

**BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS  
BOARD TIME  
MINUTES OF OCT. 21, 2015**

The Board of Councilors convened at 1300 Franklin St, Vancouver, Washington 98660, Conference Room B.

**Approval of minutes for October 14, 2015**

**ACTION:** Moved by Mielke to **APPROVE** the minutes for October 14, 2015. Stewart seconded the motion. Councilors Madore, Stewart, and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

**Clark County Outstanding Debt (Internal and External) / Vacant positions**

Stewart referenced a handout titled “Clark County Outstanding Debt (Internal and External). She suggested that the county divert \$1.2 million a year from its general fund to help pay off the debt. She stated it could save the county in interest payments over 20 years. She stated according to her estimates the county could pay off its current debt by 2030 instead of 2035. She spoke further about the handout. She stated this is the best outcome for the citizens. Madore thanked Stewart for bringing the idea to the table, but said that the county already has been working hard to reduce debt. He stated reducing taxes is the best policy for Clark County, adding that county policies that reduce taxes already have supported job and business growth in the region. Further discussion ensued about the proposed property tax cut. Stewart stated by paying down the debt, the interest they would save is substantial and give them more flexible money for the general fund. Further discussion ensued about job growth. Mielke referenced a document that listed all vacant positions since January. He recommended the county find cost savings elsewhere in the budget to accommodate a tax cut, such as eliminating vacant positions. Stewart inquired if he wanted to defund the positions. Mielke confirmed that was his request. Axel Swanson, Senior Policy Analyst joined the discussion. Stewart inquired to legal about staff positions in relation to the charter on whether it is a County Manager responsibility or a Board responsibility. Chris Horne, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, joined the discussion and spoke about budget authority responsibilities. He spoke about a Douglas County case. Stewart spoke about her concerns with defunding the positions until she knows all the circumstances of each position. Mark McCauley, County Manager, joined the discussion. He spoke about current budget policies and spoke about his concerns of the change in culture if the Board moved forward with the defunding request. Further discussion ensued. Madore spoke about the importance of looking at all options. He spoke about the Board’s budget authority and spoke about Mielke’s request. McCauley spoke about importance of savings / spending. Stewart stated they needed to do more research on each of the positions. Madore spoke about exploring all ways of saving. Further discussion ensued about the vacant positions. McCauley spoke about the proposed mission, values, and strategies for Clark County. Discussion ensued about the culture of the Board. Further discussion ensued about vacant positions and the tone of the County. McCauley stated he would do more research on the positions. Mielke stated he wanted to be part of the conversation with the elected officials / directors. Madore spoke about moving forward in a positive manner. Further discussion ensued about vacant positions and reserves. Further conversations will take place at a later time.

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**Humane Society for Southwest Washington**

Mielke spoke about a contract / request for proposal (RFP) with the Humane Society. McCauley joined the discussion and spoke about the process. Mielke inquired about other shelters. He asked for legal staff to do more research. Horne responded and stated he would send a memo with the information to all the Board members.

**Comprehensive Plan – Alternative 4**

Madore spoke about documents he introduced to the grid for discussion prior to the hearing. Further discussion ensued. Stewart inquired more about the intent of the new information. Madore responded. Further discussion ensued about moving forward. Stewart spoke about state laws in regards to the growth management act. Mielke spoke further about the document's Madore submitted. Further discussion ensued about the draft SEIS and moving forward. Further discussion ensued about the cities participation. Madore inquired about the process to legal staff. Horne responded. Madore spoke further about the intent of the revisions. Stewart spoke about the framework regarding the revisions. Further discussion ensued. Swanson joined the discussion. Discussion ensued about adding the information and presenting at a work session. Madore spoke further about the information and the process. Further discussion ensued about moving forward. Stewart spoke further about getting staff's analysis. Further discussion ensued about the upcoming work session.

**Councilor / Staff Reports:**

Discussion ensued about Axel's last day and his new job. The Board extended their gratitude to him for his service. Horne joined the discussion.

*The Board adjourned for Executive Session*

*The Board adjourned for Executive Session and reconvened at 4:42 PM*

Adjourned

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David Madore, Chair

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Jeanne E. Stewart, Councilor

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Tom Mielke, Councilor

ATTEST:

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Rebecca Tilton, Clerk of the Board

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