

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, May 26, 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 Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer, Jane Vetto as county counsel, and Brenda Koenig as recorder.

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

(Video Time 00:00:52)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PRESENTATION

(Video Time 00:01:13)

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 26, 2021:
 - There have been an estimated 22,669 cumulative cases within the county from the start of the pandemic;
 - The current positivity rate continues to be 8.5 percent;
 - An estimated 313 individuals have died from symptoms related to COVID-19; and
 - There are an estimated 44 new cases.
- The following was reported for the two-week period of May 9th through May 22, 2021:
 - There were an estimated 740 COVID-19 cases within the county; and
 - The county’s case rate for the two-week period is estimated to be 212 per 100,000:
 - The rate is a 16 percent decrease from the prior two-week period of May 2nd through May 15, 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 151,430 Marion County residents have received either a first dose or a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine;
 - An estimated 25,000 additional vaccine doses still need to be administered before the county can move down to the lower-risk category; and
 - The county is obligated to submit a vaccine equity plan as part of the state's eligibility requirements for moving to a lower-risk category:
 - The county anticipates submitting the plan to the Oregon Health Authority in the near future.
- Current statewide COVID-19 restrictions may be lifted once 70 percent of Oregon's eligible population has been vaccinated:
 - An estimated 64.3 percent of Oregon residents age 16 or older have received either a first dose or a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Moderna has completed a study for vaccinating individuals age 12 or older:
 - It is anticipated that the company will apply for an emergency use authorization in the month of June.
- Vaccinations are considered the best defense against contracting 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;
- County statistics show age groups with a lower vaccination rate are reporting higher COVID-19 case counts:
 - Age groups with a higher vaccination rate are reporting a lower COVID-19 case count.
- Effective June 6, 2021, Marion County Health and Human Services (MCHHS) will no longer provide COVID-19 case investigation on Sundays and observed holidays; and
- MCHHS is still available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for public health emergency issues.

Board discussion:

- Multiple counties and state agencies are currently closed on Sundays and observed holidays for COVID-19 case investigation; and
- Job positions to address diversity and equity issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic will be included in the county's vaccine equity plan.

(Video Time 00:08:10)

CONSENT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OLCC Application – Recommended Approval

City Mart – Salem, Oregon

FINANCE

Approve a quitclaim deed for the sale of Property Tax ID #R18881 from Marion County to the grantee.

Approve an order to sell a proposed list of Tax Foreclosed properties in Marion County at a public auction on August 10, 2021.

Board discussion:

- The county will be complying with all COVID-19 requirements for the Tax Foreclosed properties auction on August 10, 2021:
 - Individuals attending the auction will not be required to show proof of vaccination.

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

ACTION

(Video Time 00:09:26)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1. Consider approval of the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) in the amount of \$300,000 for the county to provide job placement services to vocational rehabilitation participants referred by DHS retroactive from April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2023. –Ryan Matthews and Jamie Eastman

Summary of presentation:

- The incoming funds IGA will reimburse the county's supported employment team for job placement services;
- The IGA's total cost allows for an up to amount of \$300,000:
 - The dollar amount that the county bills for and is reimbursed for is considerably less than the \$300,000 cap.
- The county has utilized a supported employment and a supported education program for multiple years;
- Employment provides structure and an intrinsic value to an individual's life;
- The program can be rewarding to individuals experiencing mental health challenges:
 - Participants enrolled in the program are able to achieve career goals;
 - They are able to access resources and tools needed to sustain long term employment; and

- Individuals are able to maintain stable mental health.
- An estimated 60 percent of individuals with mental health challenges would like to work and be more self-sufficient:
 - An individual's self-esteem is enhanced;
 - Employment assists with maintaining positive mental health;
 - It provides a location for an individual to go to during the day;
 - Individuals are able to feel connected to other people;
 - Participant's learn new skills;
 - An individual's income is increased; and
 - It can improve an individual's quality of life.
- The following statistics and information were reported for 2020:
 - The first quarter included the months of January through March and was prior to the COVID-19 lockdown:
 - The county's unemployment rate was 3.5 percent;
 - Sixteen individuals were successfully placed in new job positions; and
 - An estimated 35 individuals were employed.
 - The second quarter included the months of March through the end of June:
 - The county's unemployment rate was 10 percent;
 - Seven individuals were successfully placed in new job positions; and
 - An estimated 37 individuals were employed.
 - The third quarter entailed the following:
 - The county's unemployment rate was 7.4 percent;
 - Nine individuals were successfully placed in new job positions; and
 - An estimated 32 individuals were employed.
- The following statistics and information were reported for 2021:
 - The first quarter included the months of January through March:
 - The county's unemployment rate was 5.6 percent;
 - Seventeen individuals were successfully placed in new job positions; and
 - An estimated 36 individuals were employed.

Board discussion:

- Commissioner Cameron expressed that employment is an important part of every individual's life;
- The program supports five employment specialists and one education specialist;
- The county receives a payment whenever a participant is referred for vocational rehabilitation services or when an individual starts a job; and
- A high unemployment rate can make it more challenging to place individuals in a job because there is more competition for job openings.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to approve the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) in the amount of \$300,000 for the county to provide job placement services to vocational rehabilitation participants referred by DHS retroactive from April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:21:41)

PUBLIC WORKS

2. Consider approval of an order appointing Marisa Roskelley to the Marion County Parks Commission with a term ending May 26, 2025. –Thomas Kissinger

Summary of presentation:

- The Marion County Parks Commission was established on September 16, 1958;
- The Parks Commission is appointed by the Board of Commissioners;
- The Parks Commission consists of seven to eleven voting members that serve four-year terms;
- The Parks Commission has recommended that Ms. Roskelley be appointed as a voting member to the Marion County Parks Commission;
- Ms. Roskelley stated the following:
 - She is an emergency room nurse;
 - She recently moved to Salem from out of state;
 - Ms. Roskelley works 12-hour shifts in a fast-paced environment;
 - Spending time outside with her dogs amongst the trees and flowers is essential to her mental health and well-being; and
 - Ms. Roskelley expressed that becoming a member of the Parks Commission will fulfill her civic contribution to the community.

Board discussion:

- Ms. Roskelley has been an annual volunteer at the Ironman World Championship Triathlon for eighteen years:
 - The City of Salem will be hosting an Ironman competition in 2021; and
 - The competition will entail some of the following:
 - Swimming;
 - Biking; and
 - Running.
- Ms. Roskelley has volunteered with the Susan G. Komen Foundation as well as within her own community;
- Commissioner Cameron expressed there are good, long term visions for rebuilding parks that have been negatively impacted by the wildfires;
- Ms. Roskelley expressed she is excited for the opportunity to participate in the restoration of the parks; and

- The commissioners expressed their appreciation to Ms. Roskelly for volunteering for the Marion County Parks Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Bethell moved to approve an order appointing Marisa Roskelley to the Marion County Parks Commission with a term ending May 26, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

The commissioners recessed at 9:28 a.m.
The commissioners reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9:30 A.M.

(Video Time 00:30:16)

PUBLIC WORKS

A. Public hearing to consider amending the Marion County Comprehensive Plan Urbanization Element. –Brandon Reich

Summary of presentation:

- One element of the Marion County Comprehensive Plan is the Urbanization Element
 - It provides policies and guidance related to the following:
 - How Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB) are established; and
 - How the county manages land located inside the UGB before it is annexed.
 - The plan also contains a section titled Growth Management Framework:
 - The framework was adopted in 2002 as a set of standards to apply to the county’s coordination with cities implementing urban zoning and UGB’s;
 - The language was amended in 2008 to serve as guidelines that cities can utilize for reviewing zoning and land needs within their UGB’s; and
 - The current language does not contain any requirements that must be complied with.
- The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) has requested that cities achieve specific efficiencies when developing land:
 - One method used to achieve the request is through the density of development:
 - The county adopted a set of densities in 2002, based on a city’s size;
 - Cities were able to utilize the information to demonstrate that they were growing efficiently and were meeting the state’s requirements;
 - The densities were common densities that cities were able to achieve;
 - The densities may not have reflected the individual circumstances of a city when the UGB was reviewed; and
 - Zoning applications for property located within a city’s jurisdiction also needed to be considered.

- The DLCD developed Safe Harbors in 2006, as a tool that cities can utilize when evaluating future densities and to demonstrate efficient growth:
 - The Safe Harbor standards replaced the original framework that was adopted in 2002.
- In 2015, the DLCD developed a simplified UGB review process that included a set of densities;
- The county's framework has not been updated to reflect the DLCD's new processes that cities can utilize when reviewing land use:
 - Cities must comply with state requirements; and
 - The demonstration of consistency with county guidelines is optional.
- The framework also provides guidelines for city growth and development related to the following:
 - Transportation;
 - Environment;
 - Economic development; and
 - Housing.
- Cities can have unique growth development circumstances that may not be reflected in the framework:
 - The cities may propose a land use implementation that addresses their current needs; and
 - The guidelines adopted into the framework may be too limited in scope to address a city's needs.
- The option to remove the growth management framework from the Urbanization Element of the Marion County Comprehensive Plan was discussed with the board;
- On April 14, 2021, the board adopted an order to initiate the consideration of amending the Marion County Comprehensive Plan Urbanization Element; and
- A public hearing was scheduled for May 26, 2021.

Board discussion:

- No individuals have signed up to comment during the public hearing; and
- Commissioner Willis expressed the following:
 - The current Urbanization Element for the Marion County Comprehensive Plan was useful when it was first implemented;
 - State laws have changed since the growth management framework was first implemented; and
 - The current framework is no longer useful.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to close the public hearing, close the record, and approve amendments to the Marion County Comprehensive Plan Urbanization Element. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Bethell read the calendar;
Commissioner Cameron adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

CHAIR

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

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