallamcountywa.gov>

Cc: Stoffer, Jim <jim.stoffer@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: CRC Meeting Procedures

Greetings Executive Board,

The Commission has experience several disruptions over the last several months during our Commission meetings.

These disruptions have grown with toxic bullying harassing behavior, attacking several Commissioners with verbal threats.

This is not ok, and I urge you to take action at protecting the meeting space and the proceedings.

We have no idea if some of these folks are not carrying a weapon of some sort.

Each meeting is growing worse.

Recommendation:

1. We need security presence during our meetings.
2. Drop the 2nd Public Comment period from the agenda; it just opens the door to attacks and disruption.
3. When the disruption occurs, immediately call a recess, you can do that.

I will be taking steps to protect myself; but I urge you three as the elected Executive to take steps as well.

Thank You

Jim Stoffer

Clallam County Charter Review Commissioner

Jim.Stoffer@clallamcountywa.gov

360.775.9356

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 2:30 PM
To: Mielke, Todd; Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Gores, Loni; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Subject: FW: Security at CRC Meetings
Attachments: Re: Security at CRC Meetings

CRC:-
Commissioner Fisch requested I forward you the email chain below. I've also attached the email thread with her reply THANK YOU.
LG

“My email address has changed! The new format is **Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov** Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!”

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

From: Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 2:23 PM
To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Fw: Security at CRC Meetings

Loni: Can you send this email chain to the entire Commission. Hopefully you get the entire set of emails. For some reason this just shows three and doesn't include my "thank you" response. If you aren't getting all the responses, maybe Todd has the complete chain.

Susan

From: Ozias, Mark <mark.ozias@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:56 PM
To: Mielke, Todd <Todd.Mielke@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: King, Brian <brian.king@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>; Waknitz, Elizabeth <elizabeth.waknitz@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Re: Security at CRC Meetings

Thank you Brian!

Mark O

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 17, 2025, at 12:38 PM, Mielke, Todd <Todd.Mielke@clallamcountywa.gov> wrote:

Thank you, Brian.

I believe Security Services Northwest will need to be briefed about the nuances of differentiating between someone exercising their freedom of speech and when their messaging becomes threatening. If you get a chance, please review the video at the end of the most recent meeting and the comments/messaging by Eric Fehrmann. Several people have reviewed the video and believe this line was crossed...especially when considering the combination of shouting, swearing, calling out one of the commissioners by name, and gestures. The video would probably be a good reference in the discussion with Security Services Northwest. "Threatening a public official" is addressed in state statute and should probably be considered in preparation for attending these meetings.

Regards,

Todd

Todd Mielke

County Administrator

Clallam County

223 E 4th St, Suite 4

Port Angeles, WA 98362

Ph 360-565-2670

County Cell 360-477-1501

Email: todd.mielke@clallamcountywa.gov

<image002.png>

From: King, Brian <brian.king@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:04 PM
To: Ozias, Mark <mark.ozias@clallamcountywa.gov>; Mielke, Todd
<Todd.Mielke@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>; Waknitz, Elizabeth
<elizabeth.waknitz@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: RE: Security at CRC Meetings

Hello everyone,

I am in conversation with Security Services Northwest and have provided them the Charter Review Commission meeting schedule for the remainder of the year. While its not "finalized" I do think they will be able to make it happen.

Given current projections I believe the Sheriff's Office will be able to absorb these costs in jail underspend.

I will let you know once I get the final confirmation.

<image003.jpg> ***Brian J. King***

Sheriff

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

223 E. 4th Street Suite #12

Port Angeles WA 98362

Office: 360-417-2544

Cell: 360-460-7273

Fax: 360-417-2498

Email: brian.king@clallamcountywa.gov

My email address has changed! The new address is brian.king@clallamcountywa.gov. Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!

From: Ozias, Mark <mark.ozias@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 2:13 PM
To: Mielke, Todd <Todd.Mielke@clallamcountywa.gov>; King, Brian <brian.king@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Security at CRC Meetings

Hello Todd and Brian,

I would appreciate it if we could do what is necessary to ensure that a security officer can be present for all future meetings of the CRC. If this will require additional budgetary authority from the BOCC then I will work with you to advance the necessary process.

Thank you,

Mark Ozias

Clallam County Commissioner

** Please note my new email address: mark.ozias@clallamcountywa.gov*

** This correspondence may be subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act.*

Gores, Loni

From: Fisch, Susan
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:14 PM
To: King, Brian; Ozias, Mark; Mielke, Todd
Cc: Biasell, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: Security at CRC Meetings

All:

Thank you for working on this so quickly.

Susan Fisch

From: King, Brian <brian.king@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:04 PM
To: Ozias, Mark <mark.ozias@clallamcountywa.gov>; Mielke, Todd <Todd.Mielke@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>; Waknitz, Elizabeth <elizabeth.waknitz@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: RE: Security at CRC Meetings

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Brian J. King

Sheriff

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Email: brian.king@clallamcountywa.gov

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Thank you,

Mark Ozias

Clallam County Commissioner

** Please note my new email address: mark.ozias@clallamcountywa.gov*

** This correspondence may be subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act.*

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:59 AM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: BOCC Town Hall Meetings Notice
Attachments: CRC Notice of amend BOCC Town Hall Meetings 9-24-25.pdf

The attached notice has been posted to the County website and sent to the press/media.

News Flash: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

“My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!”

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*



NOTICE OF MEETING CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

September 24, 2025

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission will be conducting a meeting on Monday, October 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room, 223 East 4th Street, Room 160, Port Angeles, Washington.

The Charter Review Commissioners will be voting on the following proposed amendment:

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding to Article II – Legislative and Executive Branches, a new Section 2.50, Commissioner District Town Hall Meetings, to read as follows

Each member of the Board of County Commissioners shall conduct at least one town hall meeting in their Commissioner District each year, and all members of the Board of County Commissioners shall conduct at least one town hall meeting in each commissioner's district each year, said meetings to occur outside of normal working hours. Notice of such meetings must be posted at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

October 13, 2025 Meeting Call Information:

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit www.zoom.com and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Charter Review information can be found on the County website at the following links:

<https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC> and
<https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/>

Public comment can be directed to the Clerk at 360-417-2256 or
Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov

Gores, Loni

From: Tozzer, Jeff
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 5:29 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Fisch, Susan; Noble, Chris; Hodgson, Mark
Subject: Request to Add Agenda Item – "CRC Security and Possible OPMA Violations"

Hi Loni, please forward to all 15. Thanks.

Dear Executive Board,

I am formally requesting that the following agenda item be added to the upcoming Charter Review Commission meeting:

Agenda Item: CRC Security and Possible OPMA Violations

This discussion is necessary due to events stemming from the July 14th public comment by Eric Fehrmann, subsequent email exchanges, and testimony given by County Administrator Todd Mielke on September 22, 2025.

Questions That Require Commission Discussion

1. •

What **specific threat** did Commissioner Stoffer perceive on July 14?

2. •

When Stoffer said he would "take steps to protect myself," does that include **carrying a weapon** in a weapon-free zone?

3. •

Why was security **not present at CRC meetings** before July 14 if risk was known?

4. •

Why is security **not present at all public meetings** on county property if it is now deemed necessary?

5. •

Was **OPMA violated** by arranging security without deliberation or approval from the full CRC?

6. •

Do these actions comply with **CRC bylaws**?

7. Is Chair Susan Fisch also unilaterally **removing the second public comment period** at Commissioner Stoffer's request? If so, does this also constitute a violation of OPMA and our bylaws, given that the Commission has again not been consulted?

Timeline of Events

- **July 14, 2025** – During public comment, Eric Fehrmann criticizes Commissioner Stoffer.
- **July 16, 2025** – Commissioner Stoffer emails the Executive Board requesting security and states he will “take steps to protect myself.”
- **July 16, 2025** – County Commissioner Mark Ozias forwards Stoffer's concern to Sheriff King and Administrator Mielke, requesting security at CRC meetings.
- **July 17, 2025** – Sheriff King contacts Security Services NW and arranges for security specifically for CRC meetings.
- **July 17, 2025** – CRC Chair Susan Fisch confirms to Commissioner Stoffer that security will be present “from this point forward.”
- **September 22, 2025** – Administrator Todd Mielke testifies that security was not specifically requested for the CRC, but was instead due to a standing county contract.

This sequence shows that security was in fact arranged as a direct result of Stoffer's request, contrary to Administrator Mielke's public testimony.

Full Testimony of Administrator Todd Mielke (September 22, 2025)

*With regard to this issue I received emails saying, ‘Could you tell me what the policy is for the county providing security in the courthouse?’ And yes, there was an evening here, maybe more than one, where I think people got a little bit excited, perhaps raised their voice, gestured, things like that, but **that issue was not specific to that**. It was: could you tell us what the policy is of the county for security.*

There's a state law that says we must control access to the courts. So, weapons are banned in the courts. So, there's an ongoing debate about what constitutes ‘the courts’ in any courthouse. And so, we have been going through this, we have been talking about moving the county courthouse to a single point entry security system. That's been going on for the entire two years I've been here.

Typically, security in the court building, courthouse building, is done by the Sheriff's Office through corrections officers. We have had a significant shortage of staff in that position and so for the last two years the county has hired an outside security firm providing security services in the courthouse. Where that would normally have been done by corrections officers. So, we've been doing that. And we switched vendors here recently, about three months ago. And so, we continued to go through and explore this.

Our contract states that we will provide security — our contract with the vendor, Security Services Northwest, currently is that they will provide security services anytime the building is open to the public. In addition to that, very recently, we had the superior court bench, the presiding judge of the superior court bench, who made a proclamation under GR39, general rule— I believe it's 39. And they have as judicial branch the ability to do that where they proclaim that the entire building, not just second floor where the courtrooms are, but **the entire building would be considered 'weapons free.'**

Again, so there's this ongoing debate of, is a weapon only a gun? No, not under the statutory definition. And so, the County continues to move forward. We continue to have a contract for security system services. It starts at 7:30 in the morning and, per the contract, is they will be available any time the public is in the building. And so, **it's not specific because 'Oh, Charter Review Commission's meeting tonight'.** It's, 'Do we have any public meetings in the building tonight?'

And so that is the issue, it's for protecting the building because the idea is that someone could come in and plant a weapon and come back tomorrow. And so once again, under statutory provisions we're required to protect this building and the courts. So that is why they're here. It is a public meeting. Therefore, the contract says they will participate and be available during any time the public is in the building. And so that is what we do.

But also, as we are witnessing, unfortunately political discourse has changed greatly in the last several years. I've spent a lot of years as an elected official. Political discourse has changed; we've certainly seen it in the last couple of weeks on the national level. And so, the issue is we want to make sure people, when they come to the courthouse, feel safe. And we never know what may or may not happen. But we don't want to be in a position to the best of our ability about saying we should have done this, or we could have done that. So, we're doing the best we can to protect the public for participating in public meetings in this building. So that is what we're doing.

Nobody directed us to do anything. If anything, what it caused us to do, is review our current policies and our current contract is with Security Services Northwest. And do a better inventory of when the public is in this building. I think a lot of people want to point to one evening that got people maybe a little tense, but **that's really not it.**

That would be reading far, far too much in to the fact that security's been here for two years. They start at 7:30 in the morning. We're just being much more careful, especially now that the superior court has proclaimed that this building is weapons free and they expect the Board of County Commissioners to enforce that proclamation, so that's what we're doing."

[Commissioner Ron Richards noted that the security presence was not the result of random contract enforcement, but rather a direct result of Stoffer's requests and the subsequent email chain.]

Mielke continued: "He [Commissioner Jim Stoffer] was one of multiple people who raised the issue that they felt things crossed the line. Other people did review the video. I will say that I reviewed it a couple of times, I came to a different conclusion the second time I reviewed it that then I did the first time. I know the Sheriff and some members of the Sheriff's office reviewed it. Commissioners reviewed it. And the **request to me was to work with the Sheriff to review our current policies** about how we were utilizing our contracted security services at times when the public was in the building. That was the request.

But again, services were already under contract. I think the question is, ‘When and how is the contract contemplated utilizing those services?’ The contract states services will be available anytime the public is in the building... security is here to protect all of you. As well as the audience, and my staff. It’s a public meeting.

This testimony is **contradicted** by the email chain, which shows Stoffer requested security, Ozias relayed that request, Mielke was directly involved, and Fisch confirmed the arrangement.

OPMA Concerns

The email chain shows that **security decisions were discussed and implemented outside of a properly noticed public meeting.**

- Commissioner Ozias (a County Commissioner) and Administrator Mielke engaged directly with Sheriff King and a private security contractor on behalf of the CRC.
- CRC Chair Susan Fisch confirmed new security arrangements to Commissioner Stoffer without informing or involving the full Commission.

This raises significant concerns:

- **Bypassing the full CRC** in making substantive decisions.
- **Failure to deliberate in a public meeting**, which is required under the Open Public Meetings Act.
- **Chair Fisch’s role** appears to go beyond administrative coordination and enters into unilateral decision-making, which violates both the spirit and possibly the letter of OPMA.

Requested Action

I am asking the Executive Board to:

1. Add **“CRC Security and Possible OPMA Violations”** as an agenda item for our next meeting.
2. Ensure that all commissioners have access to the Fehrmann public comment, the July 16–17 email chain, and Administrator Mielke’s September 22 transcript in advance.
3. Provide time for a full and transparent Commission discussion on these issues.

Thank you,
Jeff Tozzer
Charter Review Commissioner

Below is an evidence packet prepared for discussion under the requested agenda item: **“CRC Security and Possible OPMA Violations.”**

It includes:

1. The July 14th public comment by Eric Fehrmann.
2. The July 16–17 email chain involving Commissioners Stoffer, Fisch, Ozias, Administrator Mielke, and Sheriff King.
3. A summary of contradictions and questions for the Commission to resolve.

Section 1: Public Comment (July 14, 2025)

Speaker: Eric Fehrmann

Eric Fehrmann: *“The person’s name is Jim Stoffer. That’s who goes after people at a church and tries to get them kicked out of a volunteer role.”*

Commissioner Stoffer: *“Chair?” (interrupting)*

Fehrmann: *“I’m not supposed to mention any names, is that right?” (referring to a proposed rule by Stoffer and Fisch to not allow public commenters to address commissioners individually)*

Fehrmann (continuing): *“We went through that before. I’m saying it, and I’ve said it.”*

Commissioner Stoffer: *“Chair?” (again trying to interrupt)*

Fehrmann: *“I’m speaking right now, so you better tell him to shut up. It’s my turn at this microphone and I’ve got three minutes, and I’m gonna speak, and then he can say whatever he wants to. Don’t interrupt me again. You have run this meeting like—anyway. You say that you want to hear from the people. The people come up here, they give you 74 percent of them say, ‘No, they don’t want a water steward’—bam—you shove it through. You get another 74 percent, or whatever, that says they want to have meetings with the commissioners where they can talk to us and they come up here and say, ‘No, we can’t afford it. We can’t afford to pay the staff.’”*

Fehrmann (continuing): *“I tell you what, I’m going to volunteer right now. I will learn what this staff position is and I’ll take care of it for nothing. How’s that? If I need more people, I’ll get them. Because we get enough people in this county that can come up here and run it, where they don’t come out of their pocket, so there’s no excuse. You guys are a joke. There’s a few of you on here with some common sense, but you,” (pointing to Stoffer), “are just a rotten S.O.B. and I’m not gonna back off so now go ahead and spew some more crap.”*

Chairwoman Fisch: *“Mr. Fehrmann, that’s enough.”*

Fehrmann: *“I’m not the one who started swearing up here, it was one of your members,” referring to the two times Commissioner Paul Pickett had called another commissioner an asshole.*

Section 2: Email Chain (July 16–17, 2025)

Summary Timeline

- **July 16** – CRC Commissioner Jim Stoffer emails the Executive Board requesting security, stating he will “take steps to protect myself.”
- **July 16** – County Commissioner Mark Ozias forwards Stoffer’s request to Sheriff King and Administrator Mielke, explicitly asking for security at CRC meetings.
- **July 17** – Sheriff King engages Security Services NW to provide security for CRC meetings.
- **July 17** – CRC Chair Susan Fisch replies to Stoffer confirming that security will be present “from this point forward.”

Full Email Texts:

From: Stoffer, Jim

To: Fisch, Susan; Hodgson, Mark; Noble, Chris

Cc: Stoffer, Jim

Subject: CRC Meeting Procedures

Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 6:56:18 AM

Importance: High

Greetings Executive Board,

The Commission has experience several disruptions over the last several months during our Commission meetings. These disruptions have grown with toxic bullying harassing behavior, attacking several Commissioners with verbal threats. This is not ok, and I urge you to take action at protecting the meeting space and the proceedings.

We have no idea if some of these folks are not carrying a weapon of some sort. Each meeting is growing worse.

Recommendation:

- 1. We need security presence during our meetings.*
- 2. Drop the 2nd Public Comment period from the agenda; it just opens the door to attacks and disruption.*
- 3. When the disruption occurs, immediately call a recess, you can do that.*

I will be taking steps to protect myself; but I urge you three as the elected Executive to take steps as well.

Thank You

Jim Stoffer

From: Ozias, Mark

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 2:13 PM

To: Mielke, Todd ; King, Brian

Cc: Fisch, Susan

Subject: Security at CRC Meetings

Hello Todd and Brian,

I would appreciate it if we could do what is necessary to ensure that a security officer can be present for all future meetings of the CRC. If this will require additional budgetary authority from the BOCC then I will work with you to advance the necessary process.

Thank you,

Mark Ozias

From: King, Brian

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:34 PM

To: Joe D'Amico

Subject: RE: Security Services for Clallam County Fair

Joe,

I now have an additional request from the BOCC to cover future Charter Review Commission Meetings. I still need to get those dates which are in the evenings.

Do you want me to work with Ken on that?

Brian J. King

From: Joe D'Amico

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:53 PM

To: King, Brian

Subject: RE: Security Services for Clallam County Fair

Sheriff,

Sounds good. You can send the dates and time to me for now.

This way, I can include operations, scheduling, and billing.

Thank you,

Joe

Respectfully,

Joe D'Amico, President

Security Services NW Inc.

From: Fisch, Susan

To: King, Brian; Ozias, Mark; Mielke, Todd

Cc: Waknitz, Elizabeth

Subject: Re: Security at CRC Meetings

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:13:44 PM

All:

Thank you for working on this so quickly.

Susan Fisch

From: "Fisch, Susan"

Date: 7/17/25 12:35 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: "Stoffer, Jim", "Hodgson, Mark", "Noble, Chris"

Subject: Re: CRC Meeting Procedures

All:

I have been copied on emails between Commissioner Ozias and Sheriff King about

security at CRC meetings. Sheriff King is working on this and sounds confident that Northwest Security Services will be present from this point forward.

Susan

From: Mielke, Todd

Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:38 PM

To: King, Brian; Ozias, Mark

Cc: Fisch, Susan ; Waknitz, Elizabeth

Subject: RE: Security at CRC Meetings

Thank you, Brian.

I believe Security Services Northwest will need to be briefed about the nuances of differentiating between someone exercising their freedom of speech and when their messaging becomes threatening. If you get a chance, please review the video at the end of the most recent meeting and the comments/messaging by Eric Fehrmann. Several people have reviewed the video and believe this line was crossed...especially when considering the combination of shouting, swearing, calling out one of the commissioners by name, and gestures. The video would probably be a good reference in the discussion with Security Services Northwest. "Threatening a public official" is addressed in state statute and should probably be considered in preparation for attending these meetings.

Regards,

Todd

Todd Mielke

County Administrator

From: King, Brian

Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:04 PM

To: Ozias, Mark ; Mielke, Todd

Cc: Fisch, Susan ; Waknitz, Elizabeth

Subject: RE: Security at CRC Meetings

Hello everyone,

I am in conversation with Security Services Northwest and have provided them the Charter Review Commission meeting schedule for the remainder of the year. While its not “finalized” I do think they will be able to make it happen.

Given current projections I believe the Sheriff’s Office will be able to absorb these costs in jail underspend.

I will let you know once I get the final confirmation.

Brian J. King

From: Ozias, Mark

To: Mielke, Todd

Cc: King, Brian; Fisch, Susan; Waknitz, Elizabeth

Subject: Re: Security at CRC Meetings

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:56:51 PM

Thank you Brian!

Mark O

From: Stoffer, Jim

To: Fisch, Susan; Hodgson, Mark; Noble, Chris

Cc: Stoffer, Jim

Subject: RE: CRC Meeting Procedures

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025 3:08:54 PM

Thank you

Jim Stoffer

From: Mielke, Todd

Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 1:43 PM

To: French, Mike; Johnson, Randy; Ozias, Mark; Cc: Gores, Loni; Boughton, Dee; Reno, Jay ; King, Brian

Subject: FW: Security at CRC Meetings

Hi everyone,

Commissioner Ozias forwarded this information (please see the link in his e-mail) to me and I thought it might be a worthwhile conversation to have given the amount of public testimony we receive at a variety of County meetings and the apparent increasing intensity of public comment at the Charter Review Commission meetings.

Please let me know if you would like me to explore this further, and if we should schedule this for a Work Session perhaps in August.

Thank you,

Todd

Todd Mielke

County Administrator

From: Ozias, Mark <mark.ozias@clallamcountywa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 3:18 PM

To: Mielke, Todd <Todd.Mielke@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: RE: Security at CRC Meetings

Todd, perhaps it would be helpful for us to establish some more formal rules:<https://mrsc.org/stay-informed/mrsc-insight/july-2020/when-1st-amendment-rights-public-meetings-clash>

Mark Ozias

Clallam County Commissioner

From: Gores, Loni

To: Cc: **Subject:** **Date:** Mielke, Todd; French, Mike; Johnson, Randy; Ozias, Mark

Boughton, Dee; Reno, Jay; King, Brian

RE: Security at CRC Meetings

Monday, July 21, 2025 2:05:30 PM

Here is the link to the video. The comment started at 3:43:05 into the video.

<https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3116/media>

From: Johnson, Randy

To: Mielke, Todd

Subject: RE: Security at CRC Meetings

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 2:44:10 PM

As I stated earlier, I believe that we need security at the meetings due to instances like this.

Todd,

Randy

From: Mielke, Todd

To: Johnson, Randy

Subject: RE: Security at CRC Meetings

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 3:10:56 PM

Hi Randy,

In the last comments I received from the Sheriff, I believe the Sheriff's Office has now advised our security firm to be present at the CRC meetings. I'm expecting to see someone starting at the next meeting.

The link forwarded by Commissioner Ozias provides suggestions on how we can update County policy regarding "acceptable behavior" in public meetings. The MRSC information gives guidance on how to balance preserving a person's right to free speech with maintaining order at meetings. It suggests including language to clarify prohibited 'actions', such as "raising your voice", "yelling", "aggressive gestures", "singling out an individual" versus addressing your comments to the overall body, etc.

My question to the BOCC is whether you would like to have a discussion during a Work Session about updating County policy utilizing some of the suggestions and language presented by MRSC, including more specific language regarding acceptable versus unacceptable behavior/communication.

Thank you,

Todd

From: Mielke, Todd

To: Dennler, Bonnie

Subject: FW: Security at CRC Meetings

Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 8:56:24 AM

Attachments: image001.png

Good morning, Bonnie.

I'm forwarding this as an FYI. It would involve updating our county policy regarding public meetings, specifically addressing allowable behavior at public meetings by both the audience and participants. There's a link in the e-mail from Commissioner Ozias that you might want to take a look at when you have time. It's guidance that attempts to balance First Amendment rights with the ability to maintain decorum in meetings. It suggests specific language in the policy such as prohibiting certain 'behaviors' such as raising one's voice, shouting, aggressive gestures, addressing the 'body' versus any individual, etc.

Commissioner Ozias appears to be suggesting that we update our policy and make it more specific.

I'm hoping to solicit input from the other two.

Regards,

Todd

Todd Mielke

From: Shore, Lorraine

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 8:56 AM

To: Mielke, Todd

Cc: King, Brian

Subject: Security request for Charter Review

Hi Todd,

Jim Stouffer 360-775-XXXX called and requested security at their Charter Review Commission meetings. He said he feels threatened by public commenters who have used profanity directed at him during the meetings. He feels Loni is in a poor position if a safety issue arises. I told him I would pass on his

concerns to you as the BOCC would have to make the decision whether to provide security. He would like you to give him a call to discuss this. Let me know if there is anything you need from me.

Thank you,

Lorraine Shore, Undersheriff

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 1:14 PM

To: Biasell, Elizabeth <elizabeth.biasell@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: RE: Charter review meetings

Charter Review is held on the second and fourth Monday of each month starting at 5:30 p.m. The meetings have lasted between from 1 to 4 hours this year (so far).

The Charter Review Commission is authorized until December 31, 2025. The August 28 meeting was 58 minutes long. So, from 5:30-6:30. Here is the link for the recording for that meeting that shows the meeting was only 1 hour long NOT 2 hours.

<https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3119/media>

The August 11 meeting was 46 minutes long. Here is the link for that recording:

<https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3118/media> So again it was only 1 hour long NOT 2.

I'm not sure if they get paid for the time, they wait for the meeting to start or not (4:30-5:30 p.m.). I guess that is probably in their contract.

Section 3: Contradictions & Concerns

- The **emails** clearly show that security was requested by Commissioner Stoffer, forwarded by Commissioner Ozias, acted upon by Sheriff King, and confirmed by CRC Chair Fisch.
- Administrator Mielke's testimony denies this sequence, claiming security was present solely due to a standing contract.
- CRC Chair Susan Fisch confirmed the arrangement privately to Stoffer without bringing the matter before the full Commission.

- In addition to confirming new security arrangements outside of a public meeting, it appears Chair Susan Fisch may also be unilaterally removing the **second public comment period**, at Commissioner Stoffer's request. If true, this would be a second example of substantive decision-making without the knowledge or approval of the full Commission.
- Commissioners have no way of knowing when or why these changes are being made, because we are being cut out of the process entirely.

Potential Issues Identified:

- Administrator Mielke's testimony is contradicted by the written record.
- Chair Fisch's private confirmation to Stoffer indicates that CRC security arrangements were handled outside of a public meeting.
- This raises possible **violations of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)** and **our bylaws**, as substantive decisions were made without the knowledge or involvement of the full Commission.

This packet is submitted to ensure all commissioners have the same factual record before our discussion.

Respectfully,
Jeff Tozzer
Charter Review Commissioner

Gores, Loni

From: Ron Richards <ronaldrichards@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 12:02 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Fisch, Susan; Hodgson, Mark; Noble, Chris
Subject: Suggested Agenda Items for 10/13/25 Charter Review Commission Meeting
Attachments: Taxes on Jamestown Tribal Owned Lands Adjusted for Missing Land Values.xlsx

Loni,

Please forward these agenda suggestions to the whole Charter Review Commission.

Thank you,

Ron R.

Dear Executive Board Members:

The last charter review commission meeting raised a whole host of issues that deserve further discussion. Some of these issues are listed below and I would request a discussion of these issues be added to our next agenda.

1. What was the point of Mr. Mielke's presentation regarding non-taxed property, including county roads, state roads, port property, school property, etc.? Was Mr. Mielke suggesting, for example, that the county pay taxes on county roads? Was Mr. Mielke suggesting that schools raise their taxes so they can pay taxes on their property? Would there be any net benefit to Clallam County citizens if these changes were made? Would it have been better if an effort had been made to determine the impact of properties currently being taxed being taken off the tax rolls? Was anyone concerned that Mr. Mielke did not know how much tax money was being lost to tribal trust land designations?

2. The attached spreadsheet shows a minimum of \$1.1 million dollars being lost annually from just real property taxes on about 208 parcels of land held in trust by the USA for the benefit of the S'Klallam Jamestown Tribe. This figure was determined from values in part based on the last purchase price, or 2020 land appraisals, or 2024 land appraisals, and without any value from new construction on those properties. Additional tax revenues are lost from sales taxes not being charged on purchases delivered to these trust properties; business and occupation taxes not being charged on tribal businesses located on these properties; vehicle license plates not being required for tribal entities based on these properties; businesses operating from these properties not paying federal income taxes; and other taxing and licensing breaks. Adjusting for these outdated figures and other lost tax revenues, and ignoring any

tax savings from their casino operations, I believe the S'Klallam Jamestown Tribe obtains a minimum of \$3 million dollars in tax savings per year and probably much, much, more. Should this large figure, for a population of about 200 Clallam County citizens, be considered as sufficient savings for the Tribe and advanced as a reason to limit future additions to tribal trust lands.

3. The attached spreadsheet also shows that the Jamestown Tribe pays real property taxes at the rate of about 0.005 on about 137 parcels of real property it owns outside of trust status, whereas the average rate is about 0.008. I have learned that at least part of this difference is due to a tax exemption (resulting in no taxes being paid) for federally recognized tribes in RCW 84.36.010 for land held for "environmental", "land use", and "economic development" purposes. Because of the very broad implications this statute has for county tax revenues, because there is no similar tax break for non-tribal citizens, and because the county claims it needs new tax revenues, I believe the charter review commission should recommend that the county commissioners look into the effect RCW 84.36.010 has on county tax revenues and just how far this tax exemption applies to tribal owned properties. For example, are the properties the S'Klallam Jamestown Tribe owns in the Carlsborg Industrial Park held for economic development purposes and therefore tax exempt? The County Commissioners should also be asked to consider whether they should ask the state legislature to extend these provisions of RCW 84.36.010 to all citizens or whether these provisions should be repealed.

4. Mr. Mielke again raised the issue that the proposed land acquisitions charter amendment needed to address all requests from governments for comments on proposed land acquisitions when in fact that issue had already been addressed in a revised proposed charter amendment. In raising the issue, Mr. Mielke reminded the commission of a comment Mr. Boughton made that there were possible equal protection issues involved with the previous proposed land acquisitions charter amendment. However, as addressed by the law review article available at <https://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1071&context=jlpa>, written by a tribal attorney, another question is whether tribal preferences written into law violate the equal protection rights of non-tribal citizens.

5. Recent revelations in the CRC courthouse security issue deserve further consideration. If the executive board did not address Mr. Stoffer's request for security in an official meeting, why did they not address that issue? Why did the executive board not bring Mr. Stoffer's request to the attention of the whole Charter Review Commission prior to security showing up at our meetings? How did a request from Mr. Stoffer to the executive board get to Commissioner Ozias, and then to Administrator Mielke, and then to Sheriff King? If the security now being provided to the Charter Review Commission was a part of the contract with Security Services Northwest, why was that security not being provided all along? If the security now being provided to the Charter Review Commission was a part of the contract with Security Services Northwest, why did it need a budget adjustment to be funded? To what degree do a county commissioner, and a county administrator, have authority to request an independent elected official to act on a particular matter? Is it no longer the law that an action of a county commissioner needs the concurrence of the board of county commissioners? If the county administrator has the authority to request an independent elected official to act, from where does that authority stem? Did the person with

whom Mr. Stoffer was concerned receive due process before he was deemed a threat by county officials?

6. Should the Clallam County Deputy Sherriff's Guild and/or the Teamster's Union and/or any other bargaining unit representing Clallam County Employees be concerned with the County hiring a private security firm to police the Clallam County Courthouse? Will the county next hire a private security firm to police the Clallam County Parks? Will the county then hire a private security firm to police the county roads? Should any person in Clallam County be concerned with the County hiring a private security firm to police the Clallam County Courthouse?

7. What authority does a Superior Court Judge have to set policy for the whole Courthouse, especially when the Court is not in session? Has the legislative authority of the County Commissioners been assumed by a Superior Court Judge?

Ron Richards,
Charter Review Commissioner, District 2

Gores, Loni

From: Tozzer, Jeff
Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 10:16 PM
To: Cameron, Ron; Noble, Chris; Fleck, Rod; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Ethics draft resolution (homework assignment)

Hi Loni,

Could you make a few copies of this for those commissioners attending our ethics meeting at 1:00?

Thanks,

Jeff

**Draft Resolution: Clallam County Code of Ethics Charter Amendment
A Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Clallam County Charter Establishing a Code of Ethics
for Elected County Officials and an Ethics Review Board**

WHEREAS, the citizens of Clallam County expect honesty, integrity, and accountability from their elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the County Charter currently contains no mechanism for the review of ethical concerns involving elected county officials; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Code of Ethics and an independent Ethics Review Board will strengthen public confidence in local government and ensure fair, transparent conduct in public office;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners hereby proposes the following amendment to the Clallam County Charter for submission to the voters at the 2026 general election:

**Proposed Clallam County Charter Amendment
Article ____ Ethics Review Board**

Section ____ Establishment and Purpose

An independent Ethics Review Board is hereby established to receive and review complaints of violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials. The Board shall serve as an advisory and accountability body whose findings promote transparency, integrity, and public confidence in county government.

Section ____ Composition and Terms

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall consist of three members, each of whom must be a resident of a different county commissioner district.

(b) Members shall serve without compensation for staggered three-year terms, with initial terms determined by lot to establish staggering.

(c) No member may be a current county employee, elected official, or candidate for county office, nor an immediate family member thereof.

Section ____. **Appointment of Members**

(a) Members shall be appointed by independently elected county officials, rotating annually so that no office is permanently assigned to a single district. The offices eligible to appoint are:

- **County Auditor**
- **County Treasurer**
- **County Assessor**
- **County Prosecuting Attorney**

(b) For each new term, the County Auditor shall prepare a rotation schedule assigning each office to a district. The rotation shall ensure that over time each district's Ethics Board member is appointed by a different office.

(c) In the event of a vacancy, the office assigned under the current rotation shall appoint a qualified replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(d) Members must be residents of the district they represent and meet the eligibility requirements specified in Section ____.

Section ____. **Duties and Procedures**

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall:

1. Receive and review written complaints alleging violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials;
2. Determine whether complaints fall within its jurisdiction;
3. Conduct impartial reviews and make written findings; and
4. Issue findings publicly upon completion of review.

(b) The Board shall not impose penalties or sanctions.

Section ____. **Transparency**

All final findings of the Ethics Review Board shall be publicly available and posted on the county website. Meetings may be closed only as necessary to protect confidentiality of complainants or witnesses during active investigations.

Ballot Title (for voter consideration):

Proposed Clallam County Charter Amendment — Establishment of a Code of Ethics for Elected Officials

Shall the Clallam County Charter be amended to establish a Code of Ethics for elected county officials and create an independent three-member Ethics Review Board, with one member from each district, to review and publicly report on alleged ethical violations?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Gores, Loni

From: emt@gmail.com <etelenick@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 8:10 AM
To: Cameron, Ron; Tozzer, Jeff; chris.noble@clallamcountywas.gov; Walde, Cathy; Fleck, Rod; Gores, Loni
Subject: Ethics Committee Suggestions
Attachments: Diane Harvey Grievance.pdf

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

Commissioners,

Please consider an alternate approach to the ethics amendment that you are considering.

I am concerned that the path you are working on will end up like most of the other amendments that have been mired in over complicated language, political divisions, or legally unsupportable requirements.

The entire reason this subcommittee was formed is because the public overwhelmingly supports an enforceable ethics code for elected officials; according to both the survey and general public comments. All of you have voiced similar concerns and support, which is why you joined this subcommittee in the first place.

The problems arose when the lawyers got involved and the issue of difficulties in enforcing how elected officials could be held accountable and how much this could cost taxpayers, started mucking up the works. The focus then turned towards more of a public shaming of elected officials with no real enforceable consequences. Now it has evolved into some sort of complicated matrix that will not have enforceable consequences.

In one meeting I expressed concerns that this County can't even follow statutory requirements and Oaths of Office (which should be CCSO's responsibility to enforce and the PAO's office to prosecute) so what hope was there that ethical violations would have consequences? That comment was ignored.

Now you are moving towards a plan where somehow you are going to ask the three district representatives to appoint a committee from the three municipalities to investigate allegations and overcomplicate this just like the Town Hall subcommittee is doing with their plan. How in the world can you expect this to happen with municipalities that have zero obligation to cooperate, except for political reasons?

This whole exercise will ultimately result in failure when it goes before the CRC. Even if it gets the nod from the CRC it will leave enough wiggle room for legal challenges down the road and will take 5 more years to undo.

The alternative plan to have the County Administrator appoint a committee is even more troublesome. The County Administrator's primary function is to support the BOCC. The civil attorney and Risk Manager's jobs are to protect the County from lawsuits.

It doesn't take a genius to see how that would end up. Clallam County has a rich history of a good old boy system where the County lets the criminals conduct their own investigations and who unsurprisingly never find fault with themselves. Bad idea!

I am attaching a document that was obtained through public records regarding an employee complaint filed by Diane Harvey; an attorney and current employee, who some of you are certainly familiar with. It was addressed to then Administrator Sill. It is supported by legal arguments. Please read at least the first page of her complaint as it outlines a simple solution.

Make ALL employees of Clallam County follow the same Administrative policies, elected or not. If an ethical (or legal) matter is brought before the Administrator involving an elected official move it OUTSIDE of Clallam County for an INDEPENDENT investigation. It will still cost taxpayers money but after a couple of investigations taxpayers might be motivated to pursue their recall option. At the very least elected officials would think twice about pulling some of the shenanigans they currently get away with, knowing that forces outside of their control would be investigating them

Alternatively, look into what a Memorandum of Agreement would look like. I have little knowledge of how that works(or if it would even work) but I understand that it is legally enforceable, unlike an MOU. It would still shine a light on possible ethical violations and fire a warning shot that would serve the same function as what you are trying to do now, without a complicated matrix of committee members,

Anyway, I would appreciate your consideration of these suggestions. Like yourselves, I do want this subcommittee to be successful.

Thanks,
Ed Telenick

D. HARVEY GRIEVANCE

GRIEVANCE REQUEST SEEKING WRITTEN DECISION BY ADMINISTRATOR SILL UNDER CLALLAM COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 235.50.1.

The Acting Manager of Code Enforcement believes that an injustice has occurred and is occurring because the DCD Director (and other publically elected officials) are not subject to corrective or disciplinary action under Clallam County Administrative Policy 235 and under conduct and work rules under Clallam County Administrative Policy 230. They need to be.

Administrative Policy 235 states: "It is both necessary and desirable that Clallam County consistently and critically examine all actions of employees that represent a liability to either the County, the community or the employee." This very same policy reasoning needs to apply to the DCD Director and all other Clallam County publically elected officials. There should be no distinction drawn in ensuring that publically elected officials act within professional bounds as to ensure the public confidence, trust and cooperation in the County, protect employees, preserve morale and prevent, detect and resolve misconduct so that corrective action or discipline may be quickly and fairly administered.

The fact that the DCD Director and other elected officials are not subject to corrective action and disciplinary standards under the County's Administrative Policy exposes the County to untold liability. Specifically, the options that a County employee has if a publically elected official creates a hostile work environment are limited to (1) full investigation that might subject the employee to possible retaliation and can only result in a recall resolution; (2) leaving the department and going to another department; (3) leaving the County employ; (4) filing a whistleblower complaint under RCW 41.42; or (5) filing a Section 1983 Civil Rights lawsuit in Tacoma federal court or a similar state based lawsuit (or if prevalent among employees, a class action lawsuit). Without corrective action or disciplinary proceedings, many employees who suffer abuse might opt for (2), (3), (4), or (5) or a combination of (3) and (5). This subjects the County to potentially more litigation and more risk exposure.

In addition, because Clallam County has no anti-harassment policy with respect to publically elected officials, and can take no corrective action or disciplinary procedures against such officials, the County cannot assert a Faragher/Elterth Affirmative Defense if the County is sued under Title VII with respect to an employee being sexually harassed by a publically elected official. See Burlington Industries, Inc. v. Ellerth, 524 U.S. 775 (1998); Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, 524 U.S. 765 (1998).

With respect to the DCD Director, the below described prior conduct demonstrates why the Administrator should find in his written opinion, that publically elected officials in Clallam County should be subjected to corrective action and disciplinary action for conduct that is inappropriate, unprofessional, abusive, threatening or otherwise creates a work environment that may be deemed to be hostile:

- See attached Calendar entries (Exhibit 1) describing numerous episodes where the DCD Director raged at me, pounded her fist on her desk close to my face, said inappropriate things to me, made veiled threats to me (i.e., singing "Homecoming Queen has a Gun" and

PRR 1176) - DH. COMPLAINT

thereafter asking me: "Diane, do you believe I am intentionally trying to hurt you?" on August 12, 2020) and my attempts to address this behavior with Senior County individuals. I have vivid factual recollections of all of these events in these calendar entries and would be willing to provide the context in great detail if requested.

- See attached diagram (Exhibit 2) drafted by the DCD Director in which she refers to Clallam County staff as having "minimum standard of care", people who "gas light, shell games, blindsides and criticize" and whose values are "pay check". Note the values of DH (i.e., Diane Harvey) were written in by me at the DCD Director's request at a face to face meeting in early February 2020 where she made a copy of this diagram and gave it to me. During this meeting she also referred to her DCD staff as "LAs" She told me "LA" stands for "low aptitude";

The following are other instances of conduct by the DCD Director that should also be examined in concluding that publically elected officials should be subject to Administrative Policy 235 and 230:

- Shared the buzz word "Sky Down" that she and her husband use when she is upset and screaming at him and needs to calm down. Tells me I can use that phrase with her when needed. (face to face meeting in May, 2020)
- Tells me that "Code Enforcement is very sexy" repeatedly.
- Recounts her friendship with a lesbian when she was in high school and that there was a falling out and the lady died before resolving their issues.
- Telling me she "wants to play in the playground with me" (by phone on July 20, 2020)
- Tells me she was voted "Hot Mom" by her son Curry's high school band. Shimmies her bare shoulders at me on several occasions.
- Inappropriate request that a female employee (not me) hug her in a setting where they were alone. That employee did give her a full body hug and did so because she felt pressured to do so.
- Telling me that I "pout" at her (October, 2020)
- Tells me on several occasions: "Do you know I dated five lawyers... "I only dated lawyers before Joel." This typically ends with her saying "I do not trust lawyers that's why I didn't marry one"
- "You sound like my husband." She has said this on numerous occasions.
- Tells me she once threw a plate at her husband's head while he was sitting at the kitchen table with her 2 kids present at the table. She tells me he ducked and the two kids ran out of the room. (by phone in October, 2020)

- Refers repeatedly to 4h [REDACTED] 4h [REDACTED] and Greg Ballard as the "Dark Triad" -- a psychological reference to psychopathic behavior such as narcissism and being a sociopath (face to face meetings in November, December 2019).
- Asks me to participate in writing a negative evaluation concerning 4h [REDACTED] so she could "paper" his eventual termination. I refused to do so telling her it would be inappropriate. (February 2020)
- Accuses me of suffering from Asperger's Syndrome "like" her first husband {I have no such disability}
- Tells me I am "heartless" (December 2019)
- Approves things and then the next day disapproves without any logical basis (e.g. Proposed Letter from Board of Directors to Department of Ecology in January 2020 – this happened twice with respect to this letter: after she had approved the Agenda Item and the evening before the public Board Meeting concerning the approval of the letter)
- Told me I couldn't buy my own chair with my own money unless I got HR to perform a test of my ergonomic requirements. This resulted in her yelling at me in the hallway, when I told her that there was no such HR requirement. (Early December 2019) The next day she comes into my office and says that her husband told her it was ok for me to buy the chair without HR approval, but she didn't apologize for her screaming at me.
- Asking me for a "waiver" after her fist slamming on the desk/screaming at me incident on February 18th. Requesting the waiver again on March 25, 2020 after asking me "if I am still on probation."
- Stating to me that the Board of Commissioners are "out to get" her, Mr. Sill is "out to get" her and that "You could destroy me". The "I could destroy" her comment was said to me on Feb. 20, 2020 in her office after the evening Charter Review meeting. Director Winborn had asked me to attend these evening meetings to help her prepare for her presentation/submissions to the Charter Review and after several of these meetings she asked me to come to her office to talk late into the evening. I believe the comment is in reference to the fist slamming incident – but of course I cannot be sure. It was also at this meeting that she requested that I give her a "waiver."
- Screaming at other DCD employees. (G. Ballard (I witnessed this and was also screamed at by her on November 14, 2019)) 4h [REDACTED] (on information and belief), 4h [REDACTED] (on information and belief), 4h [REDACTED] (on information and belief).
- Asking me to investigate whether an land LLC involving Commissioner Johnson, and his immediate family obtained a parcel of land in the County was in violation of the disclosure requirements for publically elected officials and whether it was a "sweetheart deal".

(September 2020) {I did not do this because it was not a Code Enforcement matter and did not satisfy a special project that DCD is authorized to do under any ordinance}.

Respectfully Submitted,

November 6th, 2020

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane Harvey", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Diane Harvey
Acting Manager to Code Enforcement
Clallam County

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 5:06 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Gores, Loni; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Subject: FW: Online Form Submission #8413 for Contact the Clerk of the Board

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

From: purdylion
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 5:01 PM
To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Re: Online Form Submission #8413 for Contact the Clerk of the Board

It supports my previous comment as to how far the hate against the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe has gone. Im targeted by association. These facts show my statements are not unfounded, so, yes, with the same request that my email be redacted and the CRC commissioners not send me a response. I do not want any interaction with this commissioner. I've been through enough already. If anyone with Clallam County decides its worth investigating the citizen who posted them name and neighborhood is legible on the screenshots. I am also due to disability in a protected category in which this alleged action targeted. I understand she allegedly refuses to go to law enforcement with what she knows about the attacks on me by this group for "fear of backlash." We've experienced a number of things including numerous anonymous unfounded calls to enforcenent in regards to my family. She allegedly only posted them to reveal the drug use and saw nothing wrong with me being harassed into a "psychiatric ward." Something like this should have gone to law enforcement, not social media. I wasn't involved in that text conversation. I am not a witness. I have evidence someone else witnessed posted to social media screenshot and sent to me.

If the CRC can make changes so this behavior is actionable that would be great. There is no way for someone like me to seek relief without something like attenpting to get a protection order which in this circumstance would supress myself from these public meetings. I've been lead to believe me filing a petition was the intent of this hateful group in order to limit me and that's why this evidence was made available publicly.

On Oct 10, 2025 at 3:42 PM, Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov> wrote:

I will forward to the Board of Commissioners. Are you also requesting I forward to the Charter Review Commission?

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

From: purdylion
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 1:50 PM
To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Re: Online Form Submission #8413 for Contact the Clerk of the Board

Hello Loni,

I have evidence documentation to support my previous statements for you and the commissioners' records in addition to my comment to the CCBOC and CRC, due to the deliberate hostile environment created for so many people and voter suppression by harassing public commenters who speak favorably of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe like myself

In

"County economy struggles while one corporation thrives "Self-reliance" redefined to include taxpayer-funded grants and exemptions"

by

Jeff Tozzer

Aug 04, 2024

<https://www.ccwatchdog.com/p/county-economy-struggles-one-corporation>

This comment doxxed my address via the assessors office. It harassed me for having a disability tax exemption. He was told multiple times to leave me alone for multiple reasons. I spoke to the CCBOC of my walks with my honorary mom on the Dungeness Levee. I don't know this man. He targeted any information he thought he had about me and mocked me using the name "Becky" and ske to stop. He wouldn't leave me alone on the Nextdoor platform even when blocked and muted. He was suspended multiple times and later permanently banned for racism. My last appearance at public comment before the CCBOC prior to this was at the beginning of April 2024 specifically asking that my name no longer be mentioned by his people and asking the commissioners to do something about the suppression of public commenters. I didn't return until April of this year 2024 to speak to the Cultural Arts Access RCW and have again received multiple mentions by the blog for "wasting 3 minutes" to speak with my monologue I performed (with a life threatening condition.) The comment link is here

https://open.substack.com/pub/clallamcountywatchdog/p/county-economy-struggles-one-corporation?utm_source=direct&r=2l5qo5&utm_campaign=comment-list-share-cta&utm_medium=web&comments=true&commentId=64378819



Jeff Tozzer Aug 4, 2024



Author

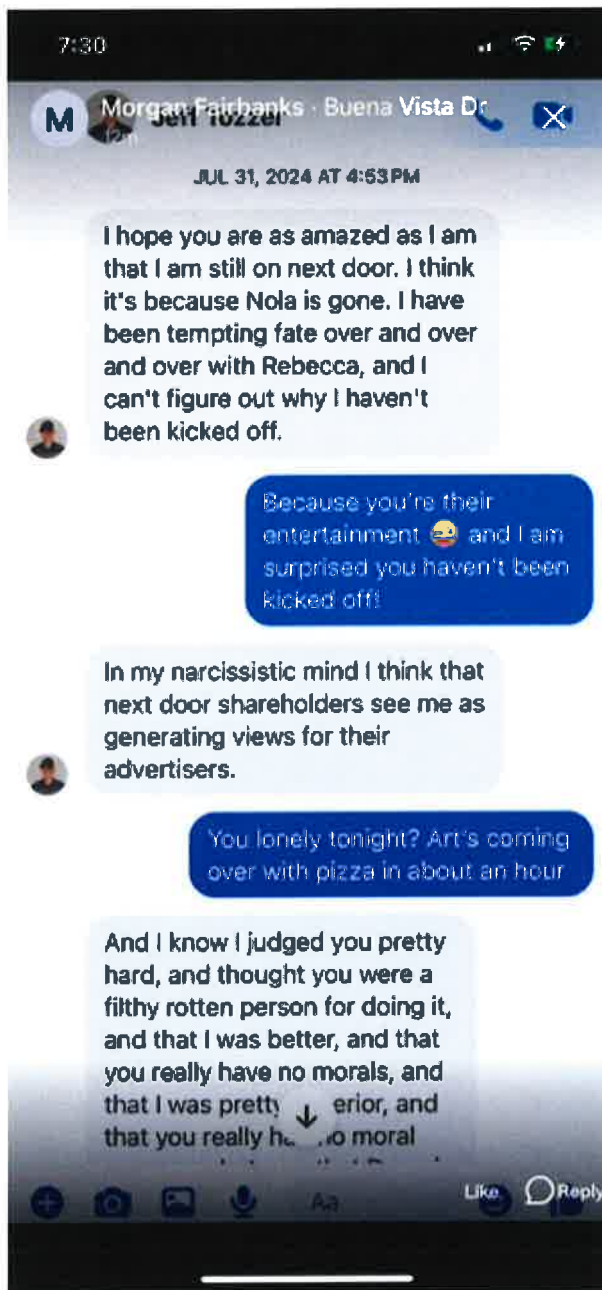
Something just clicked. My biggest critic (and most aggressive) calls me racist, anti-tribe, anti-trans, etc. and I've always wondered what she is hiding. Her home/property is appraised at \$256,815, and she pays \$190/year in property tax.

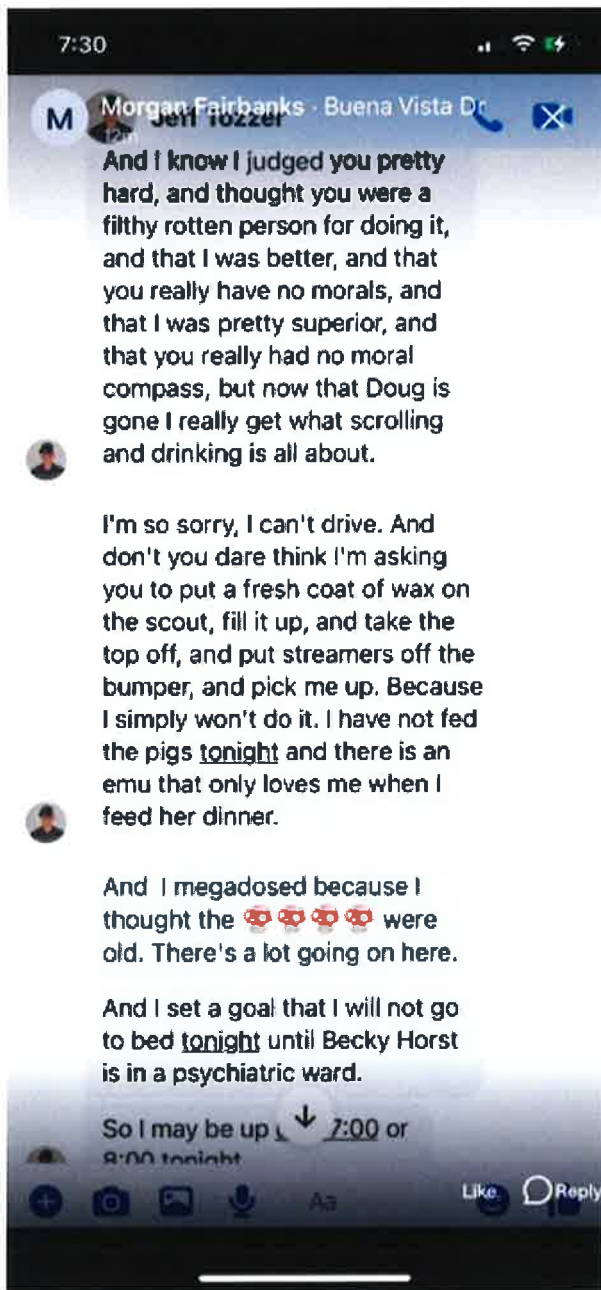
https://websrv22.clallam.net/propertyaccess/Property.aspx?cid=0&year=2023&prop_id=21649

LIKE (1) REPLY (2)

SHARE

On August 28, 2025 I was notified of a conversation on Nextdoor where a user posted screenshots of a text conversation allegedly between herself, a Morgan Fairbanks and the now elected CRC commissioner Jeff Tozzer. I was given screenshots of the texts. They are dated a few days prior from the doxxing incident August 4, 2024 indicating he was heavily under the influence of psychadelic mushroom drugs and alcohol July 31, 2024 and intentionally disturbing my peace with the intent of harm. This was solely a result of he and his friends belief about my connections to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Everyone knew am disabled, but not why. Ive been politically challenged for it. Its my business. At the time of this text thread I had a life threatening stroke condition and had craniotomy surgery May 7, 2025.





On Oct 7, 2025 at 6:48 AM, Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov> wrote:

Your email has been received and forwarded to the Charter Review Commission.

From: purdylion

Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 11:42 PM

To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Online Form Submission #8413 for Contact the Clerk of the Board

Dear Loni,

Please foreward this to the Charter review commission with my email address redacted. I do not wish to be contacted by any of the commissioners on this matter due to the fact I have given one commissioner notice multiple times to leave me alone and not mention my name, yet continues to do so. There are many issues to unpack in regards to this as the CRC knows, however this issue is particularly delectate due to its complete disregard for minority children on the basis of White Lives Matter ideology. I maintain that request not to contact me. I am afraid of him because of what he has done to me in the past and what I have watched done to other constituents with whom he disagrees over the last approximately 2 years. I believe this is an issue the Charter Review Commission should address as there appears to be no means of recourse against discrimination and hostile environment by elected officials towards eachother nor towards constituents who are not employed by the Clallam County Government and covered by the antidiscrimination policy through the HR department. This is costing money in wasted man hours and facility use during frivolous scenes that merely slow and delay the work of the commission and triggers a trauma response known to biologically disable the analytical brain when threatened. I did not elect my officials to to the CRC to watch them suffer through what appears to be game of premeditated 3 dementional chess.

Rebecca Lynn Horst

Begin forwarded message:

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Date: Oct 6, 2025 at 10:55 PM
To:
Subject: Online Form Submission #8413 for Contact the Clerk of the Board

Contact the Clerk of the Board

First Name	Rebecca
Last Name	Horst
Email	
Phone	
Subject	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY PROCLAMATION 2025
Comments	I support the proclamation for Indigenous Peoples Day. I would like to bring some concerns to the attention of the commissioners and ask that this be forwarded to the prosecuting attorneys office for review whether to send to the Attorney General as an ethics violation as attacking this proclamation and other acceleration tactics are resulting in personal gain and undue influence using astroturfing by a hate group masked as grass roots action under the business listed with the AG office as North Western Research Institute which

has 2 separate accounts found via researching their name from their website that seems associated with a non profit scamming our elderly community for donations called American Policy Council. This is a drain on our economy and sending our community dollars out of the area. My family has been personally affected. Please review these websites:

https://nwri.org/?embedded_webview=true

<https://opengovwa.com/corporation/603107916>

<https://opengovwa.com/corporation/601725086>

<https://americanpolicy.org/about-us/>

The recognition of genocide on the first people of this land. It is important for diplomacy to acknowledge all elephants in the room past and present from past genocide to the current Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Children, and 2-Spirit People epidemic. We have an obligation to create safe government to government interactions and protect the wellbeing of native families and especially children in any political climate. I have a native child in my home who is Chickasaw and due to my choice to allow us to accept assistance teaching my child heritage and belonging and to hold their head high we have been targeted. I am unsafe and intimidated by Jeff Tozzer and his followers giving public comment before the CCBOC or CCCRC. As things are right now it is not emotionally safe for Indigenous children to be present at County meetings where public comments are allowed. The attacks on Theresa Lehman over the last year in at least 2 separate blogs are evidence of this. In Why is that pumpkin wet?

When leadership fails, taxpayers pay the price

Jeff Tozzer

Oct 04, 2025 the blog recoding transcript states, "I'm tired of this. So the first one I sat through, that was when Teresa Lehman, Jamestown Tribe Secretary, well, Marco Zayas read it. Teresa Lehman accepted it. And then she turned on the gallery and just shamed us, said, you will not take our children anymore. You will not send us away. It just, I don't know. But that was like maybe my second month of going to commissioner meetings." Yet, when you watch that event here none of this is shown true:

starts at 5:50 mark:

<https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1128/media>

He also targets her and the Tribe in "When will this debt be paid?

Restorative justice takes a foothold in Clallam County

Jeff Tozzer
Jul 27, 2025"

A single elected official representing on the Clallam County Charter Review Commission and seated on the Ethics Committee is reinforcing his power and position by rallying a brigaid of followers to repeat his performative and abusive opinions denying genocide to the Clallam County Commissioners (we all elected) on Tuesday while using malinformation misrepresenting a proclamation to speak White Lives Matter propaganda.

In a post on a Substack account Clallam County Watchdog called "The price of bad governance
Ten stories that will either make you want to move or stay and fix things"

Jeff Tozzer
Oct 06, 2025

He states in his recorded blog posted as a recording and as a transcript, "before that commissioners forum they're going to read a proclamation shaming colonizers white people and and uh saying how bad indigenous people have it and how it's led to a uh gosh what was it a poverty income imbalance income inequity something or other i wrote it in the article uh it's just a pretty interesting strategy if you ask me..."

Finally he has created a call to action in Upcoming Commissioners' Forum

With a proclomation shaming colonizers

Jeff Tozzer
Oct 05, 2025

He asks his followers to speak against the proclamation. For this reason I am making an effort to respond. This is hate and terror and I ask that something be done about this as this individual is a public official and is sitting in a CRC commissioners seat and wasting tax dollars and time pontificating to his followers who show up and speak for him and even attack individuals he has called out in his blog. Many of these people are constituents he represents, like myself.

There is also an allegation of psychadelic mushroom use while targeting me, the mother of a Chickasaw Child who recently had brain surgery to prevent stroke, to "put "Becky" in a psychiatric ward." I've had my home doxxed via posting a search link to my home via the assessors office and I have

seen this also done to Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe properties. I believe I experienced damages as a result of this doxxing.

Indigenous People's Day is deserved and I thank you. Please provide more education to the community.

Thank you,
Rebecca Lynn Horst
Sequim

Please Note

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

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 5:23 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Ethics Committee Meeting 10-14-25
Attachments: 10-14-25 CRC Ethics Committee Agenda Full Packet.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Ethics Committee meeting notice for October 14:

- 1) Ethics Committee meeting notice on October 14 at 11:30 a.m. at BOCC Small Conference Room 150.

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

Loni

"My email address has changed! The new format is **Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov** Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee

October 14, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

Board of Commissioner Small Conference Room 150, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Review of meeting notes and approval to post
- Review Resolution Drafts
- Public comment
- Next meeting

Zoom:

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 873 4384 8004 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87343848004> and use meeting ID: 873 4384 8004 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee has scheduled an Ethics Committee meeting to be held on October 14, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Small Conference Room 150, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ethics and what actions the CRC should consider regarding ethics in county governance.

Zoom:

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 873 4384 8004 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87343848004> and use meeting ID: 873 4384 8004 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated 10th day of October 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores".

Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Gores, Loni

From: Tozzer, Jeff
Sent: Sunday, October 12, 2025 7:34 PM
To: Cameron, Ron; Noble, Chris; Fleck, Rod; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: CRC Ethics revised draft (for Tuesday's meeting)

Dear Loni and CRC Ethics committee,

Loni, please print 3 copies of this before our 11:30 meeting Tuesday.

- "Prosecuting Attorney" has been replaced with "County Director of the Department of Community Development."
- The last sentence under "Establishment and Purpose" was removed (deemed aspirational).
- "Duties and Procedures" section (c) has been added to ensure there are no retroactive investigations.
- "Duties and Procedures" section (d) has been added to ensure the person filing the complaint has direct knowledge of the alleged ethics violation.

I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday,

Jeff

•

Draft Resolution: Clallam County Code of Ethics Charter Amendment
A Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Clallam County Charter Establishing a Code of Ethics for Elected County Officials and an Ethics Review Board

WHEREAS, the citizens of Clallam County expect honesty, integrity, and accountability from their elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the County Charter currently contains no mechanism for the review of ethical concerns involving elected county officials; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Code of Ethics and an independent Ethics Review Board will strengthen public confidence in local government and ensure fair, transparent conduct in public office;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners hereby proposes the following amendment to the Clallam County Charter for submission to the voters at the 2026 general election:

Proposed Clallam County Charter Amendment
Article ____ Ethics Review Board

Section ____. Establishment and Purpose

An independent Ethics Review Board is hereby established to receive and review complaints of violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials.

Section ____. Composition and Terms

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall consist of three members, each of whom must be a resident of a different county commissioner district.

(b) Members shall serve without compensation for staggered three-year terms, with initial terms determined by lot to establish staggering.

(c) No member may be a current county employee, elected official, or candidate for county office, nor an immediate family member thereof.

Section ____. Appointment of Members

(a) Members shall be appointed by independently elected county officials, rotating annually so that no office is permanently assigned to a single district. The offices eligible to appoint are:

- **County Auditor**
- **County Treasurer**
- **County Assessor**
- **County Director of the Department of Community Development**

(b) For each new term, the County Auditor shall prepare a rotation schedule assigning each office to a district. The rotation shall ensure that over time each district's Ethics Board member is appointed by a different office.

(c) In the event of a vacancy, the office assigned under the current rotation shall appoint a qualified replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(d) Members must be residents of the district they represent and meet the eligibility requirements specified in Section ____.

Section ____. Duties and Procedures

(a) The Ethics Review Board shall:

1. Receive and review written complaints alleging violations of the Clallam County Code of Ethics by elected county officials;
2. Determine whether complaints fall within its jurisdiction;
3. Conduct impartial reviews and make written findings; and
4. Issue findings publicly upon completion of review.

(b) The Board shall not impose penalties or sanctions.

(c) The Ethics Review Board shall have no authority to investigate or consider alleged conduct that occurred **prior to the effective date** of this Charter amendment. All investigations must pertain only to actions or omissions occurring **after** this amendment becomes effective.

(d) Any complaint submitted to the Ethics Review Board must be made by **a person or persons having first-hand knowledge** of the alleged facts.

The complainant shall certify under penalty of perjury that they:

1. **Have direct knowledge** of the alleged conduct; and
2. **Believe the charge or charges to be true** and based upon their personal knowledge of the facts forming the grounds for the complaint.

Anonymous or second-hand complaints shall not be accepted.

Section ____. Transparency

All final findings of the Ethics Review Board shall be publicly available and posted on the county website. Meetings may be closed only as necessary to protect confidentiality of complainants or witnesses during active investigations.

Ballot Title (for voter consideration):

Proposed Clallam County Charter Amendment — Establishment of a Code of Ethics for Elected Officials

Shall the Clallam County Charter be amended to establish a Code of Ethics for elected county officials and create an independent three-member Ethics Review Board, with one member from each district, to review and publicly report on alleged ethical violations?

☐ YES

☐ NO

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Correspondences end page