



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Management Update Minutes

Monday, September 28, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5231, Commissioners Boardroom

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Colm Willis, Sam Brentano and Kevin Cameron, Jan Fritz, Jane Vetto, Jeff White, Colleen Coons-Chaffins, Brian Nicholas, Ryan Matthews, Dennis Mansfield, Brian May, Rachel VanWoert, Camber Schlag, Kyle Wonderly, Rex Weisner, John Carlson, Barb Young, Lisa Trauernicht, Jolene Kelley, and Kristy Witherell as recorder.

Jan Fritz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL:

Review EarthWISE Grant Opportunity for Food-Industry Businesses

- Rachel VanWoert, Brian May

Summary of presentation:

- Trying to be more virtual based during COVID;
- Shifting to online webinars and different ways to interact;
- This grant opportunity would shift money from in-person type fairs and events that would normally happen, to virtual based webinars;
- Food waste in Marion County is showing up in large percentages in commercial and residential garbage;
- As the EarthWISE network has grown, there has been an opportunity to reach out to the food industry for food waste reduction:
 - Donation;
 - Food waste audits; and
 - Gathering data in the food industry.
- Looking for five businesses to work with the county to go through food waste audits:
 - Go through process of menu planning;
 - Prepping; and
 - Donating.
- The purpose of the grant is to allow the business to have a small influx of cash while they work with the county:
 - The county will give \$5,000 to each of the businesses that they can use for sustainability of their restaurant; and
 - The county will get the business EarthWISE certified.

Board discussion:

- The grant will be advertised through social media press release, and through all of the chambers of commerce in both English and Spanish.

Discuss Postponement of Property Deed Transfer

- John Carlson, Jeff White, Camber Schlag

Summary of presentation:

- The Federal Housing Commissioner and Governor Kate Brown have both issued orders to postpone bank foreclosures through at least December 31st due to COVID;
- The order does not apply directly to the county, but Mr. White wants direction to see if the board would like to do a similar order;
- Mr. White is proposing to postpone property deed transfers until the first Board Session of 2021;
- It would allow Mr. Carlson a few months to contact individuals at their door that are in danger of foreclosure; and
- Last year there was a piece of property that was on the deed transfer list:
 - The county had access to federal dollars to help people who qualified to have their back taxes paid;
 - There was a homeowner that indicated that they wanted to take advantage of the program;
 - The county postponed the foreclosure until January 2020;
 - She did not qualify for the program;
 - Finance Department came before the board in March with a letter from her wanting to purchase the property back as a previous owner;
 - It is a rental property for her;
 - Her nephew and his family live in the home;
 - The board approved the sale;
 - Finance Department drafted up the contract and the homeowner disappeared;
 - She has not responded to several certified letters that the county has sent to her;
 - She has not responded to phone calls or emails;
 - Mr. Carlson and Mr. Wonderly have gone to the property to contact the owners and no one answered the door:
 - Left a letter at the door.
 - Homeowner responded to the letter:
 - The nephew is currently incarcerated;
 - There are small children in the home;
 - On the flipside, there are very nice cars sitting in the driveway:
 - New Mercedes and Lexus.
 - Once the county takes the deed, they are responsible for what is happening at the house;
 - The most risk free option would be for her to be removed from the house with the assistance of the Sheriff's Office and sell the property;
 - The homeowner owns two other houses;
 - She has ignored multiple attempts to contact her since March; and

- The board agrees with Mr. White to have the homeowner removed from the property and for the county to sell it.

Board direction:

- The board is in agreement to postpone property deed transfers until the first Board Session of 2021.

Health Building Project Update

- Colleen Coons-Chaffins, Ryan Matthews

Summary of presentation:

- Trying to find a building to suit Health and Human Services growing staff;
- Looking at utilizing the old Juvenile building;
- The plan would be public health and administration would move out of the Center Street building:
 - The Beverly Street occupants would move to the Center Street building and the county would give up the lease at the Beverly building.
- Health and Human Services does not have sufficient common area space to house a full DOC operation;
- The county pays a lot of money in security costs at the Beverly Building due to employee and building safety in that area;
- The architecture and design would be paid for by CARES ACT funds; and
- This will be a new build right in front of the old Health and Human Services Building.

Beachie Creek Fire Update

Summary of presentation:

- Linn County Commissioners have asked for a letter of support from Marion County Commissioners regarding fire cleanup in the canyon;
 - There are people that are cleaning up their own properties without DEQ direction.
- There are 14 animals left at the state fairgrounds;
- Mill City has a spot for long-term trailers for individuals that lost their homes in the fire:
 - FEMA will pay for water, electric, and sewer hookups; and
 - FEMA will help pay for emergency infrastructure.
- The commissioners do not want a delay on permits for people wanting to put a manufactured home on their property; and
- Added debris removal under Category A for FEMA Public Assistance in case the county does not qualify for debris removal.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

COMPLETED BY: **Kristy Witherell**

Reviewed by: *Joanna Ritchie*