

BOARD ORDERS AND MINUTES

IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR THE COUNTY OF YAMHILL

SITTING FOR THE TRANSACTION OF COUNTY BUSINESS

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF YAMHILL COUNTY (“the Board”) sat for the transaction of county business in formal session on January 9, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 32 of the courthouse, Commissioners Mary P. Stern, Allen Springer, and Kathy George being present.

Also present were Laura Tschabold, County Administrator; Christian Boenisch, County Counsel; Nathalie Hardy, News-Register; and Joseph and Mrs. Gall, 1156 SW Westvale St, McMinnville.

Commissioner Stern called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

A. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** This thirty-minute time period is reserved for public comment on any topic other than a quasi-judicial land use matter or other topic scheduled for public hearing. Unless extended or restricted by the Chair or majority of the Board, public comment will be limited to three minutes per person.

Joseph Gall submitted to the commissioners copies of his personal property petition to the Board of Property Tax Appeals (BOPTA), which asks for a zero tax assessment and refund of monies paid for 2013-14. He said that his property is exempt under Oregon law, and the petition is not about the money, but about compliance with the law. He said that coveting, stealing, and lying have prevailed within the Board of Commissioners and the Oregon tax court system, and failure to enforce constitutional law is both a violation of the oath of office and a spiritual abomination. He quoted Romans 12:19 from the Bible and asked the Board to review his petition and attached pages.

B. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Ms. George moved approval of the consent agenda. The motion passed, Commissioners Stern, Springer, and George voting aye.

Personnel

1. **B. O. 14-08** - Approve the employment of Jamie Ann Trudeau as Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Specialist 2 in HHS Adult Behavioral Health, regular full-time, Range 20, Step 2, effective January 24, 2013.

Committees

2. **B. O. 14-09** - Appoint Mike Saunders to the Employee Safety Committee to complete the unexpired term of Jason Mosiman through March 18, 2015.

3. **B. O. 14-10** - Appoint Tim Svenson to the Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board for a term retroactive to November 20, 2013, through May 30, 2016.

C. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

D. **OTHER BUSINESS** (Add-ons and non-consent items):

1. **B. O. 14-11** - Consideration of approval of Amendment #2 to an agreement (B.O. 12-695) between Yamhill County and RSS Architecture, provider, to add \$2574 for design consulting services related to energy efficiency, safety, and maintenance projects.

Laura Tschabold explained that this overrun occurred in the upgrading of sewer laterals out of the jail and the HVAC design services in the Health & Human Services building. Mr. Springer moved approval of item D(1). The motion passed, Commissioners Stern, Springer, and George voting aye.

2. **B. O. 14-12** - Consideration of approval of an \$8000 strategic investment in Elk Creek Forest Products from Economic Development funds in recognition of the hiring of four new employees.

Mr. Springer stated that Elk Creek Forest Products is locating in Yamhill County and bringing up a number of its employees who live in Yamhill County and currently work at its facility south of Eugene. He said that Elk Creek would be adding more than 40 additional full-time jobs at the McMinnville location over the next few months as it makes this transition.

Mr. Springer moved approval of item D(2). Ms. George stated that she is excited about what Elk Creek is doing, but doesn't want to set a precedent for giving cash to companies to locate in Yamhill County, as the Board doesn't have much policy around this yet. She noted that in this case, the new jobs were not dependent on receiving grant funds from the county. She said that her core philosophy is that economic development funds should be used more for infrastructure. She suggested that the Board have a work session to develop a strong policy around economic development grants to businesses, since the funds are limited.

Ms. Stern agreed with the need to develop a policy. She said that there were some recommendations in the draft Economic Development Plan that the Board should take a closer look at. She stated that the proposed strategic investment in Elk Creek is in line with what the Board has done before, and an expected reduction in the property tax assessment should help the company as well.

Mr. Springer stated that he respectfully disagrees with Ms. George's philosophy, and believes that being proactive in helping and encouraging businesses is absolutely the targeted area for economic development funds. He said that the attitude in Yamhill County's Planning Department has been one of finding a way to make things work, and it is important to make businesses feel that they have a partnership with county government rather than a roadblock. He said that it wouldn't be right to only consider granting funds to businesses who are threatening to leave Yamhill County.

The motion passed, Commissioners Stern and Springer voting aye and Commissioner

George voting no.

E. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.

F. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. For information on county advisory committee vacancies, please refer to our website, [www.co.yamhill.or.us/content/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.co.yamhill.or.us/content/volunteer-opportunities), or call the Board of Commissioners' office: 503-434-7501 (from McMinnville) or 503-554-7801 (toll-free from Newberg).

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Anne Britt  
Secretary

YAMHILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Chair MARY P. STERN

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Commissioner ALLEN SPRINGER

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Commissioner KATHY GEORGE