

INFORMAL SESSION MINUTES

February 25, 2013

1:00 p.m.

Commissioners' Office Conference Room

PRESENT: Commissioners Kathy George, Mary P. Stern, and Allen Springer.

Staff: Chuck Vesper, Rick Sanai, Christian Boenisch, Silas Halloran-Steiner, Ted Smietana, John Phelan, and Manuel Campos.

Guests: Nathalie Hardy, News-Register; Jody Christensen, GROW Yamhill County; John Safestrom, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (COG); and Mary Peterson, George Fox University.

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Kathy called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Revolving Loan Fund - Jody Christensen stated that the Board's suggestions of a 40% participation rate and 4% interest rate are included in COG's final draft recommendation for the revolving loan fund. John Safestrom stated that although the Board had suggested \$25,000 for the job creation limit, anything lower than \$50,000 would make it harder to use both the Board of Commissioners' fund and the rural development fund together, which is one of the goals. He noted that most companies create far more jobs than they initially project. He said that the City of Newberg dropped the job creation component altogether. Jody said that if the Board decides to do that, it might look at job retention instead.

Jody stated that the GROW Yamhill County workgroup may come to the Board with a recommendation to add \$10,000 to the loan fund so that COG has a full \$250,000 to work with. She said that this loan fund is one of many avenues that companies can access for funding, and she helps connect companies with those opportunities. John stated that he would work with Laura to schedule a time for Suzanne Dufner to make a formal presentation to the Board about COG's final recommendation. Jody stated that once the recommendation is approved, John would begin marketing it, and there are already companies lining up to apply.

Allen stated that he would like Jody to meet with Steve Rice before her next presentation and hear his story about thinking outside of the box. She said that she would do that before April 3, time permitting. She said that she talks with many manufacturers in the county, and her primary focus is on getting the deliverables done and presenting a superior product.

Department Updates

HHS: Silas Halloran-Steiner reviewed a request for a psychiatric screening contract with George Fox University and a related request to increase position authority. He explained that this would broaden the county's crisis diversion base and provide more flexibility. Mary Peterson, Chair of George Fox University's Psychology Department, provided an overview of the

consultation services and stated that this is a great training opportunity for advanced doctoral students as well as a great service to patients. She and Silas agreed that the partnership between the county and the university is beneficial to staff, law enforcement, and the community.

Community Corrections:

* Authorize a transfer of \$11,450 in funds and expenditure authority from the O&C Reserve Fund (50-52) to the Community Corrections Fund (21-44) to continue the Pre-Trial Services Officer position through June 30, 2013.

Ted Smietana presented a request to continue interim funding for the Pre-Trial Services Officer position, explaining that the Justice Resource Institute needs additional case data to be accumulated by the county before it can make a funding decision. He said that he is well past the halfway point of the funding process now, and it would be very discouraging to give up on it now. He said that this position is key, and if the county does not get the grant, he would do his best to find alternate funding for it.

Ted provided an update on the 2013-15 biennial state budget, noting that the legislature is just beginning its hearings, so nothing is official yet. He discussed details regarding a convicted murderer that was just released into the community.

The meeting recessed at 3:15 p.m. and reconvened at 3:20 p.m.

* Personnel - Manuel presented personnel requests from various departments. See formal session agenda for details.

* Contracts/Grants - See agenda for details.

* Easements - Accept the donation of easements from the following property owners for county-maintained right-of-way related to the Sheridan Green Bridge project, and authorize the deeds to be recorded in the County Clerk's Office:

- a. AI, LLC, permanent easement and temporary construction easement;
- b. Richard C. Mathis, permanent easement.

* Committees - Approve the appointment of Nella Barnett to the Mental Health Advisory Board for a three-year term effective May 15, 2013, through May 30, 2016.

Letter of Support - The Board agreed to sign a letter of support for House Bill 2359 and Senate Bill 505, which would allow the Assessor's Office to refund an erroneous collection of back taxes for a Measure 37 property owned by Mary Holtan Meyers. Mary Stern explained that the county agrees that the money should be refunded, but there is currently no mechanism to allow it to do so.

Grand Ronde Tribe - As a follow-up to a previous discussion about a proposed bill to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, Mary reviewed a map showing the original reservation

boundaries and property currently owned by the tribe. She said that she would respond to a question from Representative Bonamici's office to let them know that the Board still supports the bill.

* Campaign Contribution - Authorize the contribution of \$500 to Tim Josi's campaign for 2nd Vice-President of the National Association of Counties (NACo).

Mary stated that Tim Josi, Tillamook County Commissioner, is running for 2nd Vice-President of NACo, and having someone from Oregon would have potential benefits to Yamhill County. She said that Tim would be a good president. She stated that some counties have contributed \$1000 and some smaller ones have given \$500, and she would be happy with either amount. Allen stated that he would support an investment of \$500, and the commissioners could make personal contributions on top of that if they want.

Following commissioner updates, the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary