

INFORMAL MINUTES

December 14, 2009

3:00 p.m.

Oval Office

PRESENT: Commissioners Leslie Lewis and Mary P. Stern, with Commissioner Kathy George joining the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Staff: Laura Tschabold, Rick Sanai, Pat. Anderson, John Krawczyk, and Murray Paolo.

Guests: Hannah Hoffman, News-Register; Sean Murray, 4800 Meadows Rd, Lake Oswego, OR 97055; Steve Noel, Dave Jackson, and Brian DeMarco, 1351 Tandem Ave SE, Salem, OR 97301.

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Leslie called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

* Personnel - Pat presented personnel requests from various departments. See agenda for details.

* Contracts/Grants - See agenda for details.

* Mileage Rate - Approve a reduced rate of \$.50/mile for reimbursement of business mileage to reflect the new IRS standard mileage rate, effective January 1, 2010.

* Committees - Approve the reappointment of Mary Newell, Damon Schulze, John Heiser, Bill Aquire, Steve Rex, and Lessie Dale to the Ambulance Service Area Committee for two-year terms to expire December 31, 2011.

Radio System - Steve Noel, Oregon Wireless Interoperability Network (OWIN), discussed OWIN's plans to complete a statewide integrated radio system by January 1, 2013. He pointed out on a large map the microwave sites that have already been completed and those that are planned for development, explaining that OWIN is able to do this through partnership agreements and shared resources with local governments and the private sector. He stated that although Yamhill County already has a mature system, OWIN could upgrade the existing system to provide higher connectivity both in and out of the county and allow access to its own systems, as well as providing operations and maintenance of the microwave system and network. He said that the partnership would offer significant benefits to both parties, including strategic direction for the future.

He said that site-specific proposals include a new building and tower at the Mountain Top East site with access to microwave at that location, as well as a spur from Eagle Crest to High Heaven to provide microwave coverage and put in a generator at the High Heaven site. He said that OWIN uses microwave dishes that are dual-pole antennas in order to minimize impact at the sites. He explained that OWIN already has a general sharing agreement with the county that contains all of the legalese, but the supplemental agreements would be specific to the sites. Leslie stated that is important for the Board to understand the overall plan from the beginning.

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Murray stated that the county has made a big investment in the radio system, which is solid, and needs to be protective of that investment. He pointed out that due to the age of the microwave equipment, however, the county will have to make a significant expenditure in the next three to five years to invest in microwave equipment, so a replacement of the links by OWIN would be a huge benefit to the county as long as the system can keep the same or better functionality. He added that a partnership with OWIN would provide the ability for dispatch to communicate with other dispatch centers as well as with other agencies across a wide area of the region. He noted that the county's interaction with OWIN would be different for each tower site. The Board agreed to have OWIN come back the following summer to provide a status update.

Following the discussion, Leslie stated that ADCOMM Engineering has warned the county about partnering with OWIN because things haven't gone too smoothly with them in Clatsop County. Kathy stated that the consensus at the State Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) is that OWIN should be a standalone entity so that its budget is not controlled by the Oregon State Police. She said that the state's lack of narrow band equipment and frequencies could affect its ability to get federal funding, which would harm the county as well.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary