

**Trout Lake Community Council
Approved Meeting Notes, as amended
At the Grange
May 5, 2026
6:30 – 8:30 pm**

Topic	Council Lead	Start Time
Regular Council Meeting called to order Council Members in attendance: Daina Bambe, Travis Pearson, Jim Lambert, Tom Binder, Joanna Turner, Aaron Schmid, Pat Arnold Community Members: Ron Ihrig, John Bruce,	Daina	6:30
Agenda Review No Changes	Daina	
Minutes review: April 7, 2026 unapproved notes April 18, 2026 unapproved notes DNR NAP meeting Motion to approve notes: Aaron, 2nd Tom - all in favor	Daina	
Guest: County Commissioner Ron Ihrig Commissioner from Dist 3 (Goldendale east) - has 560 miles of roads (just over 1k miles of roads in the county). Each district has to be equal # of people - next redistricting is after the next census in 2030. No public process for us to participate in decision	Daina	6:35
<p>Q” re County reorganization: As of today no great change, econ develop/planning/building under one dept. Emergency mgmt moved to public works and 911 dispatch is still a work in progress. Ops mgr won’t need to work with dispatch eventually. 4 current employees in dispatch, County is trying to hire more. Need 10 dispatchers total, currently using some contracting which isn’t ideal but necessary for now. Currently - 4 contractors, 4 employees, ea contractor has to work with an employee. Hiring freeze until a 3-year plan is in place. County is financially stable, has good finances but they need to figure something out because in 3 years that will change. 911, Jail and sheriffs departments are exempt from hiring freeze. Departments that don’t need more staff: building dept has a lot more than they used to. Econ dev, building, etc - departments have been asked to think how they can do it differently with less people. The new Community Development Dept has identified 3 positions that could possibly be cut. Maybe move to dispatch (if skill set compatible)? Jeff Hunter is working on that. Road dept has their own taxing structure - they are down 4 positions that they aren’t planning to fill because of rising costs and funds aren’t keeping up. Klickitat County passed a balanced budget using \$2.5 Mill of cash carryover. Interest was \$1.8M that wasn’t budgeted - interest rates are falling.</p>		

Auditor/treasurer/assessor etc (elected positions) - BOCC has control over their total budget but not what they do with it. If the county doesn't do anything, in 3 yrs they will have to lay off 20-25 people.

ERR - public works (replacement of the widgets) depreciation fund, VERR - vehicle replacement fund.

Jail status: Moving in a positive direction. The audit was just completed (required by the settlement to have a yearly audit). Three years after the wrongful death suit they are in a better place. Required to have increased medical services on-site, they are working on getting a nurse which would avoid trips to the hospitals. Jail is now up to par with staffing (just added 3 new employees). Historically staffing has been really low and has required a lot of overtime. Food service at jail: starting this month they are joining the state dept of corrections which will be half the cost of aarmark.

Norcor is still taking our juveniles. If they don't, we'd have to contract with Yakima or Tri-cities.

Q - Klickitat Valley Hospital funding - they are stable because of federal project dollars including source heat pump. They want a MRI building, KC gave them half \$400K and are asking the state for the other half.

Adult probation funding will add a new position.

Solar Ordinance (rebecca cranston is our rep): Sent suggestions to planning commission and now outside council is currently reviewing what the solar group wants to do. Suggestion to tax them solar companies, not sure it would work? Should have an update at the end of the month.

Legislative steering Committee - worked to retain our counties solar sales tax money, didn't pass. We had to pay the state \$980K last year.

Data centers: 2 are planned - one at the old aluminum plant, one at the end of Hoctor Rd by sub station (where all the wind/solar flow to). Hoctor Road data center would be air cooled and they would have their own green power projects. No confirmation if they are going to happen. Data Centers will contribute property taxes and a couple jobs (once constructed).

Aaron: There are only 3 cold water refuges in the Columbia River now because data centers are heating the river as well as climate change. Farmers' access to water is being constrained (by Dept of Ecology) due to effects from data centers. The data center on Hoctor would have to go through the conditional use permit process.

The Pushpum project doesn't because it's already zoned commercial. Who owns the data centers? 3rd party builder and then they are leased to whoever. Permanent jobs after building are very few. They are monitored remotely, onsite security. Data centers aren't zoned in energy overlay.

Irrigation rights that are in trust - county has to manually turn them over to keep them in trust. Someday it might be valuable. Google is trying to buy water rights for their Oregon operations..

ADU ordinance: Klickitat County updated ordinance last month. New ordinance says you don't have to go through the conditional use permit process, it can now be done administratively which will cut time and costs. No environmental assessments.

4 items being considered to add by planning commission:

change size from 900sq ft to 1290sq ft

Has to touch 200 ft mark from main residence vs being wholly within 200'

ADU's can be short term rentals (STR's) instead of just being an ADU

Change ordinance to say that both buildings can be rented simultaneously instead of one of the buildings needing to be lived in by the property owner.

Short term rental ordinance - they've had 2 workshops, next step is to inventory current STR's. They invested in a program that will inventory STR's.

Bridge replacement status - \$532M of fed funds needed from last year's application, waiting to hear if approved. Final design is on the website. Wasn't approved in 2024, hoping it will be allocated this year. Estimated date complete 2031. New bridge will be under bridge authority (not current port authority) which means we'll get to have a say on what happens to revenue/exp etc.

Q: Do you have any info on the proposed 2nd pipeline next to the current Williams pipeline?

A: does not know a lot other than the data center wants to tap fuel from it.

Q: What is happening with the Trout Lake town bridges? A: All bridges need to be maintained/upgraded and the contract was just awarded.

Local roads - hwy maintained by state, crosswalk needs to be repainted etc. TL/glenwood hwy corner (sunnyside) - blind corner, really dangerous.

\$1m per mile to redo roads - 2 lanes minimum shoulder.

Can the county include us for comments for road projects? - Joanna emailed kcpublicworks@klickitatcounty.org to request the council email address be added to the Public Works notifications.

Goldendale Flag pole - Majority of board voted to move ahead. County needs a contract with the owner that he will be doing maintenance. FAA still has not approved the 200' flagpole. Owner hasn't signed the contract. Soil analysis is needed. It's a historic site. Needs extra grounding for lightning. Just the flagpole will collapse at 120mile hour winds, with flag - 90MPH.

Guest: Andy VanLaar – Planning Commissioner

Postponed

**Affordable/low-income housing survey - update
& next steps**

Postponed

John Bruce brief introduction

8:03

Lives close to Klickitat along the little Klickitat.

**Comprehensive Land Use Planning Update:
Community Recreation Survey and
May 18 community meeting**

Pat

8:10

May 18th at the hall. 6-8pm

Slow increased survey responses

Snacks or gift card drawing? chips/salsa \$150

Motion to approve \$200 council funds for snacks at the meeting - Joanna, 2nd - Tom, all in favor - yes. Daina will email Ray about the commitment

Aaron will donate \$60 to council

Pat will put on FB, can go in Judy's newsletter

Not talking about housing survey - will mention that there will be an additional meeting about housing

Please get comments/ thoughts to Pat next week.

Pat will send link of completed survey to the council

Round Robin

All

8:40

Joanna - gone in June

- Will confirm if Ross can attend

Pat - suit against the millionaires tax was filed in Klickitat County

- Motioned - Pat, Aaron 2nd - all in favor of a letter to Uplift Local to clarify that we aren't an agency (advisory group) - yes, Daina will draft

Tom - \$444 balance in account

Community hazardous fuels cleanup at Guler Park this Saturday

Jim - Columbia River keepers will gather on Friday the 8th

Adjourn

8:48

Motion - Pat, 2nd - Aaron, all in favor