

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Senator Hearing Room
555 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

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

ABSENT: Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer.

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

(Video Time 00:00:57)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

(Video Time 00:01:01)

PROCLAMATIONS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – ACTION

1. Consider approval of a proclamation designating the month of May 2023, as Older Americans Month in Marion County. –Commissioner Colm Willis and Angela Plowhead, Northwest Senior and Disability Services

Summary of presentation:

- Northwest Senior and Disability Services (NWSDS) is an intergovernmental agency that serves seniors and adults with disabilities residing in one of the following counties:
 - Clatsop;
 - Marion;
 - Polk;
 - Tillamook; and
 - Yamhill.
- NWSDS mission is to promote the following:
 - Dignity;
 - Independence;
 - Health;
 - Honoring choices; and

- Empowering people.
- NWSDS provides case management and eligibility services for Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) programs;
- The company serves as an information and assistance hub for seniors and adults with disabilities;
- Key programs provided by NWSDS include some of the following:
 - Home delivered meals to house bound adults;
 - Adult protective services;
 - Licensing of adult foster homes;
 - Health promotion;
 - The Oregon Project Independence (OPI) program;
 - Senior peer mentoring;
 - The Oregon Money Management Program (OMMP);
 - The Otago Exercise Program (OEP) helps with balance and preventing falls; and
 - Diabetes prevention programs.
- Almost 76,000 individuals, or 16.4 percent of the population in Marion County, are over the age of 60;
- It is important for older adults to age with dignity; and
- Older adults can benefit from the following:
 - Remaining engaged;
 - Being independent; and
 - Being included.

Board discussion:

- Older adults have wisdom and life experiences that they can share with younger generations;
- It is important to honor and recognize the older members in our communities, and their contributions to society;
- The cost-of-living in Oregon is outside the means of the average senior:
 - NWSDS provides support to help seniors thrive; and
 - The organization has programs that address food insecurity.
- Seniors in their younger years created the society that we are all able to live in today.

MOTION: Commissioner Bethell moved to approve a proclamation designating the month of May 2023, as Older Americans Month in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

The commissioners read the proclamation.

(Video Time 00:08:39)

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – ACTION

2. Consider approval of a proclamation declaring May 7-13, 2023, as National Corrections Professionals Week and May 6-12, 2023, as Nurses Appreciation Week in Marion County.
–Undersheriff Jeff Wood and Commander Tad Larson

Summary of presentation:

- National Corrections Professionals Week was started in 1984 by President Ronald Reagan;
- Corrections officers comprise the largest number of county employees certified by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training;
- Corrections officers perform the following jobs:
 - Admitting adults to the jail;
 - Transporting adults in custody; and
 - Many other jobs within the criminal justice system, including working at the following:
 - The Institutions Division;
 - The Transition Center; and
 - The Operations Division.
- The health of many of the individuals in jail is poor:
 - Nurses working at the jail have a large workload facing them every day:
 - They do their job well and they do it efficiently.
- The medical and security units at the jail work well together to provide security during medical care;
- There are approximately 12 transports to outside consultations each month:
 - In April 2023, there were 38 transports; and
 - This does not include emergency transport out of the jail via an ambulance.
- Deputies screen individuals as they come into the intake and release unit; and
- Nursing staff assess the individuals and refer them to internal providers until they are referred out.

Board discussion:

- An independent jail assessment team visited Marion County:
 - The team travels across the country to look at jails and provide the following:
 - Inspections; and
 - Recommendations for improvement.
 - The Marion County Jail is one of only two county jails in the country that the assessment team recommends that other jurisdictions look at, because of how well it is run.
- The jail is clean and well maintained;
- The commissioners thanked all the staff that help to keep the residents of Marion County safe;

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- The Marion County Sheriff's Office, Community Corrections Division, operates professional and extensive community restoration initiatives that have been very successful:
 - It is important to the county to maintain an individual's dignity;
 - It is the county's hope that the individuals can be restored;
 - The team is instrumental to the incarcerated individual's success; and
 - The county's low recidivism rate is a testament to the staff's values for incarcerated individuals and their families.
- A significant portion of the county's general fund budget is invested in the county's corrections system because it is important to the lives of Marion County citizens.

MOTION: Commissioner Cameron moved to approve a proclamation declaring May 7-13, 2023, as National Corrections Professionals Week and May 6-12, 2023, as Nurses Appreciation Week in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

The commissioners read the proclamation.

(Video Time 00:19:50)

PRESENTATION

3. Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR) of the Mid-Willamette Valley Quarterly Report. –Adam Franco; Erik Andersson, SEDCOR President; and Nick Harville, SEDCOR, Marion County Business Retention and Expansion Manager

Summary of presentation:

- The county has a five-year contract with Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR) of the Mid-Willamette Valley that is funded through lottery dollars:
 - The contract is for \$160,000 per year.

Erik Andersson and Nick Harville, Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR) of the Mid-Willamette Valley:

- Mr. Andersson and Mr. Harville provided a quarterly report with activity updates related to business retention and expansion;
- The Santiam Canyon Wildfire Recovery updated:
 - The goal of building 150 sheds has been achieved:
 - Many individuals and companies donated time and materials to accomplish this goal.
 - A construction liaison has been hired:
 - He is working with case managers to learn what the needs are.
 - A new phone application has become available nationwide that provides minute-to-minute area updates for counties that may be beneficial in the future;

- SEDCOR has been meeting with county staff to discuss the possibility of a business grant program; and
- A group that has expressed interest in building a 74-room hotel along the river near the City of Mehama:
 - The current water and sewer issues in the area could present permitting challenges.
- Business Retention and Expansion Projects:
 - There are two companies providing major development in and outside the city limits of the City of Donald:
 - Property has been purchased by one company that may eventually house a truss plant and distribution center;
 - 15-acres have been purchased that will potentially contain warehouse leasing space:
 - The property will have potential railroad service.
 - There has been an acquisition of 139-acres to build a facility that will increase the efficiencies of the manufacturer that will be developing the property:
 - The site is just outside the city's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and may house a vertical agricultural grow facility in the future.
 - EverFab has submitted the initial paperwork to expand their facility in the City of Aumsville:
 - The company makes fiberglass surrounds for showers and bathtubs;
 - The rural industrial property tax incentive will be utilized for the project;
 - The new building will double the company's space; and
 - Approximately 20 new jobs will be created.
 - The forging division of Ulven Aerospace and Precision Solutions has submitted an Enterprise Zone application for a new equipment project:
 - The company will be manufacturing a widget utilized in space satellites for telecommunications.
 - SEDCOR is working on an event that will include a tour of the Natural Plant Products, Inc. facility:
 - Natural Plant Products Inc. is the trade name for Oregon meadowfoam growers;
 - The company has set up a pilot operation in their City of Salem facility:
 - It is an Enterprise Zone project;
 - Most of the equipment has been set up; and
 - A future tour will help to educate the public about the company's products and operations.
 - The Meadowfoam Growers Cooperative has been sending their product to southern California and Arizona to be refined into an oil that is utilized in the cosmetic industry; and

- A large percentage of the estimated 40 meadowfoam growers in the cooperative are based in the Willamette Valley.
- Recruitment Projects:
 - Industrial Realty Group (IRG), LLC has purchased the former Norpac facility located in the City of Stayton:
 - The organization plans to divide the single-use facility into space that can be utilized by multiple businesses;
 - The property has approximately 6,000 square feet of manufacturing space;
 - Potential business targets may be related to the food industry;
 - Positive impacts for the community include:
 - Employment opportunities; and
 - Diversifying the city's economy.
 - A vertical agriculture company is looking for a 140,000 square foot facility with 40-foot ceiling capacity:
 - It is important to the company that the region has infrastructure for agriculture; and
 - The company's business locations require water and sewer.
 - Gensco Incorporated is constructing a 400,000 square foot building for a Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) manufacturing and distribution facility:
 - A Gensco facility already exists in the City of Salem that serves businesses in Oregon and southwest Washington;
 - The new facility will be serving all west coast states;
 - The new facility will be located in the Mill Creek Corporate Center in the City of Salem;
 - An estimated 40 percent of the employment positions will be for manufacturing jobs that include some of the following:
 - Metal workers;
 - Benders; and
 - Fabricators.
 - An estimated 100 jobs will be available when the new facility opens; and
 - There will eventually be 200 jobs at the facility.
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship:
 - Oregon Angel Food 2023 will be held on September 23, 2023, at the Chemeketa Community College (CCC) Agriculture Complex:
 - The event is for food manufacturers.
 - SEDCOR continues to work with the Mid-Willamette Valley Innovation Hub:
 - A state initiative awarded SEDCOR with planning funds;
 - SEDCOR has contracted with ECONorthwest to put the event together; and
 - The event's message is that resources are needed to help entrepreneurs with business education that includes:

- How to perform pitch deck presentations;
- How to grow a scalable business; and
- How to attract investment.
- Oregon State University (OSU) has received funding for a study related to a Center for Innovation Excellence:
 - OSU is interested in SEDCOR being a potential pilot location targeting some of the following:
 - Packaging assistance;
 - New product opportunities; and
 - Helping agriculture growers understand markets.
- SEDCOR is hosting a bootcamp focused on agriculture technology startups:
 - The event is titled Cultivate Northwest;
 - There will be a variety of resources available for the three-day event.

Board discussion:

None.

(Video Time 00:41:22)

CONSENT

PUBLIC WORKS

4. Approve an order for the vacation of a 60-foot-wide strip of land situated in the southeast one-quarter of Section 14, Township 8 South, Range 2 West, of the Willamette Meridian on a portion of 82nd Avenue S.E. and vesting the vacated property equally to the abutting property owners, Michael and Megan Jackson and Melvin and Alma Johnson.

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

(Video Time 00:42:10)

***Recess as Board of Commissioners.
Convene as Contract Review Board.***

CONTRACT REVIEW BOARD ACTION

FINANCE

1. Consider an order approving the Sole Source Procurement for the award of a Medical Examiner Transportation contract to Synergy First Call Mortuary, Inc. –Toby Giddings

Summary of presentation:

- The Marion County District Attorney’s (DA’s) Office approached the Marion County Finance Department to put in place a contract with Synergy First Call Mortuary, Inc.;
- A Request For Information (RFI) was posted on the county’s procurement collaboration portal and OregonBuys for seven days requesting feedback on, or protest to, the county’s conducting a Sole Source Procurement:
 - No feedback was received.
- If the sole source procurement is approved, notice of the approval will be posted for seven additional days:
 - This will provide the public with the opportunity to comment or protest before the county moves forward with awarding a contract.

Board discussion:

- The contract is for transporting deceased individuals to either a funeral home, or to a facility where the medical examiner can examine the body;
- Mr. Giddings expressed that it is the medical examiner’s opinion that this is the only company in the region who can perform this work:
 - If the Sole Source Procurement is approved, then an individual who disagrees with the approval will have seven days to protest.
- This item was discussed at a Management Update meeting held on April 25, 2023:
 - Ms. Vetto provided the following summary for the meeting presentation:
 - The Management Update presentation was given by Robert Anderson from the Medical Examiner’s office;
 - The DA’s Office has been having difficulties getting deceased individuals transported to funeral homes, particularly during non-business hours;
 - Synergy First Call Mortuary, Inc. has the resources to respond to calls at all hours of the day; and
 - For a Sole Source Procurement, the goods or services required must only be available from one source:
 - The county requires a 24-hour service;
 - Synergy First Call Mortuary, Inc. is the only source that the county is aware of that provides a 24-hour service;

- The county posted an RFI to see if other mortuaries were available to respond to the request; and
 - No other mortuary responded to the RFI.
- Commissioner Willis expressed the following:
 - At the Management Update meeting, Mr. Anderson explained that under the old system each mortuary would pick up deceased individuals within their assigned region of the county;
 - Some of the mortuaries were having trouble picking up the deceased individuals in a timely manner;
 - Mr. Anderson would like the county to hire one company that can pick up deceased individuals and deliver them to the different mortuaries;
 - This is not a Sole Source contract for a single mortuary; and
 - The Sole Source contract is for a single transport company.
- Mr. Giddings clarified that the contract does not replace funeral home services:
 - The contract is only for transportation to the funeral homes.
- Commissioner Cameron expressed the following:
 - His understanding from the Management Update meeting is that the contracted service is for individuals who have not selected a funeral home; and
 - Transport services have increased drastically over the last few years.
- Commissioner Bethell expressed the following:
 - She is not comfortable supporting the contract at this time; and
 - She has a different understanding of the structure around how the organizations in the community operate.
- Commissioner Willis expressed the following:
 - The commissioners were advised at the Management Update meeting that there has been communication with the different mortuaries regarding the issue:
 - The level of communication with the mortuaries is unknown.
 - There is a period of time allowed to protest the decision; and
 - If there are protests, then the county would go back through the Requests for Proposal (RFP) process.
- The minimum timeframe for allowing additional protests is seven days:
 - The timeframe may be extended if requested.
- Commissioner Bethell expressed the following concerns:
 - The law does not require the county to expand communication efforts outside of posting on a website;
 - There may be individuals who are being left out of the contract process due to their lack of understanding of the governmental process;
 - People may not have a clear understanding of what occurs when an individual dies;
 - The process can be challenging and emotional;
 - She is concerned that this process may potentially corner individuals into a specific cost category if there is only one provider;

- It could potentially harm the market concept for fee assessment;
- Enough information has not been provided;
- There needs to be a more comprehensive process for Sole Source Procurement;
- The process restricts peoples' ability for making a free choice when an individual has died; and
- She is not comfortable supporting the Sole Source Procurement.
- Under the contract, the cost for transport is a set price; and
- Individuals are encouraged to file a protest if they feel that there is another organization that can provide the transportation services:
 - The information that the commissioners received at the Management Update meeting is that there is only one company that wants to do this work.

MOTION: Commissioner Cameron moved to approve an order approving the Sole Source Procurement for the award of a Medical Examiner Transportation contract to Synergy First Call Mortuary, Inc. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried 2 to 1 with Commissioner Bethell voting no.


***Adjourn as Contract Review Board.
Reconvene as Board of Commissioners.***


(Video Time 00:52:07)


**PUBLIC HEARINGS
9:30 A.M.**

None.

Commissioner Willis adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.



 CHAIR


 COMMISSIONER


 COMMISSIONER

Board Sessions can be viewed on-line at
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSUQ1gg6M78UsBE3q6w4rdf59Z5rXkEi5>