

**Report on issues discussed at the weekly  
Management Update meeting on June 22, 2009**

Commissioners present: Commissioner Milne, Commissioner Carlson and Commissioner Brentano

**INFORMATIONAL**

Collection of code enforcement judgments

Sterling Anderson, planning director, discussed collection of code enforcement judgments. He said that currently, if a citation is not paid once a judgment has been levied, collection of the fine is turned over to a collection agency. The collection agency is able to send letters, however there is no provision for other collection activities like garnishments. Sterling said that letters have not been an effective collection method. A recent study found that the rate of return is less than one percent. Sterling said code enforcement would like to explore the option of garnishments. Garnishments could include state tax refunds, wages or accounts receivable. He provided examples of other counties that do this. Commissioner Milne asked if tax garnishments would have to be split with other taxing districts. Jo Stonecipher, legal counsel, answered that would not be the case. Only amounts slated for refund would be garnished. She also explained that there are limits on garnishments. Commissioner Milne said that it is disappointing that compliance rates are so low. She said she would want to ensure that people know upfront that garnishments could be a possibility. Commissioner Carlson concurred and asked additional questions. In response to Commissioner Carlson's questions Sterling provided an overview of the current process. He said the average fine is generally \$1000 or less, and that payment plans have been discussed as an option. Sterling said he will provide the number of outstanding unpaid fines along with dollar amounts for each case. Commissioner Carlson said she has concerns about garnishing wages in the current economy. She said she is in favor of code enforcement coming up with a plan, although she would like to see provisions for hardship cases. Commissioner Milne agreed. Sterling answered that a protocol would be developed and that garnishments would be used on a case-by-case basis only. Sterling also mentioned the possibility of establishing a fund that would be available for hardship cases. All three commissioners said they would be receptive to code enforcement coming up with options for consideration.

Correction to the third supplemental budget 2008-2009

Jeff White, chief financial officer, discussed three changes to the third supplemental budget that is scheduled for formal consideration at the Wednesday, June 24, board session. He summarized adjustments in the Department of Children Families and Fleet Management funds, and a correction in the Criminal Justice Assessment Fund.

EDAB grant recommendations

Dan Estes, senior policy advisor, discussed two grant requests that have been forwarded by the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB). The first is for Metal Innovations, an aviation fabrication company, based at the Aurora

Airport. Dan said they are looking to expand their market by providing new products and services. Dan said EDAB was recommending a lesser amount than originally requested. He said grant funds will be used to purchase new equipment. Commissioner Carlson and Commissioner Brentano asked that Dan seek additional information from the requestor. They asked what the actual cost is for the piece of equipment and how the company will make up the difference if the grant amount is reduced. The second grant request is from the Oregon Garden Foundation to partially fund a development director position. Dan said EDAB had been evenly split and are forwarding the request to the board. Their only recommendation was that if approved, the grant amount should be for no more than the tourism cap of \$30,000. Commissioner Brentano said he was not opposed to the grant request, although he didn't want to create the expectation that the position would be funded in future years. Commissioner Carlson asked if they had considered contracting for the work. Commissioner Milne said that she is the county representative on the foundation board. She said the foundation board had several conversations regarding contracting for the position and decided that immediate, full-time attention is needed. She said she viewed the county contribution as seed money to help get the position hired and that if approved, she would like to see regular progress reports. Commissioner Milne gave an overview of the hiring process. Commissioner Carlson asked for more information regarding salary and benefit costs of the position. Dan said he was unsure whether the City of Silverton had approved their portion of the funding request. Dan said he would schedule both requests for formal consideration at the Wednesday, July 1, board session.

## ACTION

### Healthy Start RFP process

Alison Kelley, director of the Children and Families Department (CFD), provided an overview of the Healthy Start program. She said it is a statewide program that provides intensive home visiting for first birth families. Alison said the department recently held an RFP process to determine a provider. She said that during the allocation process a mistake was discovered that legal counsel determined was a material mistake, therefore disqualifying one of the proposers. In addition, since the initial RFP went out the state commission on children and families launched a process to redesign the Healthy Start program statewide. New state guidelines are expected in the next few weeks. Alison said that with both developments she felt it would be best to cancel the current process then initiate a new solicitation process once the new guidelines are set. Jo Stonecipher said that the county always reserves the right to reject all applications. Commissioner Carlson added that the state is only releasing the first quarter payment until the new rules come out. She thought it made sense to wait and see. Commissioner Brentano asked if this would cause a gap in services. Alison said it would not. They are planning to extend the contract with the current provider through October. Commissioner Carlson also mentioned that an RFP process is not required by the state rules. The commissioners voted to accept the recommendation to cancel the RFP process and reject all offers. The motion passed unanimously.

#### COMMISSIONERS' UPDATE

Commissioner Carlson reported on the success of the second leg of the Oregon 150 relay. She said this leg traveled through Stayton, Sublimity, Aumsville, Turner and Jefferson. The third leg is scheduled for Saturday, June 27, will begin in Stayton and end in St. Paul.

Commissioner Brentano discussed a letter from the Governor's Natural Resources Office inviting the county to participate on the Stakeholder Team for the Upper Willamette River Recovery Plan for listed spring Chinook salmon and winter steelhead. He said he will volunteer as the county representative.

#### WORK SESSIONS AND OTHER MEETINGS

6/24 Board Session, 9:00-1:00

6/29 Commissioners' calendar review, 8:30-9:00

Management Update, 9:00-11:00

Senator Merkley – Town Hall Meeting, 6:30-8:00

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