

INFORMAL MINUTES

June 28, 2010

2:00 p.m.

Oval Office

PRESENT: Commissioners Kathy George, Mary P. Stern, and Leslie Lewis.

Staff: Laura Tschabold, Rick Sanai, Pat Anderson, John Krawczyk, Silas Halloran-Steiner, Ted Smietana, Bill Gille, and Edgar Peteros.

Guests: Hannah Hoffman, News-Register.

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Kathy called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

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

Department Updates

HHS: Silas stated that his transition to HHS Director is going very well so far overall. He said that he and Chris Johnson are still in the process of defining their new roles, with Chris taking on the role of consultant. He said that much of the consulting work can be effectively done remotely. He reported that he has been meeting regularly with each of the managers individually and is trying to balance relationship-building with operational needs.

He stated that he has been able to deal with anticipated budget cuts through fund balance and other proactive measures, but it is premature to say how it will end up. Kathy offered to have the Board write a letter to Senators Merkley and Wyden and Representative Wu about the impact of the state cuts. Leslie cautioned Silas against drawing down his fund balance too much. She said that 2011 is going to be worse and it may be better to take some of the cuts now and save fund balance.

Community Corrections: Ted discussed the impact of state budget cuts on his department, stating that anything above baseline will likely be subject to cuts, but official word won't come until September. He said that the governor and the legislature don't want to trigger opt-out for the next biennium. He stated that he would have to delay filling his second management position in order to fill the budget shortfall, but he is proceeding with filling the office support staff position.

He discussed a technical assistance grant for which the National Institute of Corrections had encouraged the county to apply, noting that only six jurisdictions will be chosen nationwide and Gary Christensen has been lobbying to the national director in support of Yamhill County. He said that the grant initiative would look at the county's system as a whole and provide good information about evidence-based practices, resulting in lower recidivism and safer communities. He agreed with the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council that the additional

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work would be burdensome, but pointed out that this opportunity wouldn't come along very often. Mary stated that although there would be no funding for the additional work created for staff up front, it would be beneficial work and would help the county set priorities in the difficult budget decisions that would be faced in the future. Laura added that the county would retain decision-making authority on whether or not to implement the recommendations that come out of the grant project.

* Roads - Consideration of approval of the formation of a residence district and 25 mph speed zone on Foster Road.

Edgar stated that of the surveys that were sent out, fifteen residents supported the speed zone, six did not support it, two had no opinion, and eight were returned as undeliverable. Bill noted that the primary comment was that residents wanted a 35 mph zone. He stated that the road qualifies for a residence district, but the only option allowed is a 25 mph zone. He said that Foster Road was recently overlaid and widened, which has a tendency to increase speed.

Edgar stated that Withycombe Road did not qualify for a residence district.

Budget - Bill reviewed changes to the Public Works budget for 2010-11. He said that there is almost \$800,000 left in Fund 31 from the six bridge projects and that will need to be returned to ODOT after deducting the final overhead charges. Kathy stated that Public Works did a good job in estimating costs and managing funds during a low-interest period of time.

John K reviewed other changes to the budget. He explained that some interfund loans were refinanced out of the general fund this year and will have to be refinanced again out of the Insurance Reserve Fund, which will affect beginning balances. He stated that the Fair could be set up as a single department for all of its divisions in order to provide more flexibility in moving money around within the fund, similar to the way HHS and Community Corrections operate. Leslie agreed that that would make sense.

The commissioners agreed to hear updates on Wednesday from HHS, the Commission on Children & Families, and the Juvenile Department about potential budget cuts from the state.

* Contracts/Grants - See agenda for details.

* Consideration of approval of a memorandum of intention between the Board of Commissioners, Sheriff's Office, and Clackamas County regarding the future transfer of the Yamhill County Air Support Program to Clackamas County.

Mary expressed concern about going forward with the transfer without holding a public hearing, since it involves such a huge asset of the county and the program has garnered so much attention in the newspapers for quite a while. She agreed that it should be a regional asset, but said there needs to be some recognition of how valuable an asset it can be, as it hasn't been portrayed that way. She said that she's had calls from concerned citizens who think that the county isn't getting enough in return and they would like the opportunity to comment.

Leslie stated that the price is realistic and this is a great deal for the county. She said that the county doesn't have the general funds to run the program and Clackamas County is willing to take on the expense and the liability and allow Yamhill County to still use the helicopters. She stated that she is ready to go ahead with the transfer.

Kathy stated that helicopter is a huge cost and isn't being used much currently, so it isn't clear how much it would cost to run the program with the amount of use it should get. She said that the county would have the use of the helicopter forever without having to pay for maintenance or repairs, and the transfer is in the best interest of the county and the county's budget. She stated that having a public hearing and bringing in emotions would not be productive. She pointed out that she hasn't heard anybody who is opposed to the transfer offer a solution for funding the program, and Clackamas County has proposed a program that will be very useful for the region, so she is ready to proceed with the transfer.

* Committees - See agenda for details. The Board acknowledged the resignation of Nanette Villareal from the Mental Health Advisory Board.

* Budget Transfers - See agenda for details. The Board scheduled a meeting of the Cove Orchard Sewer Service District Board of Directors for Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. to consider a transfer of appropriation authority within the COSSD budget.

Trailhead - The Board discussed a request from Oregon Equestrian Trails for a donation of funds to purchase gravel for a trailhead parking lot. Leslie stated that it would make sense to use video lottery funds or even O&C Reserve funds since the trailhead is on BLM land. Mary said that she would prefer to take it from the O&C Reserve. Kathy stated that she would check with Ken Huffer to see if he has any concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary