

Peshastin Community Council  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
August 16, 2023

Peshastin Library

Council members present: Lauri Malmquist, chair; Doug Clarke, Steve Keene, Patricia Ortiz, Cheryl Parsley, Melissa Reuter, Mark Smith

Community member: Clare Morrison, Peshastin Librarian

Guest: Chelan County Sheriff Mike Morrison

Chair Lauri Malmquist called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

After introductions Sheriff Morrison gave a brief presentation highlighting some of the issues the department is currently focusing on, including more school shooter/emergency training and renewing contracts with school districts for School Resource Officer. The department is currently placing priority on patrol throughout the county, including marine patrol. The sheriff is in discussion with the US Forest Service, looking for solutions to the problems of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness access and overuse, including the Enchantments. The Forest Service is responsible for patrolling areas within the Forest boundary, and the Sheriff's department assists as needed with emergency response.

Traffic enforcement is also a priority, with approximately 80% of stops resulting in warnings and 20% with tickets.

Sheriff Morrison reports his deputies do not have body cameras, which have become a standard for law enforcement. He is currently in discussion with Representatives Schrier and Newhouse requesting funding for those.

The sheriff's department is also in the planning stages for a new firing range as well as a new upper valley office.

Sheriff Morrison took questions: Doug asked about safety and trespassing. The sheriff notes that code enforcement now has the authority to write tickets, and that non-payment of tickets can result in a lien against private property.

Lauri asked about the possibility of sharing some of the tourist dollars for the purpose of increasing officers.

Mark raised the issue of homeless being removed from property; the sheriff states a vehicle cannot be towed by the County from private property, as that is the responsibility of the property owner. In addition the County cannot tow a vehicle in which someone is living on public property, if the County is not providing a place for them to go.

Steve asked about random gunfire at all hours in the county; the sheriff states gunfire is legal on private property as long as it is safe.

Sheriff Morrison left the meeting after discussion, and invites the council to contact him with concerns in the future.

Library Report:

Clare states the summer reading program is winding up at the end of August.

Upcoming library programs include a fitness dance class on Saturday August 19 at 10 a.m., and the movie “Night at the Museum” on Tuesday August 22 at 3:30 p.m.

The minutes of the July 19, 2023 meeting were read and approved unanimously after motion by Tricia, second by Cheryl, with minor correction to the bank account balance.

Treasurer’s report: current balance is \$745.72, with outstanding check of \$100 to the Cascade band.

Peshastin Water District report:

Steve reports the hope is that Chelan County PUD will take over billing in November 2023, to coincide with the installation of the new water meters.

#### Old Business

- 1) UGA Update: Committee meeting on August 10, 2023 to review Chapter 2, Land Use. It became clear that the current document is not being followed by the County, and the committee recommends bringing this concern to the Board of Commissioners. It was suggested that Manson and Malaga Community Councils be invited to join us as they have similar needs and concerns. A specific concern is the PCC being removed from the mailing list for notification about actions at the County.
- 2). Commissioner Shon Smith responded to issues brought to him by the Council, including the drainage on Derby Canyon Rd. This is incomplete, as there was an equipment breakdown, the crew left before completion and have not returned.
- 3). There was agreement among council members that it is discouraging, frustrating and disheartening to spend time and energy on revisions to the UGA document while the current one is being ignored. At this time there will not be a further scheduled UGA review committee meeting. Council members are encouraged to make a list of issues of concern from Chapter 2, which can be shared at a future Council meeting. It was agreed to invite representatives from the Manson and Malaga Community Councils to the next Peshastin Community Council meeting on September 20, 2023. In addition the Council would like to invite Commissioner Smith and Community Development director Deanna Walters to the next council meeting to discuss this issue.
- 4). Melissa contacted Link Transit regarding participation in a coalition to work for Peshastin Bridge improvements, and they are willing to do so. Melissa will contact Hi-up, Blue Bird and Cascade School District as well. The hope is to schedule a meeting in early October with these participants and Chelan County Public Works, to plan for the scheduled repaving of the Peshastin bridge in 2024. Emergency services (Sheriff’s department and Cascade Medical) will be invited as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday September 20, 2023 at the Peshastin Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Ortiz, Secretary