



JAN 20 2026

# BOARD of CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## MINUTES for the week of January 12-16, 2026

### WORK SESSION – 9 a.m.

The work session convened at 9 a.m., Monday, January 12, 2026. Present were Commissioners Johnson and French and Administrator Mielke. Commissioner Ozias was excused.

Items of discussion per the agenda published January 8 were:

- Calendar/Correspondence
- Resolution reappointing John Viada to the Civil Services Commission
- Open County position review
- Agreement with Department of Agriculture to assist landowners in treating shiny geranium noxious weed
- Letter of support for the Edgewood Drive Wastewater Line Project
- Agreement amendment 2 with Facet NW, Inc for Comprehensive Plan update
- Request to approve an extension of Atterberry Landing Binding Site Plan LDV2018-00034 to 3/10/27
- Pre-application questionnaire with Department of Ecology for the Floodplain by Design Grant
- Discussion on proposed budget revisions to be considered on January 27
- Agreement with Clallam County Public Works Department for 2026 Hotel/Motel Tax Funds
- Agreement with Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau for 2026 Hotel/Motel Tax Funds
- Agreement with The Dungeness Crab Festival for 2026 Hotel/Motel Tax Funds
- Agreement with Top Left Trails Co-op for 2026 Hotel/Motel Tax Funds
- Agreement with Port Angeles Waterfront Center – Field Hall for 2026 Hotel/Motel Tax Funds
- Agreement with Hurricane Ridge Winter Sports Education Foundation for 2026 Hotel/Motel Tax Funds
- Agreement with Peninsula Trails Coalition for 2026 Hotel/Motel Tax Funds
- Resolution appointing Daniel Peacock to the Revenue Advisory Committee
- Approval of the "For" and "Against" Committee form for proposed Charter amendment regarding Local Voters' Pamphlet
- Legislative session update

The meeting concluded at 10:29 p.m.

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair French called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Also present were Commissioner Johnson and Administrator Mielke. Commissioner Ozias was excused.

### REQUEST FOR MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to adopt the agenda as presented, CMFs, mc**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mark Curtis, Sequim, commented on 2b
- Eric Fehrmann, Sequim, commented on item 1c
- Denise Lapio, Sequim, commented on item 1c, William Shore Memorial Pool District, Court Commissioner
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on item 1c, ethics
- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on items 2a and 2b
- Karen Parker, Sequim,, commented on item 1c, Towne Road
- Jeff Tozzer, Sequim, commented on item 1c (see attached)

### CONSENT AGENDA – Any Commissioner may remove items for discussion

1a Approval of vouchers for the week of January 5

The Following warrants and electronic payments are approved for payment:

Accounts Payable:	Total
Warrant numbers: 9948084-9948189	<b>\$1,001,406.36</b>
Electronic payments dates: n/a	<b>\$0.00</b>
Total Accounts Payable:	<b>\$1,001,406.36</b>

1b Approval of minutes for the week of January 5

1c Resolutions appointing members to the Heritage Advisory Board

**ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to approve the consent agenda as presented, CMFs, mc**

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- CRJ reported on United Way Senior Housing Program
- CMF reported on Parks Advisory Board meeting, PUD Commissioner Phyllis Bernard, Olympic Community Action Programs OlyCAP, KSQM Radio Show

**CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS**

2a Agreement with Forks Chamber of Commerce for 2026 Hotel/Motel Tax Funds

**ACTION TAKEN: CRJm approve, CMFs, mc**

2b Agreement with Neah Bay Chamber of Commerce for 2026 Hotel/Motel Tax Funds

**ACTION TAKEN: CRJm approve, CMFs, mc**

**BUDGET**

3a Notice that the following budget revisions will be considered for adoption on January 27:

Health & Human Services–Environmental Health – The HHS Environmental Health budget is being revised to purchase a venting unit for the water lab, replacing a 2025 budget request that was not used because the final invoice exceeded the approved amount/\$10,000

**ACTION TAKEN: CRJm issue notice, CMFs, mc**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Mark Curtis, Sequim, commented on land, tax rolls, Tribal land
- Jeff Tozzer, Sequim, commented on residential evictions information, Peninsula Behavioral Health, Northview funding, town hall meeting
- Eric Fehrmann, Sequim, commented on Commissioner Ozias, Derrick Eberle, public engagement, answering emails
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on globalist, appointments to boards and committees, Tribe estuary grant
- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on item 2b, Highway 112, culvert issues
- Nancy Trujillo, Port Angeles, commented on boards and committees
- Pepai Whipple, Sequim, commented on canned letter regarding her county concerns
- Denise Lapio, Sequim, commented on safety town hall meeting, Representative Emily Randall, white men corruption and fraud

The meeting concluded at 10:55 a.m. and continued until Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 9 a.m.

The Board of Commissioners attended a WSAC Virtual Update, Coffee with Colleen, Hurricane Ridge Listening Session during the week of January 12, 2026.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026

ATTEST:

  
Loni Gores, MMC, Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Mike French, Chair  
  
Randy Johnson  
  
Mark Ozias

**KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS:**

- |     |                            |    |                |
|-----|----------------------------|----|----------------|
| ATM | Administrator Todd Mielke  | m  | moved          |
| CMO | Commissioner Mark Ozias    | mc | motion carried |
| CRJ | Commissioner Randy Johnson | s  | seconded       |
| CMF | Commissioner Mike French   |    |                |

Public Comment  
JEFF TOZZER  
1/13/26

I'm here today to speak against the appointment of Derrick Eberle to the Heritage Advisory Board.

This is not a personal attack, and it's not about excluding new voices. It's about credibility, conflicts, and whether this board is being treated as a public trust or a political favor.

We were told last week that this appointment was about bringing in a "new voice." But the public wasn't initially told who that voice was. When you look at the record, Derrick Eberle is not a neutral newcomer to county history or land-use decisions. He is a central figure in one of the most controversial infrastructure and access disputes this county has ever seen. Additionally, he owns a home in Tacoma which is near his business and workplace.

Many residents remember Mr. Eberle as the private property owner connected to the proposal to spend more than \$125,000 in taxpayer funds on electronic gates that would have effectively turned Towne Road — a historic link between Sequim and Dungeness — into a private driveway serving his home and his large commercial wedding venue. During that same period, he openly supported Commissioner Ozias politically, including campaign signage on his property, while behind-the-scenes communications were taking place with explicit instructions to avoid using county devices.

When Towne Road was later proposed to be abandoned and converted into a trail, Mr. Eberle did not simply express an opinion. He organized, fundraised, petitioned, rallied, and advocated aggressively to keep the road closed — despite repeated public safety warnings.

During that closure, a home burned down. The fire chief later confirmed that the detour caused by the road closure contributed to the loss. A family lost their home. Their dogs died. That is not abstract history — that is recent, documented harm tied to decisions Mr. Eberle actively supported.

He and his wife later filed harassment complaints against Towne Road supporters, triggering a month-long investigation involving the Sheriff, the Prosecutor, and the County. That investigation found no evidence to support the claims. Just public resources spent for personal gain.

Taken together, this is not a record of someone acting as a steward of shared public heritage. It is a record of someone repeatedly aligned with efforts to privatize, restrict, or eliminate public access while maintaining close political alignment with the very commissioner now advancing his appointment.

Towne Road itself is part of Clallam County's heritage. Appointing someone who worked tirelessly to remove it from public use to the Heritage Advisory Board sends a troubling message: that advocacy against public access is not a disqualifier, but a credential.

If this board is to have public trust, its members must be free of unresolved conflicts and committed, demonstrably, to preserving shared history — not reshaping it for private benefit.

For those reasons, I urge you to reconsider this appointment.

Jeff Tozzer, Sequim