

**BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS  
BOARD TIME  
MINUTES OF SEPT. 23, 2015**

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

**Agenda**

Stewart inquired about items on the agenda and stated she would like to get the supporting documents ahead of time.

**Approval of minutes for September 16, 2015**

**ACTION:** Moved by Mielke to **APPROVE** the minutes for September 16, 2015. Stewart seconded the motion. Councilors Madore, Stewart, and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

**2% property tax reduction**

Madore referenced a handout titled "Proposal to reduce 2016 property taxes by 2%" and provided an overview. He also presented the Clark County Financial Trends Monitoring Report from the Auditor's office and the General Fund Forecast. He read the following proposed motion "The BOCC directs our Clark County Manager to prepare for a 2% cut in our 2016 property tax levy (plus new construction), this December and to plan the changes necessary to balance our 2016 budget while maintaining our current fund balance policy."

**ACTION:** Moved by Mielke to **APPROVE** the following motion "The BOCC directs our Clark County Manager to prepare for a 2% cut in our 2016 property tax levy (plus new construction), this December and to plan the changes necessary to balance our 2016 budget while maintaining our current fund balance policy." Madore seconded the motion. *(Motion was modified later in the meeting)*

Further discussion ensued. Mielke spoke about elected officials concerns and stated he would like to have more discussions with them. He spoke about the current economy in regards to property taxes / sales taxes. Mielke inquired about the time line. Madore responded. Further discussion ensued about budget planning. Further discussion ensued about general fund expenses. Stewart spoke about the financial forecast and spoke about a structural systemic deficit. She inquired about the outcome if the Board moved forward with the proposed direction with the current factors in front of them. She stated it seemed counterproductive. Madore responded and spoke further about the graph. Further discussion ensued. Adriana Prata, Budget Director joined the discussion and spoke further about the graph. Further discussion ensued. Mark McCauley, County Manager and John Payne, Deputy Treasurer joined the discussion. Madore spoke about the cost of living. Further discussion ensued. Payne spoke about progressive sales taxes and spoke against reducing the most stable revenue source the County has. Madore spoke about recent headlines in regards to the rental market. He clarified the proposal. Mielke inquired more about the budget. Prata responded. Further discussion ensued. Chris Horne, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, joined the discussion. Further discussion ensued. Mielke commented on all the factors involved. Mielke stated he would like to do more research on the item and come back the following week. Mark Gassaway, Finance Director, joined the discussion. Further discussion ensued.

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Madore and Mielke spoke about bringing the proposal back next week. Stewart inquired about the means of moving forward with projects with the proposed cutting of stable revenue sources especially after the discouragement from professional staff. Madore spoke about planning ahead. Further discussion ensued about forecasted growth.

Madore stated he would submit his requests to McCauley. Gassaway spoke about using financial resources and planning ahead. Payne spoke about the general fund and spoke about spending. Further discussion ensued. Stewart stated her concerns with the proposal and spoke about following a consistent policy process. Madore spoke about California's brain drain and concern for Clark County residents. He spoke in favor the 2 % property tax reduction. Further discussion ensued.

**ACTION:** Moved by Mielke to **APPROVE** bringing back the following motion to Board time on Wednesday, September 30, 2015. "The BOCC directs our Clark County Manager to prepare for a 2% cut in our 2016 property tax levy (plus new construction), this December and to plan the changes necessary to balance our 2016 budget while maintaining our current fund balance policy." Madore seconded the motion. Councilors Madore and Mielke voted aye. Stewart voted nay. Motion carried.

**Accessory Dwelling Units**

Madore provided an overview. He stated this was an introduction discussion and planned on bringing it back for action the following week. Mielke inquired more about the urban growth boundary. Madore responded. Mielke spoke about mobile homes. Horne joined the discussion. Discussion ensued about state codes and hardships. Horne inquired about the resource districts. Madore responded. Further discussion ensued. Stewart stated she would like to see a memorandum from the planning staff. Madore spoke about contacting the Commission on Aging and Building Industry Association (BIA) and moving ahead with a concept / goal. Stewart spoke about the variety of accessory dwelling units. Stewart stated she needed more information / input from the planning staff to understand the intent of the request. Further discussion ensued on the request. Madore spoke about the Southwest Washington Agency on Aging and Disabilities and keeping Grandma in her home. Further discussion ensued about accessory dwelling units and the request.

**Councilor Reports**

Stewart inquired on the number of projects the other Councilors were working on. Madore responded. Stewart asked for a list of the projects Peter Silliman is working on. Mielke spoke about confidential items.

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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