

Snowden Community Council – 01.05.2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Roger Gadway, Tom Montag, Lloyd Olsen, Jenn Sharp, Dan Spatz,

Absent: Bob Conner, Chuck Kliesch, Jenne Patterson, Janet Turner

There were five other Snowden attendees; and guest speaker District 1 Klickitat County Commissioner Jacob Anderson..

With thanks to zoom host Jenn Sharp, the Meeting began at 7:07 PM in conversation with Commissioner Anderson.

The Council began by stating our need to bring adequate, reliable, affordable high speed internet access to Snowden. Mr. Anderson began by reminding us that lots of money has already been spent upgrading internet access to Snowden; including upgraded switches, increased DSL, C1 boxes, and middle mile (owned by Wave Broadband) “all over Snowden”, up to Sleepy Hollow. He has talked with Century Link many times, and as everything is very expensive, even a \$10 million grant only upgraded half of Snowden. Further upgrades are cost prohibitive.

The Commissioner’s suggestions for our future strategy include: 1) Let PUD own the lines; then let “others” provide services. 2) Get on the list for Starlink – even though \$600 is expensive, it is nothing compared to options. 3) Cell companies build out in cycles or waves every 4-5 years; we should try to use these cycles to our advantage. Most important and helpful, Jacob Anderson wants a cell tower to be put on Diamond Gap. This would serve Glenwood, and improve coverage for (parts of) Snowden; and allow for the creation of more “hot spots”.

Roger asks if we can invite Northwest Open Access Net (NoaNet) consultants and the PUD to work together considering feasibility for improved internet access for Snowden. Roger and Dan asked what the Council can do to help get a cell tower put on Diamond Gap, and in general improve our internet access. Commissioner Anderson said that when the time came, he would ask for a letter of support from the Council. He also recommended having a joint meeting with BZ Corners, Glenwood, Husum, and other Klickitat County communities, to discuss working together for improved internet access, and other common concerns such as fire safety.

The Commissioner took questions on other County topics: When the County snowplows the roads – no, they CAN’T open up the berms they create across our driveways. There are 22,000 driveways!

Courtney Road will be a paved 2 lane road by 2023! Millions of dollars are going into Courtney; it will be (one of) the last major road building projects that Klickitat County plans on making.

Solar and wind projects: There is a new solar project permitted by the landfill in Roosevelt, and a second one in the works to be north of Goldendale. Two new wind turbine projects have been permitted, but not yet built.

Jenn explained the benefits of Community owned solar arrays, such as those created through Energy Trust of Oregon.

With thanks to Commissioner Anderson, the **Council Meeting was called to Order** by Chair Roger Gadway at 8:27 PM.

The **Minutes** of the 12.01.2021 Meeting were approved as presented earlier, by email.

Treasurer’s Report. In the absence of Treasurer Chuck Kliesch, there was no report.

There were no additions to the **Agenda** .

Old Business:

Broadband Committee: Dan reported that he would be meeting with Randy at the KC PUD. Dan is also communicating with the Port of Klickitat, who may be interested in working with us for improved internet. Now is a time when we need a public agency as an advocate, as there are funds available for improved internet access feasibility studies and planning; perhaps we can knit together inter-agency support?

The Council Meeting ended abruptly when, due to heavy snowfall, the power went out at 8:37PM.

Further Council reports and business will be taken up at the January 05, 2022 Snowden Community Council Zoom Meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bea Lackaff SCC Secretary (pro tem)