

INFORMAL SESSION MINUTES

June 3, 2013

1:00 p.m.

Commissioners' Office Conference Room

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

Staff: Laura Tschabold, Rick Sanai, Chuck Vesper, John Phelan, Tim Loewen, Bill Anderson, and Ken Friday.

Guests: Nathalie Hardy, News-Register.

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Kathy called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

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

* Contracts/Grants - See agenda for details.

Department Updates

Juvenile Department: Tim Loewen provided an update on staff training, noting that the Department of Education contract is now providing for a full-time teacher for the youth in the detention center, although he isn't sure how long the funding will last. He discussed an experimental garden area by the pole barn at the county property adjacent to the closed Whiteson Landfill, and explained that the goal is to sell any produce that the youth are able to grow. He reported that the Behavioral Rehabilitation Services program is running very well, and the county has maintained five youth in that program, most of whom stay in the program only about 2.5 months.

He reported a small increase in Oregon Youth Conservation Corps funding for the restitution program, which allows youth to work to pay off some of their financial obligations for victim restitution and court fines and fees. He stated that he had to shut the program down in May due to lack of funds, but it would start up again in July. He said that court fines and fees have increased, youth are staying in the restitution program longer now, and there has been an increase in the repayment of court-appointed attorney time. Mary said that she would like to review the numbers in more detail with Tim.

Public Works: John Phelan discussed concerns raised by citizens regarding roadside spraying. He stated that the county is doing nothing different than it has in the past, and everything is done in compliance with regulations. He said that he has assured citizens that the crews won't spray any further than the ditch line, except for invasive species, and explained that spraying sometimes causes some of the trees to turn brown, but doesn't kill them unless they are only one to two years old. He stated that the county has historically only sprayed along paved

roads, but he was able to expand that to get about one-third of the county's gravel roads done this year.

John also provided updates on the Transportation Systems Plan, Maintenance Improvement Project bids, various bridge and road projects, the Habitat Conservation Plan, and the design of kiosks for the Blue Sign Program. He stated that he has been working through some issues between the Bayou Golf Club and its neighbors. He said that the neighbors have some legitimate concerns because Bayou has overstepped its bounds with the parking lot and is out of compliance.

* Stop Signs - Approve the placement of stop signs on McCormick Hill Road, Brooks Lane, and Jaquith Road at their intersections with Mountain Top Road.

Bill Anderson circulated photos and traffic counts for the three intersections, stating that the stop signs are necessary because traffic speed will increase once Mountain Top Road is paved. He noted that there is currently a yield sign at the Jaquith Road intersection that would be replaced by a stop sign.

* Land Use - Ken Friday updated the Board on Planning Docket PA-01-10, a request by the City of Newberg to include an additional 260 acres in its Urban Growth Boundary and identify the area as Industrial and Public/Quasi-Public, as continued to June 6 from May 16 at the point of Staff Recommendation. He informed the Board that 1000 Friends of Oregon would be requesting that the Board reopen the record to allow new testimony in response to the new information that has been submitted.

Rick Sanai stated that the Board has no obligation to reopen the record, but the best legal position would be to give potential opponents the opportunity to address issues at the front end so they can't make a due process violation argument to the Land Use Board of Appeals later. He suggested that additional testimony be limited in time and scope. The commissioners agreed to accept new testimony limited to the new information in the record, with a time limit on Thursday of twenty minutes for 1000 Friends, and up to twenty additional minutes total for all others who wish to testify. In addition, they agreed on a two-week open record period for written testimony and rebuttal.

Ken briefed the Board on Planning Docket NCU-05-12, a request for non-conforming use approval to allow the processing of aggregate materials on the quarry floor at Rex Quarry, applicant Meisel Rock Products, appellant Rick Hoy. The commissioners agreed to schedule a site visit.

* Capital Improvement Projects - Approve the 2013-14 Capital Improvement Projects List.

Benefits for Elected Officials - Rick stated that he had checked with other Oregon counties about what benefits are offered to part-time elected officials. He said that he only received responses from three counties with part-time elected officials, but none of those have part-time elected

officials other than commissioners. He said that those three counties all offer the same benefit package to their part-time commissioners that full-time employees get. Laura stated that she would see what additional information she can get from other county administrators.

Economic Development Plan - Mary stated that there are some great ideas in the draft plan presented by the GROW Yamhill County work group, and the county desperately needs a new economic development plan. She said that she agrees with a suggestion made by Laura that if the county is going to hire an economic development specialist, even part-time, it would be good for that person to review the draft together with the Board before it is adopted, although the Board could adopt something right away and then modify it if necessary. Kathy stated that she would like to wait and have the new person's input rather than rushing to adopt something now. Allen agreed, but emphasized the need to get the process moving quickly. Laura said that she would work on summarizing the Board's previous discussion about the issue and coming up with a scope of work for the position.

Allen said that he had visited with Jeff Lorton earlier that day and was impressed by his enthusiasm and ideas about economic development. Mary agreed. Allen suggested that Laura and Kathy meet with him as well. He stated that it is important that the county be the one to fill and oversee the position, rather than an outside entity. Mary said that it is the county's money that will be used for economic development, so the county has an obligation to determine the path going forward. She said that it might be a different situation in the future if other entities start contributing funds and form a non-profit organization.

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary