

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, January 26, 2022  
9:00 a.m.

Senator Hearing Room  
555 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

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

ABSENT: Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer

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

*(Video Time 00:00:58)*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Diana Downs:

- Ms. Downs is a Marion County employee;
- She is an officer of the Marion County Employees Association;
- The union and the county have opened negotiations for a new contract:
  - The last contract negotiation was in 2019.
- Many county employees are caregivers for other adults and children that were impacted by COVID-19 school and daycare closures;
- County employees have expressed concerns with some of the following:
  - Recruitment and retention;
  - Safety issues related to COVID-19; and
  - Employee morale.
- The current economic climate is a concern:
  - The consumer price index increased to 7 percent in the prior month;
  - City of Salem housing prices have increased:
    - The average cost of renting a one-bedroom apartment in the city is \$1,049 and is a 5 percent increase; and
    - The average cost of renting a three-bedroom apartment in Salem is \$1,875 and is an 18 percent increase.
  - Food and gas prices have increased.
- Employee paychecks are not going as far as they have in the past and real earnings are declining;
- An increase in the minimum wage is leading to wage compression;

- Ms. Downs expressed that the union is committed to genuine good faith efforts to reach an agreement with the county that will work for all parties involved;
- The union is committed to listening to the issues and concerns of the county;
- The union will work to collaboratively solve problems wherever possible; and
- The union is committed to being communicative, honest, forthright, and efficient during negotiations.

(Video Time 00:06:43)

## **PRESENTATION**

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

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

- The seven-day daily case average is 846 cases;
- The percent positivity rate throughout the pandemic has remained at an estimated nine percent:
  - The recent surge has raised the percent positivity rate to 11 percent.
- Omicron is less severe, but more transmissible:
  - The isolation period is five days.
- The surge has created an unmanageable situation for the Marion County Health and Human Services (MCHHS) team:
  - The county’s public health goals have shifted to the following:
    - Preventing severe disease and death:
      - Promoting the following:
        - Vaccinations and boosters;
        - Testing;
        - Health education; and
        - Communication.
      - Discontinuing universal case investigations; and
      - Focusing on outbreaks in the following high consequence settings:
        - Schools;
        - Daycares;
        - Long-term care facilities;
        - Shelters; and
        - Other congregate settings that are at risk:
          - Individuals in one of these settings will be a priority; and
          - Individuals reporting a positive-test case will not receive a letter unless they are in one these settings.
    - Keeping children in school:
      - Work with schools on reporting requirements; and
      - Offer technical assistance.
- Data quality is anticipated to diminish as changes occur:

- In-home testing has increased and may impact the number of cases that are being reported;
- Data may no longer be accurate;
- MCHHS may not be able to identify the number of cases associated with an outbreak; and
- MCHHS is limiting the amount of data and information that will be required by congregate care facilities.
- MCHHS has spent the prior two weeks shifting employees to one of the following:
  - A school and daycare team; or
  - A long-term care congregate team.
- The school and daycare team has communicated with all school districts in the county to discuss how MCHHS can make their jobs easier:
  - Reporting COVID-19 data to the county on a daily basis is difficult for all of the districts:
    - The information requirements going forward will be minimal:
      - The number of cases; and
      - The information can be reported weekly or bi-weekly.
    - Schools will be able to focus their time and energy on reducing transmission.
- The long-term care congregate team is working with facilities to make their jobs easier:
  - Providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); and
  - Providing technical assistance if needed for isolation or quarantining purposes.
- Death and hospitalization data will no longer be available;
- With the increase in home testing, many cases may not be reported;
- An estimated 76.4 percent of the county's population 18 years of age and older have had at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine;
- An estimated 64.9 percent of the total population in Marion County has had at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine;
- Vaccination clinics are still occurring and can be found on the county's website;
- There is a vaccine finder on the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) website;
- The following locations are currently holding vaccination clinics:
  - The Oregon State Fairgrounds:
    - All three vaccines, including pediatric vaccines, are available;
    - The clinic is open during the following hours:
      - Monday through Saturday, 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and
      - Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
    - Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing is also available:
      - Results may be received in two to four days.
  - The Salem Center mall; and
  - The Santiam Hospital:
    - Information can be found on the hospital's website.
- COVID-19 testing, and at-home test kits may be difficult to locate;
- At-home COVID-19 testing kits can be ordered through the United States Postal Service:

- Up to four kits can be ordered per residential address or residential Post Office (PO) Box;
- These kits are provided as part of a federal program;
- There is no shipping expense for the kits;
- Kits cannot be shipped to business addresses or business PO boxes; and
- Kits can be ordered on-line or by telephone.
- There is a testing event at Centennial Park in the City Woodburn on January 29, 2022:
  - Testing results may be received in two to four days.

***Board discussion:***

- There has been confusion in the public and with small businesses in regard to work release letters:
  - MCHHS may no longer be providing the letters in the future;
  - New procedures need to be communicated to the public and to businesses; and
  - Businesses need to move away from requiring a letter from the county or a negative test for employees to return to work:
    - Businesses have come to rely on the county's letter for safety.
- The MCHHS call center is very busy and it may take longer to get connected with a representative;
- Some employers require a test to return to work:
  - Health care workers are required to have a negative test before they are released from isolation; and
  - The general public is not required to be tested to be released from isolation.
- Commissioner Bethell feels that we are at a point in the pandemic where individuals need to start taking independent responsibility:
  - Communication is required so individuals can understand their responsibilities versus the county's responsibilities moving forward.
- School districts are testing staff for work related exposures, but not community exposures:
  - Ms. Rothenberger will look into the possibility of the county helping school districts test staff to help schools remain open.
- It is critical that schools remain open; and
- The county will be receiving its first shipment of at-home tests in the next couple of weeks:
  - The county could potentially give some of the tests to schools; and
  - Group homes and Northwest Senior and Disability Services will be the first to receive tests:
    - Group homes will not be receiving a direct shipment of tests from OHA.

*(Video Time 00:26:36)*

## CONSENT

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

2. Approve an order appointing Ryan Matthews as the Marion County Community Mental Health Program Director effective January 26, 2022.

### TAX OFFICE

3. Approve an order for a property tax refund in the amount of \$39,076.80 for Cue Ltd, Partnership.

4. Approve an order for a property tax refund in the amount of \$42,973.91 for Magid and Modish Corporation.

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

(Video Time 00:27:40)

## ACTION

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

#### Board Committee Appointments

#### Ambulance Service Area Advisory Committee

5. Consider approval of board orders appointing Brian Carrara, Stephanie McClung, Rebecca Shivers Singleterry, and Scott Heesacker; and reappointing Dan Mullen to the Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Advisory Committee with terms ending January 31, 2025; and revising the term end date for Brian Butler to January 31, 2024, to align with ASA bylaws.

–Katrina Rothenberger

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

Katrina Rothenberger:

- The Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Advisory Committee represents a cross section of ambulance service provider entities including:
  - Private;
  - Public;
  - Rural; and
  - Urban.
- Additional members may be from stakeholder groups; and
- The following are the individuals being considered for approval and the ASA they will represent:
  - Brian Carrara, Salem Fire Department, will represent ASA #1;
  - Stephanie McClung, Jefferson Fire, will represent ASA #8;
  - Rebecca Singleterry will represent ASA #9;
  - Scott Heesacker, Woodburn Fire District, will represent ASA #5;

- Dan Mullen, Assistant Chief of the Saint Paul Fire District, has served on the committee since his original appointment in July 2016 and he represents ASA #3; and
- Brian Butler, Operations Chief for the Keizer Fire District, has served on the committee since his original appointment in 2017 and he represents ASA #2.

Brian Carrara:

- Mr. Carrara is the Deputy Chief of Training for the Salem Fire Department; and
- Mr. Carrara has served on the committee in the past.

Dan Mullen:

- Mr. Mullen works for the St. Paul Fire District; and
- His goal is to see that every individual in Marion County receives quality care when needing ambulance service.

Scott Heesacker:

- Mr. Heesacker is the Operations Chief for the Woodburn Fire District;
- The Woodburn Fire District provides fire-based emergency response to the City of Woodburn and surrounding areas;
- The Woodburn Fire District does not provide ambulance transport:
  - Their fire engines provide a paramedic service; and
  - They work with Woodburn Ambulance on patient care and transportation to the hospital.
- Mr. Heesacker will represent non-transporting fire services.

Stephanie McClung:

- Ms. McClung is the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Manager at Jefferson Fire;
- She has previously been involved with the Area Trauma Advisory Board; and
- She is looking forward to having a positive impact on emergency medical services in the area.

Shawn Baird:

- Mr. Baird works for Woodburn Ambulance, and he is the Chair of the ASA Advisory Committee; and
- The committee will be working to update the ASA plan:
  - The committee works with OHA to ensure statutory requirements are being met; and
  - The committee works to ensure citizens are being served in the best way possible.

**Board discussion:**

- Every Ambulance Service Area is represented on the advisory committee, except for Polk County Fire District #1:
  - Polk County attends the committee meetings; and
  - Santiam Canyon is represented.
- Mr. Baird is also involved at the national level;
- The pandemic has been a very challenging time for emergency services and public health departments; and
- Commissioner Willis thanked Mr. Baird and Woodburn Ambulance for their help with getting vaccines out quickly through mobile clinics:
  - They set the standard for the state for mobile vaccine clinics by being flexible and fast.

*(Video Time 00:38:04)*

Commissioner Bethell recessed board session to evacuate for a fire alarm test.

*(Video Time 00:38:34)*

Commissioner Bethell reconvened board session.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve board orders appointing Brian Carrara, Stephanie McClung, Rebecca Shivers Singleterry, and Scott Heesacker; and reappointing Dan Mullen to the Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Advisory Committee with terms ending January 31, 2025; and revising the term end date for Brian Butler to January 31, 2024, to align with ASA bylaws. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 01:00:26)*

Commissioner Bethell revisited the motion for Action Item #5 to allow Commissioner Willis, who was absent for the motion due to evacuation responsibilities for the fire alarm test, the opportunity to vote for the record. Commissioner Willis voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

*(Video Time 00:40:58)*

## PUBLIC WORKS

6. Consider approval of Amendment #2 to the Contract for Services with Quincy Engineering, Inc. to add \$470,005.89 for a new contract total of \$1,210,460.19 to provide construction contract administration and construction engineering and inspection services for the Lancaster Drive: Center Street to Monroe Avenue Improvement Project through June 30, 2024.

-Ryan Crowther

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

- The project is located in northeast Salem;
- The project is approximately 0.45 miles long;
- The project is federally funded;
- The project scope includes the following:
  - Rehabilitate Lancaster Drive with the following:
    - New sidewalks;
    - New curbs;
    - Driveway grade corrections;
    - Pavement repairs; and
    - An asphalt overlay.
  - Consolidate access points wherever possible; and
  - Construct an enhanced pedestrian crossing at Monroe Avenue.
- Work on the construction project is anticipated to be done at night;
- Marion County Public Works (MCPW) has been assisting local property owners with right-of-way acquisitions:
  - The right-of-way acquisition phase is close to completion.
- Quincy Engineering, Inc. provided the design work for the project;
- Under the amendment Quincy Engineering, Inc. will provide some of the following:
  - Construction administration;
  - Inspection;
  - Survey; and
  - Engineering services.
- Following is the project schedule:
  - Construction will begin in spring 2022; and
  - Completion of the project is anticipated in summer 2023.
- Following is the breakdown of the \$1,210,460 contract budget:
  - Design and right-of-way are estimated at \$740,454; and
  - The contract's amendment for construction services is estimated at \$470,006.

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

- It was suggested that warning signs be installed when construction is complete to alert drivers to the changes in driveway grades;
- The added funding is just for the project design and oversight; and
- Because the project is federally funded there are several construction oversight tasks:
  - Construction oversight is generally handled by MCPW:

- With the work on this project being done at night MCPW does not have the capacity to allocate a county inspector to just one project in the evening hours.
- Quincy Engineering, Inc. will provide some of the following construction oversight:
  - Overseeing quality assurance; and
  - Reviewing subcontracts to ensure they are in compliance with federal requirements.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Willis moved to approve Amendment #2 to the Contract for Services with Quincy Engineering, Inc. to add \$470,005.89 for a new contract total of \$1,210,460.19 to provide construction contract administration and construction engineering and inspection services for the Lancaster Drive: Center Street to Monroe Avenue Improvement Project through June 30, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:46:18)*

**SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

7. Consider approval of the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) in the amount of \$4,978,628.48 for the 2021 through 2023 Justice Reinvestment Grant retroactive from July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2023. – Commander Kevin Karvandi

***Summary of presentation:***

- The Justice Reinvestment Program and the grant funding was created in 2013:
  - The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) was designated as the grant funding administrator.
- The Justice Reinvestment Program is committed to investing in local communities and public safety systems to financially support local counties in adhering to the following goals of justice reinvestment:
  - Enhancing public safety;
  - Holding offenders accountable;
  - Reducing recidivism; and
  - Reducing the prison population.
- Each biennium the Justice Reinvestment application is submitted to the CJC:
  - Each county’s local Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) is responsible for submitting the application:
    - In August 2021, the Marion County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) submitted the county’s main and supplemental applications on behalf of the council.
- In November 2021, the county received the initial award notice from the CJC advising of the following:
  - The county will be fully funded in both the main and supplemental applications:

- The main application funding is a little over \$4 million; and
  - The supplemental application funding is a little over \$917,000.
- The Marion County Justice Reinvestment efforts entail nine prison diversion and prison reentry programs including the following:
  - The Prison Diversion Program; and
  - Student Opportunities for Achieving Results (SOAR).
- During this biennium the Justice Reinvestment efforts will focus on enhancing culturally responsive services in the following areas:
  - Increasing the number of gender specific services provided for women;
  - Increasing the capacity to provide services in Spanish; and
  - Piloting a new peer support program to help members of historically underserved communities connect and engage with justice reinvestment programs and community resources:
    - Peer mentors will interact with individuals reentering society following incarceration to provide some of the following:
      - Connect and bond with the individual;
      - Build a rapport; and
      - Engage the individual.
- The MCSO continues to see positive outcomes with regards to accomplishing justice reinvestment goals;
- The MCSO received the contract with the CJC in December 2021:
  - The contract is currently being processed; and
  - The contract term date is retroactive to July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2023.

***Board discussion:***

- An estimated \$2.5 million per year is spent on justice reinvestment;
- There are approximately 2,800 individuals on some form of supervision within Marion County:
  - Post-prison supervision; and
  - Probation.
- The county's total biennial budget is estimated at \$34 million which funds some of the following:
  - An estimated \$27.5 is utilized for grant and aid;
  - An estimated \$5 million is for justice reinvestment;
  - An estimated \$1 million funds programs such as SOAR; and
  - An estimated \$500,000 is for the Family Sentencing Alternative Program:
    - These four primary funding streams provide services to a vast array of the clients that are on supervision.
- The Justice Reinvestment Program assists with funding for nine different programs, including some of the following, that each have multiple staffing needs and contracts with community partners:
  - The Prison Diversion program which partners with some of the following agencies:

- Bridgeway Recovery Services; and
  - The Marion County District Attorney's Office.
- The Transition from Jail to Community program;
- The Link Up program in partnership with Bridgeway Recovery Services;
- The SOAR program in partnership with Chemeketa Community College and MCHHS; and
- The De Muniz Resource Center which provides wrap-around navigation services.
- The families of the individuals receiving services are also impacted:
  - Improving one individual's life through a program can expand to a community and save money;
  - It can reduce a child's time spent in the foster care system; and
  - The programs are important to both the families and the communities.
- The program improves each biennium as staff expands on the services that are provided;
- The award for this biennium increased approximately \$600,000 from the prior biennium:
  - Obtaining baseline funding was a struggle in the prior biennium.
- The award increase will potentially allow enhancements to the program.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) in the amount of \$4,978,628.48 for the 2021 through 2023 Justice Reinvestment Grant retroactive from July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 01:00:15)*

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

None.

*(Video Time 01:00:47)*

Commissioner Bethell read the calendar;  
Commissioner Bethell adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

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CHAIR

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COMMISSIONER

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COMMISSIONER

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

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