

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, May 19, 2021  
9:00 a.m.

Senator Hearing Room  
555 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Kevin Cameron, Commissioner Danielle Bethell, and Commissioner Colm Willis. Also present were Scott Norris as county counsel and Brenda Koenig as recorder.

**ABSENT:** Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer

Commissioner Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**PRESENTATION**

*(Video Time 00:01:04)*

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) update. –Katrina Rothenberger

- Ms. Rothenberger reported the following updates for the COVID-19 pandemic as of 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 2021:
  - There have been an estimated 22,338 cumulative cases within the county from the start of the pandemic;
  - The current positivity rate continues to be 8.5 percent;
  - An estimated 310 individuals have died from symptoms related to COVID-19; and
  - There are an estimated 41 new cases.
- There were an estimated 887 COVID-19 cases within the county for the two-week period of May 2nd through May 15, 2021:
  - This a 13 percent decrease from the prior two-week period of April 25th through May 8, 2021.
- A large majority of positive cases have been reported for zip codes in the following locations:
  - The City of Salem in the following areas:
    - Central; and
    - Northeast.

- The City of Brooks; and
- The City of Keizer.
- Marion County remains in the high-risk category on the Oregon Counties COVID-19 Risk Level Summary report:
  - An estimated 65 percent of the county's population must be vaccinated before the county is eligible to move down to a lower-risk category;
  - An estimated 52.4 percent of eligible county residents have received either a first dose or a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine;
  - An estimated 34,000 additional vaccine doses still need to be administered to hit the required 65 percent benchmark; and
  - The county must also submit a vaccine equity plan to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).
- Current statewide COVID-19 restrictions may be lifted once 70 percent of Oregon's eligible population has been vaccinated:
  - An estimated 62 percent of eligible Oregon residents have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; and
  - An estimated 1.6 million Oregon residents have been fully vaccinated.
- Each county is required to submit a vaccine equity plan to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA);
- A new data dashboard has been added to the OHA website that tracks vaccine progress for each county in the state;
- The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has been approved and is currently being administered to individuals ages 12 to 17:
  - Pediatric clinics may be enrolled as COVID-19 vaccine providers.
- Salem Health is the regional hub for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine:
  - Large quantities of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine doses will be distributed to Salem Health; and
  - Salem Health may repackage the vaccine doses and distribute them to other locations within the county.
- The OHA has released new guidance for social distancing:
  - Individuals that are fully vaccinated are no longer required to wear masks;
  - Mask requirements have been lifted for anyone who is outdoors; but
  - It is recommended that individuals continue to wear masks and social distance in crowded areas or at large gatherings.
- A COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be highly effective and remains the best defense against the COVID-19 virus;
- Individuals that are considering receiving a COVID-19 vaccine are encouraged to consult with a healthcare provider first to determine if vaccinating is a good choice;
- Individuals can call 2-1-1 or visit the county's webpage at [COVID-19.mchealthy.net](https://COVID-19.mchealthy.net) to find vaccination clinics within the county:
  - Some vaccination clinics are offered in the evenings and on weekends to accommodate work schedules; and

- Walk-in vaccinations with no pre-registration is being offered at the Oregon State Fairgrounds and the Santiam Hospital.
- Current data suggests that authorized COVID-19 vaccines in the United States will assist with protecting individuals against severe illness or death associated with variants of the COVID-19 virus.

***Board discussion:***

- Marion County is actively working on a vaccine equity plan to submit to the OHA; and
- Community members are encouraged to get vaccinated.

*(Video Time 00:07:52)*

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bethell moved to remove an item from the Consent Agenda under Finance: Approve a quitclaim deed for the sale of Property Tax ID #R18881 from Marion County to the grantee. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:08:31)*

**CONSENT**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approve an incoming funds Agreement with the United States Department of the Treasury in the amount of \$10,437,591 to provide emergency rental assistance to the citizens of Marion County through September 30, 2025.

FINANCE

Approve a quitclaim deed for the sale of Property Tax ID #R18881 from Marion County to the grantee. **(Motion made and approved to remove item from the Board Session Agenda.)**

Approve Amendment #1 to the Lease Agreement with Pioneer Trust Bank, National Association, Trustee for the Salem Foundation, to add \$315,000 for a new contract total of \$1,056,695.75 to extend the term of the lease through June 30, 2024, for the Beverly Avenue Building G, utilized by the Marion County Health and Human Services Department for youth and family behavioral health services.

Approve Amendment #2 to the Lease Agreement with Pioneer Trust Bank, National Association, Trustee for the Salem Foundation, to add \$300,000 for a new contract total of \$652,000 to extend the term of the lease through June 30, 2024, for the Beverly Avenue, Building H, utilized by the Marion County Health and Human Services Department for youth and family behavioral health services.

Approve Amendment #2 to the Lease Agreement with Pioneer Trust Bank, National Association, Trustee for the Salem Foundation, to add \$275,000 for a new contract total of \$663,464.72 to extend the term of the lease through June 30, 2024, for the Wolverine Street NE, Building F, utilized by the Marion County Health and Human Services Department for youth and family behavioral health services.

#### HUMAN RESOURCES

Approve a recommendation to update the classification specification for class code #601, Assistant Legal Counsel.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Approve an order reappointing George Grabenhorst, Christopher Enquist, Carla Mikkelson, Dennis Person, and Britany Randall to the Marion County Planning Commission with terms ending May 31, 2025.

#### SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Approve the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Jefferson in the amount of \$385,629 to provide patrol services to the city through June 30, 2022.

Approve the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Sublimity in the amount of \$201,788 to provide patrol services to the city through June 30, 2022.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Willis moved for approval of the consent agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

### **ACTION**

*(Video Time 00:11:20)*

#### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1. Consider approval of Amendment #2 to the incoming funds Grant Agreement with the State of Oregon, Department of Administrative Services, to add \$2,254,090.86 for a new contract total of \$5,805,315.86 for CARES Act eligible business funding through December 31, 2021. –Tamra Goettsch

#### ***Summary of presentation:***

- Ms. Goettsch will be coordinating with the Board of Commissioners Office to assist with administering the incoming funds;
- The incoming funds are for CARES Act resources that will be available to assist eligible businesses as identified by the state, that have been impacted by COVID-19;
- The county is currently working on methods for distributing the funds to community businesses that meet both the state's and the county's criteria;
- The county may utilize a third party to administer the incoming funds; and

- The county has a deadline date of December 31, 2021, to have the funds administered.

**Board discussion:**

- Discussions are underway to try to assist businesses that have not received any relief assistance in the past.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bethell moved to approve Amendment #2 to the incoming funds Grant Agreement with the State of Oregon, Department of Administrative Services, to add \$2,254,090.86 for a new contract total of \$5,805,315.86 for CARES Act eligible business funding through December 31, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:14:02)*

2. Consider approval of the incoming funds Grant Agreement with Oregon Business Development Department in the amount of \$300,800 for the Santiam Canyon Wildfire Recovery program through June 30, 2021. –Lisa Trauernicht and Scott McClure

**Summary of presentation:**

- The county established the Santiam Canyon Wildfire Recovery program in response to the September 2020 wildfires:
  - Cities and communities directly impacted by the wildfires needed to determine how to start the recovery process; and
  - The county wanted to assist cities and communities with the recovery process:
    - Funding assistance was not available within the county’s budget; but
    - The county was able to apply for different funding mechanisms and resources to assist with the recovery process.
- The emergency board approved the Municipal Wildfire Assistance Grant in January 2021:
  - The grant funds were to be utilized as a recovery tool specifically for communities impacted by the wildfires; and
  - The funding would assist some of the following:
    - Businesses;
    - Economic activities; and
    - Getting individuals back into their homes.
- The grant has specific requirements that determine how the \$300,800 will be utilized;
- The City of Detroit and the City of Gates will be the primary recipients of the grant funding:
  - The cities were greatly impacted by the devastating wildfires:
    - The two cities were able to perform standard daily business;
    - They did not have the capacity needed to carry out extra functions created by the wildfires;

- Individuals employed by the cities were also impacted by the wildfires; and
    - Some city employees lost their homes in the wildfires.
  - The contract will assist both cities with their recovery efforts.
- Funding assistance from the state and other agencies has been invaluable;
- Marion County responded quickly to assist cities impacted by the wildfires:
  - The county hired two individuals to work directly with the City of Gates and the City of Detroit;
  - The Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MWVCOG) is available on-line for legal services;
  - A dedicated staff planner is focusing on applications and issues that arise;
  - A community development director is available to assist with programming work and is supervising the American Planning Association project;
  - A component for grant writing is available if needed;
  - Engineering services are available if needed;
  - A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement may be available for the two cities; and
  - A small cities income survey is being utilized.

***Board discussion:***

- The two cities have utilized the MWVCOG for planning application services:
  - Utilizing the MWVCOG frees up time for city staff to perform standard duties that were provided prior to the wildfires.
- Mr. McClure will be reviewing the incoming funds IGA to determine if there are any funding discrepancies;
- The \$300,800 are reimbursement funds;
- The grant funding has been allocated to the Oregon Business Development Department for distribution to counties;
- The county has provided funding to assist communities impacted by the wildfires with the anticipation of receiving delayed reimbursement funds in the near future;
- The commissioners expressed their appreciation to staff for all their continued efforts with the wildfire recovery process; and
- Communities and cities impacted by the wildfires are still struggling and facing challenges.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Willis moved to approve the incoming funds Grant Agreement with Oregon Business Development Department in the amount of \$300,800 for the Santiam Canyon Wildfire Recovery program through June 30, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:24:32)*

3. Consider approval of the incoming funds Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) with Oregon Business Development Department in the amount of \$410,000 for the Santiam Canyon Wildfire Recovery program through November 30, 2021. –Lisa Trauernicht and Scott McClure

**Summary of presentation:**

- The \$410,000 are emergency funds offered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that are specifically for disaster recovery:
  - HUD has specific requirements pertaining to how the funds can be utilized.
- Marion County collaborated with Linn County before determining how the incoming funds would be utilized:
  - The incoming funds are for Marion County;
  - Marion County is in charge of utilizing the incoming funds; but
  - Collaboration, input, and feedback from Linn County is important because some communities directly impacted by the wildfires are located in both Marion County and Linn County.
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) specifications require some of the following:
  - A disaster recovery manager;
  - A financial analysis to assist with reconstructing records;
  - An economic impact and opportunities analysis to determine the following:
    - The economy of the impacted areas;
    - Methods to jump-start the recovery efforts quickly; and
    - Rebuilding in the future.
  - A housing development analysis;
  - A health impact analysis;
  - Community visioning and strategic planning:
    - The City of Gates and the City of Detroit will have separate independent planners to assist them in their efforts.
  - Communications and community outreach:
    - The county is considering contracting with a company that provides newsletters and gathers information from communities impacted by the wildfire.
- The county is aggressively working with impacted communities to accelerate the recovery process.

**Board discussion:**

- The county is working to keep the public informed and up-to-date on the progress of the wildfire recovery efforts:
  - Community members can access the [Santiamrecovery.org](http://Santiamrecovery.org) website for helpful information and support.
- Economic challenges with construction may impact the rate for regrowth;
- An economic study and long-term planning will assist businesses impacted by the wildfires;
- The county is working with the following entities in the recovery efforts:

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- City councilors;
- City managers; and
- Community residents.
- It is important for the impacted communities to lead the process for community vision and strategic planning:
  - The county's intent is to hire a facilitator that will assist the communities in achieving their goals.
- It may take communities multiple years to recover from the wildfires:
  - People in the canyon are still healing from the fires:
    - Not everyone can afford to rebuild; and
    - Citizens are still trying to process the impacts.
- A portion of the incoming grant funds will be utilized to reimburse the county for dollars already spent to assist the communities impacted by the wildfires; and
- The county will continue their efforts to find funding that will aid communities in their rebuilding efforts.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bethell moved to approve the incoming funds Community Development Block Grant with Oregon Business Development Department in the amount of \$410,000 for the Santiam Canyon Wildfire Recovery program through November 30, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:44:05)*

4. Consider the adoption of a Fair Housing Resolution as part of the Community Development Block Grant program. –Lisa Trauernicht

***Summary of presentation:***

- Jurisdictions receiving CDBG funds are required to commit to the following:
  - Fair housing;
  - Promoting fair housing;
  - Working against discrimination in housing; and
  - Assisting individuals who feel they have been discriminated in housing with the following:
    - Finding resources;
    - A solution to their housing issue; and
    - Better housing options.
- Brochures from the Fair Housing Council of Oregon (FHCO) are available for community members:
  - FHCO is an advocacy organization that helps to protect peoples housing rights;
  - More information is available on the organization's website at FHCO.org;
  - Community members can call (503) 223-8197 to speak with a FHCO representative; and



- Brochures and or posters in both English and Spanish are available in some of the following locations:
  - The Board of Commissioners Office;
  - The Marion County Courthouse;
  - The Marion County Housing Authority;
  - The Community Services Department;
  - The Health and Human Services Department; and
  - The Fresh Start Market.
- The resolution is a statement from the county that expresses the following:
  - Support for fair housing;
  - Support for individuals protecting people from housing discrimination; and
  - Affirmation that Marion County does not discriminate in housing.
- The county anticipates receiving funds from HUD to be utilized for the following:
  - The CDBG; and
  - HOME development funds.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Willis moved to adopt a Fair Housing Resolution as part of the Community Development Block Grant program. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous

*(Video Time 00:49:30)*

#### PUBLIC WORKS

5. Consider an order transferring jurisdiction from Marion County to the City of Silverton for a portion of Western Avenue located within the City of Silverton city limits. –Lani Radtke

##### ***Summary of presentation:***

- The order authorizes the transfer of jurisdiction from Marion County to the City of Silverton for a section of Western Avenue located within the City of Silverton city limits:
  - The section of land is located between Grant Street and North James Street; and
  - The City of Silverton approved a resolution to initiate the jurisdiction transfer.

##### ***Board discussion:***

- Western Avenue is a local street located within the City of Silverton city limits;
- The street is east of the local high school;
- The city has expressed concerns with pedestrian and bicycle facilities;
- The city would like to bring the road up to current city standards for safety purposes;
- Maintenance and safety needs throughout all of Marion County have made it difficult for the county to update the facilities;
- Transferring jurisdiction will benefit the following:
  - The City of Silverton:
    - The city can independently apply for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding;
    - The county has applied twice for SRTS funding for the area; but

- Scoring criteria prevented approval of the county's application.
- City residents;
- Students attending local schools; and
- Marion County.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bethell moved to approve an order transferring jurisdiction from Marion County to the City of Silverton for a portion of Western Avenue located within the City of Silverton city limits. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:52:09)*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

9:30 A.M.

None.

Commissioner Cameron read the calendar.

Commissioner Cameron adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

  
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CHAIR

  
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COMMISSIONER

  
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**Board Sessions can be viewed on-line at**

**<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSUQ1gg6M78UsBE3q6w4rdf59Z5rXkEi5>**