

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, June 28, 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 Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer, Jane Vetto as county counsel, and Brenda Koenig as recorder.

Commissioner Willis called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

(Video Time 00:00:45)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

(Video Time 00:00:51)

PRESENTATION

1. Recognizing Sheriff Joe Kast and his years of service to Marion County.
– Commissioners Colm Willis, Kevin Cameron, and Danielle Bethell

Summary of presentation:

- Marion County Sheriff Joe Kast is retiring;
- Sheriff Kast’s career highlights include the following:
 - He served in the United States Air Force from 1987-1991;
 - He was an enforcement deputy for eight years;
 - As a sergeant he ran the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team for many years;
 - He was promoted to enforcement lieutenant in 2008;
 - He served as an institutions lieutenant for the Marion County Jail for five years:
 - The Marion County Jail is one of two jails in the country cited as an example by national organizations to assist other jail institutions with improvements.
 - He was promoted to enforcement commander in 2018; and
 - The board appointed Commander Kast to the position of Marion County Sheriff in 2019.

Board discussion:

- The commissioners expressed their appreciation to Sherriff Kast for his years of service to Marion County;
- Sheriff Kast's leadership was a vital role in keeping communities safe during the following:
 - The COVID-19 pandemic;
 - The 2020 wildfires in the Santiam Canyon:
 - Action is needed in an emergency; and
 - There is not time for debate.
 - Ice storms;
 - Heat waves; and
 - Riots in the City of Salem.
- Sheriff Kast has honorably served the citizens of Marion County;
- Sheriff Kast expressed the following:
 - There are good employees in both the sheriff's office and throughout all county departments that provide support every day;
 - The county has good leaders in charge;
 - Departments are integrated in the county's culture:
 - Departments collaborate and provide support.
 - He appreciates the leadership throughout the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO):
 - There are many, regardless of rank, that are good leaders in the MCSO; and
 - Individuals do not always agree:
 - There are good conflict conversations;
 - In the end the MCSO pulls together as a team;
 - The MCSO team has trust and faith in their co-workers;
 - Collaboration has been an important part of getting the job done; and
 - He appreciates the recognition, but it is the MCSO team and county staff that pull together to make everything possible.
- Sheriff Kast has been a wonderful partner for the Marion County:
 - He has always been willing and ready to work; and
 - He has served the community with honor and integrity.

The commissioners presented Sheriff Kast with a plaque.

(Video Time 00:18:51)

CONSENT

COMMUNITY SERVICES

2. Approve a resolution supporting the Cities of Aurora, Donald, and Hubbard in their application to the State of Oregon for the re-designation of the North Marion County Enterprise Zone.

FINANCE

3. Approve of the Purchase Order with Professional Credit Services in the amount of \$165,500 to provide collection services through June 30, 2024.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. Approve the Contract for Services with Nathaniel Kravitz, LLC, PMHNP, in the amount of \$400,000 to provide mental health assessments and care to adult behavioral health clients through June 30, 2025.

5. Approve the Contract for Services with James F. Miller, Medical Doctor (MD) in the amount of \$500,000 to provide mental health assessments and care to adult behavioral health clients through June 30, 2025.

PUBLIC WORKS

6. Approve an order establishing a temporary speed zone for a work zone on a portion of Cordon Road.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

7. Approve the Contract for Services with the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency in the amount of \$270,000 to provide Justice Reinvestment Initiative Services – Navigator Coaching through June 30, 2025.

8. Approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Marion County Health and Human Services in the amount of \$560,634 to assess, monitor, and provide treatment services to Student Opportunity for Achieving Results (SOAR) participants with substance abuse disorders through June 30, 2025.

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

(Video Time 00:20:41)

ACTION

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Committee Appointment – Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee

9. Consider approval of orders appointing Josh Lair as Chair with a term ending December 31, 2025, and Eric Rasor as Vice-Chair with a term ending March 31, 2026, to the Marion County Local Alcohol and Drug Planning (LADPC). –Carol Heard

Summary of presentation:

Carol Heard

- The Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee (LADPC) is a volunteer advisory group serving the Marion County Local Mental Health Authority;
- The LADPC provides the following:
 - Identifies needs;
 - Establishes priorities for alcohol and drug prevention; and
 - Establishes treatment services that best serve the community.
- The previous LADPC chairperson has recently retired;
- The LADPC nominated Mr. Lair as the new chair:
 - Mr. Lair was the committee's vice-chair; and
 - The LADPC nominated Mr. Rasor to fill the position of vice-chair.
- Mr. Lair has been a committee member since December 2021; and
- Mr. Rasor has been a committee member since April 2022.

Eric Rasor:

- Mr. Rasor is the Executive Director of Soaring Heights Recovery Homes:
 - The organization has been established for five years; and
 - A new home was recently opened on May 1, 2023:
 - The new facility currently houses five women.
- Mr. Rasor expressed his appreciation for the vice-chair nomination.

Josh Lair:

- Mr. Lair is the Community and Law Enforcement Outreach Manager for Ideal Option;
- Mr. Lair expressed the following:
 - He enjoys serving the community and the county:
 - Events happening in communities' matters;
 - This is reflected in the decisions made by the board and the support of county staff; and
 - Great leadership motivates others to serve.
 - He is thankful to be able give back to the community; and
 - He believes stigma can be taken to a different level:
 - Where recovery and treatment are talked about in a positive way; and
 - Serving on the LADPC is a great opportunity to change the stigma.

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- Mr. Lair is thankful for the nomination to chair of the LADPC.

Board discussion:

- Commissioner Willis expressed the following:
 - The examples that others set can inspire everyone; and
 - An overabundance of giving can result in a community that everyone wants to live in.
- Commissioner Bethell expressed the following:
 - Mr. Lair and Mr. Rasor provide a service-oriented system of care:
 - Their work offers guidance and provides direction and input based off their lived experiences.
 - She is grateful that both nominees want to pour so much into the county's communities;
 - Board and committees are important to the decisions that the commissioners make;
 - Committee appointments impact the lives of people every day;
 - She is proud to live in a community that sees Mr. Lair and Mr. Rasor as people and recognizes everything that they can bring to others; and
 - Mr. Lair and Mr. Rasor make the lives of people healthier.
- Commissioner Cameron expressed the following:
 - Good things are happening in communities;
 - There are multiple resources available to assist others;
 - He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Lair for his role in the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program and the work that he continues to do;
 - He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Rasor for the service that he provides with the Soaring Heights Recovery Homes:
 - The county has assisted with the funding for two homes.
 - It is an honor to have so many people giving back to the community.

MOTION: Commissioner Cameron moved to approve orders appointing Josh Lair as Chair with a term ending December 31, 2025, and Eric Rasor as Vice-Chair with a term ending March 31, 2026, to the Marion County Local Alcohol and Drug Planning (LADPC). Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:31:53)

CLERK'S OFFICE

10. Consider approval of Amendment #1 to the Contract for Services with Metro Presort, Inc. to add \$142,500 for a new contract total of \$237,500 for ballot and voter notification card services September 30, 2026. –Brian Van Bergen

Summary of presentation:

- No changes have been made to the contract details except extending the term date for the service:
 - The request is for an extension through 2026.
- Metro Presort, Inc. is the company that the Marion County's Clerk's Office (MCCO) utilizes as the primary method for voter correspondence:
 - There are postcards called Voter Notification Cards (VNC's) and Voter Confirmation Cards (VCC's); and
 - The cards are the method utilized by the MCCO for the following:
 - Informing voters if their information has changed;
 - Informing voters if they have been inactivated; and
 - Confirming new details.
- The MCCO has utilized Metro Presort, Inc. for multiple years; and
- MCCO is requesting to continue utilizing the vendor.

Board discussion:

- Commissioner Bethell expressed the following:
 - She appreciates the lengthy relationship that the MCCO has with Metro Presort, Inc.;
 - At some point every contract needs to move through the county's Request for Proposal (RFP) process so that every business in Marion County has an opportunity to bid on county projects; and
 - She has requested the next Contract for Services move through the county's RFP process once the term date for this amended contract has expired.
- It is in the county's best interest to have a viable working Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP);
- Oregon Legislation recently passed a bill that will allow everyone on the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) the opportunity to register to vote; and
- When an individual signs up for the OHP they may automatically be signed up to vote.

Motion: Commissioner Bethell moved to approve Amendment #1 to the Contract for Services with Metro Presort, Inc. to add \$142,500 for a new contract total of \$237,500 for ballot and voter notification card services September 30, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:36:10)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

11. Consider approval of the Contract for Services with DePaul Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$800,000 to provide unarmed security and vehicular patrol services through June 30, 2024.

–Rhett Martin

Summary of presentation:

- Marion County Health and Human Services (MCHHS) contracts for unarmed security and patrol services at multiple locations;
- The service is provided for the health and safety of clients and staff;
- The current contract for the service is set to expire soon;
- The new contract is with DePaul Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$800,000;
- The contracts ending term date is June 30, 2024;
- Security services will be provided at the following locations:
 - The MCHHS, Psychiatric Crisis Center;
 - The MCHHS Center Street Campus; and
 - Leased buildings located in both the City of Salem and the City of Woodburn.

Board discussion:

- No discussion.

MOTION: Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the Contract for Services with DePaul Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$800,000 to provide unarmed security and vehicular patrol services through June 30, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:37:35)

12. Consider approval of the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) in the amount of \$1,980,301 for the Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative (BHWI) through June 30, 2024. –Ryan Matthews

Summary of presentation:

- The funding has been allocated to counties to help address a nationwide staffing shortage for behavioral health professionals;
- The state implemented the Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative to support the recruitment and retention of behavioral health providers and increase access for communities:
 - The county's plan was developed and submitted in late 2022;
 - The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) approved the plan in November 2022; and
 - The county only recently received the contract due to state delays:
 - MCHHS initially anticipated receipt of a contract in January 2023 that would run through the 2023 calendar year; and
 - Due to the delays, OHA has extended the contract's term date.
- The following is the funding breakdown of the \$1.9 million:

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- An estimated \$1.4 million is for incentives:
 - These are workforce incentives that fit within the county's plan.
- An estimated \$578,000 is for clinical supervision that will be provided for behavioral health staff.
- The following is the county's plan for recruitment and retention strategies:
 - There is an employee relocation package, which includes:
 - A relocation bonus; and
 - Reimbursement of relocation expenses.
 - Broadened recruitment strategies to promote Marion County jobs nationally.
- The county's plan to retain current employees includes the following:
 - There is an employee retention bonus:
 - This is paid after six months and twelve months of service with MCHHS.
 - There is tuition assistance and free licensure supervision:
 - This is to promote and advance professional careers within the behavioral health field.
 - There is a wage enhancement for around-the-clock operations and overnight shifts.
- MCHHS is hopeful that the process will help to retain the current workforce:
 - MCHHS has a great and dedicated group with high caseloads; and
 - They are hoping for some caseload relief in the future.
- One focus for MCHHS is to hire more staff and bring more people into the region.

Board discussion:

- Commissioner Bethell expressed the following:
 - Everyone can be a recruiter and promote jobs at MCHHS as there is a behavioral health need within the county;
 - Behavioral health encompasses both addiction and mental health;
 - The opportunity allows the county to control the pathway to hire good service providers that meet the county's culture of serving Marion County residents; and
 - The county does not always agree with the state's ideas and may sometimes decline offers.
- Commissioner Willis expressed the following:
 - The process with the state has been challenging as state funding was increased, but providers left the county for employment with school districts and other providers, so the increased funding did not actually increase the amount of behavioral health services in the community.
 - Local decision making is important as it can take a state program that may not have been thought through, and utilize the funding so that it has a positive impact on the community;
 - It is important to find a solution that helps people instead of harming them;
 - We came to a positive solution here. Under our plan:
 - Individuals are furthering their education and increasing their licensure;

- People are coming into Marion County from out of state; and
 - The service provider pool is increasing.
- Mr. Mathews expressed the following:
 - Counties were the last to receive the funding;
 - The county does not operate in a work force incentives methodology:
 - There are labor unions and other things involved.
 - Private providers were the only ones who could utilize the funding;
 - There were unintended consequences to the initial implementation:
 - Staff serving the most critical population were hired away.
 - MCHHS has a committed and dedicated group of people working every day to support the population's needs.

MOTION: Commissioner Bethell moved to approve the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Health Authority in the amount of \$1,980,301 for the Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative (BHWI) through June 30, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:46:29)

PUBLIC WORKS

13. Consider approval of the Construction Contract with Brown Contracting Inc. in the amount of \$238,069 of which the state will fund an estimated \$190,455.20 and the county will fund an estimated \$47,613.80 for the construction of sidewalks, ramps, pedestrian signals, signage, and striping for the Stayton Middle School, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project through September 1, 2024. –Ryan Crowther

Summary of presentation:

- The project is located on Shaff Road in the City of Stayton near the middle school;
- The existing conditions entail the following:
 - There is an abundance of pedestrian movement in the area;
 - A portion of sidewalk, adjacent to the school, is missing; and
 - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps are missing.
- The project scope includes:
 - Constructing a seven-foot-wide sidewalk that connects into the existing pedestrian pathway;
 - Constructing new ADA compliant curb ramps;
 - Improving any current ADA ramps that are not compliant with standards;
 - Installing a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) with pedestrian pushbuttons:
 - This will flash notifying traffic that students are crossing.
 - Install signage and pavement markings.
- The project budget entails the following:

- The low bid of \$238,069 was submitted by Brown Contracting Inc.:
 - The state will fund an estimated \$190,455.20; and
 - The county will fund an estimated \$47,613.80.
- Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2023; and
- Construction is scheduled to be completed in September 2023.

Board discussion:

- Construction projects can take several years;
- Commissioner Willis expressed the following:
 - The state prioritizes safety for kids at some schools over the safety of kids at other schools;
 - The states process for supporting Safe Routes To Schools (SRTS) is unfair:
 - It is biased towards certain communities and against others; and
 - The process needs to change.

MOTION: Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the Construction Contract with Brown Contracting Inc. in the amount of \$238,069 of which the state will fund an estimated \$190,455.20 and the county will fund an estimated \$47,613.80 for the construction of sidewalks, ramps, pedestrian signals, signage, and striping for the Stayton Middle School, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project through September 1, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:49:59)

14. Consider approval of the Construction Contract with Farline Bridge Inc. in the amount of \$1,260,084 of which the state will fund an estimated \$1,130,673.37 and the county will fund an estimated \$129,410.63 for the Meridian Road: Abiqua Creek Bridge Rehabilitation project through December 31, 2024. –Ryan Crowther

Summary of presentation:

- The project is located north of the City of Silverton on Meridian Road N.E.;
- The project scope includes:
 - Constructing scour repairs at the abutments and piers:
 - The bridge is considered scour critical; and
 - The state will utilize funding for a local bridge program to make repairs and keep the bridge in a serviceable condition.
 - Strengthening the pier foundations; and
 - Installing new approach guardrails on both sides of the bridge.
- The repairs involve the use of micropiles to reinforce the foundation:
 - This is an economical way of rehabilitating a bridge.
- Farline Bridge Inc. submitted the lowest bid of \$1,260,084;

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- The project is funded by a local bridge program:
 - This is a federal program; and
 - Federal funds will be exchanged for state dollars:
 - The state will fund approximately \$1,130,673.37; and
 - The county will fund approximately \$129,410.63.
- Construction for the project is scheduled to begin in July 2023; and
- It is anticipated that the project will be completed in September 2023.

Board discussion:

- Road closure information can be found on the Marion County Public Works website;
- The website provides dates and information on county projects; and
- Citizens are encouraged to review the website frequently for upcoming projects.

MOTION: Commissioner Bethell moved to approve the Construction Contract with Farline Bridge Inc. in the amount of \$1,260,084 of which the state will fund an estimated \$1,130,673.37 and the county will fund an estimated \$129,410.63 for the Meridian Road: Abiqua Creek Bridge Rehabilitation project through December 31, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:54:11)

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

15. Consider an order approving the appointment of Lieutenant Nick Hunter to the office of Marion County Sheriff effective June 30, 2023. –Commissioner Colm Willis and Jan Fritz

Summary of presentation:

- The office of county sheriff is established in the Oregon constitution;
- County sheriff eligibility requirements include the following:
 - The individual must be 21 years of age or older;
 - The individual must complete the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training certification;
 - The individual must have four years of law enforcement experience; or
 - The individual must have two years of law enforcement experience and a college education.
- Lieutenant Hunter has met the eligibility requirements for county sheriff;
- The general duties of the office of sheriff include:
 - Arrest and jail all persons who commit or attempt to break the law;
 - Defend against those who endanger the public safety;
 - Execute the process and orders of the courts;
 - Execute all warrants delivered to the sheriff; and
 - Appear in all state and county courts when called upon.

- The county has been fortunate to have Joe Kast serve as the Marion County Sheriff for the past four years;
- Lieutenant Hunter of the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) applied for the position of sheriff;
- Lieutenant Hunter was unanimously selected by the Marion County Board of Commissioners after a lengthy interview process;
- Lieutenant Hunter will be appointed to complete Sheriff Kast's term until the county's next general election in November 2024:
 - It is the board's responsibility to appoint an appropriate individual when there is a vacancy for an elected official.
- The board's process for the sheriff's appointment entailed the following:
 - Sheriff Kast announced his resignation due to retirement on May 3, 2023;
 - Recruitment to fill the position of sheriff was opened on May 10, 2023, and closed on May 26, 2023;
 - Six applications were received;
 - The public had the opportunity to provide comment through June 2, 2023;
 - The board interviewed all six candidates on June 7, 2023;
 - The most qualified individual was unanimously selected by the board;
 - The board must approve an order appointing Lieutenant Hunter of the MCSO, to the position of sheriff; and
 - A swearing-in ceremony for the position of Marion County Sheriff will be held on June 30, 2023.
- Lieutenant Hunter expressed the following:
 - He is both humbled and honored for the opportunity to lead the MCSO team;
 - There are things that the MCSO team can continue to build on:
 - The team is a family;
 - There will be times when not everyone will agree;
 - Internal problems will need to be solved;
 - The problems will be solved in a professional manner; and
 - The solutions will be for the good of the citizens.
 - Paying attention to staff and taking care of them is important; and
 - County staff must remember who they represent:
 - If this is a priority, then staff will continue to work well together.
 - He thanked Sheriff Kast for the mentorship that he provided;
 - Undersheriff Wood is a valuable asset to the county and will continue to be part of the MCSO team; and
 - He is ready to do good things for the county and work with the board.

Board discussion:

- The board and new sheriff will always get along, but they may not always agree;
- The board is grateful for Sheriff Kast's service; and

- They are excited about the service Lieutenant Hunter will provide in his new role as Marion County Sheriff.

MOTION: Commissioner Cameron moved to approve an order approving the appointment of Lieutenant Nick Hunter to the office of Marion County Sheriff effective June 30, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 01:02:17)


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

None.

Board discussion:

- A retirement celebration for Sheriff Kast will be held on June 29, 2023:
 - The event is open to the public.
- The Marion County Fair starts on July 6, 2023:
 - A board session meeting will be hosted at the fair.
- Upcoming Santiam Canyon events for the Fourth of July holiday include:
 - A golf cart parade;
 - Fireworks over Detroit Lake;
 - A pancake breakfast;
 - A barbeque; and
 - A park party which includes a band and food trucks.

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


 CHAIR

 COMMISSIONER

 COMMISSIONER

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

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