

MEETING MINUTES
Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council
held at the Fresh Start Market, Juvenile Department campus
January 11, 2011

Attendees: Commissioner Patti Milne, Walt Beglau, Ray Byrd, Rod Calkins, Mark Callier, Jayne Downing, Faye Fagel, Don Frederickson, Pete McCallum, Ed McKenney, Jerry Moore, Diane Morse, Jason Myers, Mike Runyon, Scott Russell

Guest: John Lattimer

Staff: Don Russo

Commissioner Patti Milne, chair, called the meeting to order at 4.05 P.M. Quorum Achieved.

Minutes of the December 11 meeting were approved

Comments from members

Comments were offered by many that members enjoy the opportunity to meet at the Fresh Start Market and they appreciate Juvenile Director Faye Fagel hosting the council.

Revised bylaws were approved

Commissioner Milne asked for a motion to approve the revised bylaws, as proposed by Bob Royer and Bruce Armstrong. Discussion followed that the bylaws had been under review for several months, that members had received copies in advance to review, and were now ready for a vote to adopt. The principal change was to insert wording in the bylaws that matches wording from ORS 423.560 that mandates the creation and responsibilities of public safety coordinating councils. Unanimous approval.

Looking forward

Commissioner Milne introduced John Lattimer, chief administrative officer for Marion County, to describe his view of the next budget process for the county. Mr. Lattimer said the Budget Committee has been prudent over the past seven years so that Marion County will be OK in the short term, except for departments that are largely funded by the state. He explained that revenue to the General Fund comes largely from property taxes, and that 76% of this fund goes to public safety. State funding has become critically important for the Juvenile Department, Community Corrections fund and others. Parole and probation services, for example, would be difficult to sustain if the state cuts funding. These are systemic issues, he stated, where cuts at the state level cause cuts to local services.

When asked how the problems of Courthouse Square will effect the budget, Mr. Lattimer said the county has incurred new expenses such as nearly \$900,000 per year in lease costs to house departments in alternative locations, but the state cuts could be far more significant.

Commissioner Milne asked all to speak about how budget pressures will effect their work in 2011?

Trial Court Administrator Diane Morse explained that the Oregon Judicial Department is one of three independent branches of state government. The state court operates in the Marion County Courthouse and other facilities with 14 judges and 100 staff. Her budget exercise is to project potential cuts of 5% -25%. They have already reduced staff, use rolling furlough days and are doing more with less. There is so little left to cut without causing long delays in court cases.

District Attorney Walt Beglau said the courts are central to the system. There can be no balance if we can't keep the courts operating. The impact of further cuts will snowball if the courts cannot operate five days per week. If we reduce services to core functions, arraignment is a critically important service that is constitutionally required. If we have to prioritize on the severity of cases, releasing lower level cases will jeopardize community livability.

Salem Police Chief Jerry Moore agreed that cuts to the judicial system will have a greater impact on community livability than to the system. Salem will turn down a federal grant to fund the hiring of four more officers because the city would not be able to sustain their payroll after grant funds are expended.

Sheriff Jason Myers stated that \$4 million of the jail budget (25%) comes from the state. If cut, it creates a domino effect by reducing bed capacity at the jail and releasing more offenders. We have already cut the nice-to-have, he said. People expect someone to answer if they call 911.

Woodburn City Councilor Pete McCallum said people do not see the cause-effect consequences of cuts. Woodburn is a small city but has made adjustments through conservative spending and more efficiencies.

Woodburn Police Chief Scott Russell said the city works hard to maintain core services. The dilemma is that state cuts all flow down to counties and cities. Mental health issues can result in the police use of force, and often police cannot resolve a neighborhood or family problem precipitated by mental illness. That's why the efforts to create a crisis intervention service is so important.

Security Manager Ray Byrd, Salem-Keizer School District, said the district has made cuts the past two years, and is now preparing for a \$45 - \$50 million shortfall in each of the next two years. With a \$350 million budget, the district is the area's second largest employer. Top priorities are classroom services and jobs. Cuts are planned for support services such as security. He has 26 security officers who relieve patrol officers of much of the burden of responding to calls at the schools. These security officers also help prevent trouble by building positive relationships with at-risk youth. Cuts will effect safety in the schools as well as in the community.

Executive Director Jayne Downing of the Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Center stated that 11% of her budget is from state funds. She has already cut one staff. Over 14,000 calls came last year to the crisis line. She is trying to partner with Catholic Community Services on a grant proposal.

Supervisor Mike Runyon, Oregon Youth Authority Parole/Probation Unit, is preparing the same budget exercise as Ms. Morse, to project potential cuts of 5% -25%. The worst case is that OYA would close 250 beds. Wages are frozen and staff can expect another 14 furlough days this year. State cuts to the Juvenile Department are also expected.

Fleet Manager Don Fredrickson, Skyline Ford Sales, said that 24 employees have been cut over the past two years with 50 now on payroll. Changes come swiftly from management with little or no discussion among staff. Benefits have been cut. Virtually all state purchase contracts are gone.

President Ed McKenney, GEM Equipment, said his company is not tied to the local economy yet reduced last year from 120 employees to 70. GEM is a small company that does big jobs manufacturing equipment for companies that make large volumes of French fries and other vegetable products.

Keizer City Councilor Mark Caillier said Keizer revenue is down 6.7%, the first decrease in years. A new telecom license fee approved by council may be rescinded due to public reaction. Voters want to support public safety. The new fee may be restructured for the November ballot and may dedicate the fees strictly to 911 and public safety. The 3% tax on a cell phone bill could provide \$600,000 per year for 911.

Juvenile Director Faye Fagel said that funding cuts that cause an inadvertent shift of workload to others can cause problems. The challenge she faces is how to create efficiencies without shifting problems elsewhere.

Public Health Director Rod Calkins expressed thanks to Jason Myers, Walt Beglau and Jerry Moore for their assistance in planning how to handle mental health patients at Salem Hospital. He also stated that \$3.5 million of the general fund is used for mental health services to jail inmates. The county provides more for this care than the state. Substantial cuts have already been made in home care services, which leads to more

PSCC Bylaws revision

Commissioner Milne postponed this item until January because members did not receive the bylaws to review in advance. She asked members to review the changes and give feedback to Bob Royer before the next meeting.

ADJOURNED

**Next Steering Committee Meeting Date:
Tuesday, January 25 at noon**

**Next MCPSCC Meeting Date:
Tuesday, February 8 at 4:00pm**