



Management Update Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

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

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Colm Willis, Sam Brentano and Kevin Cameron, Tom Rohlfing, Joe Kast, Jane Vetto, Brian Nicholas, Jeff White, Brandon Reich, Chris Trussell, Barb Young, Lisa Trauernicht, Chad Ball, Jolene Kelley, and Kristy Witherell as recorder.

Jan Fritz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL:

Discuss Building Fee Waivers for Wildfire Recovery

- Brandon Reich, Chris Trussell

Summary of presentation:

- Based on the destruction rate for dwellings in different areas, the vacancy rate, and based on them being secondary homes or primary homes, the estimate is 467 primary homes were destroyed:
 - There were 54 primary homes damaged;
 - The number of vacation homes are unknown; and
 - The dwelling rate in Detroit is 11 percent.
- The cost for a dwelling permit for a 1,500 square foot home, with a 500 square foot garage is \$2,000:
 - The cost for a septic permit is \$500.
- The total cost of permit fees that would potentially be collected is \$1.1 million;
- The county would owe Building Codes Division \$80,000 for their surcharge fee, regardless if the fees are collected or not;
- The Planning fees go to Marion County and the cities;
- The total to waive the building fees, still pay the building codes surcharge, and still pay the city's planning fees is \$1.5 million;
- If the county decides to waive inspection fees for work that needs to be redone for inspections for damaged buildings, or credits for buildings that have already been completed that have been destroyed, and waive hookup fees for temporary electric and septic, the total amount comes to \$1.6 million;
- The Building Code department is completely fee based:
 - They need to have revenue coming in to pay staff;
 - Waiving fees in the canyon for the wildfires sets up a presumption that there is other revenue coming in to keep people employed;

- Revenue in Building Codes Division was down 10-15 percent during their busiest time of the year, which is July to September;
- It is not anticipated that the division will make money this fall through spring;
- It is anticipated that they will have to dip into their Networking Capital this spring;
- They may have to look into layoffs late spring; and
- Costs are being tracked and being funded by the General Fund.
- Building Codes is proposing the following:
 - Waiving the first septic inspection fee; and
 - Waive the building fee only on primary residence for up to five years.
- This matter will come before the board at Wednesday's Board Session in a resolution.

Board discussion:

- This is an emotional issue for people in the canyon;
- Commissioner Willis believes that building fees should be waived for the people in the canyon;
- It sends an important message to the people that the county is behind them;
- The commissioners are not in favor of laying anyone off in Building Codes, but if there is money available elsewhere, the permit fees should be waived;
- Linn County is considering waiving permit fees:
 - They have 70-90 homes that were damaged in the fires.
- Lane County is in a similar situation:
 - They are offering a grant toward the temporary power hookup and septic connection; and
 - They determined that a waiver would require that the property owner be issued a 1099 because the amount is more than \$600.
- The commissioners do not want the burden of the lost revenues just to fall on Building Codes.

Review a resolution Declaring a State of Emergency due to Health Hazards Caused by the Beachie Creek Fire

- Jane Vetto, Scott Norris

Summary of presentation:

- This resolution is at the request of FEMA;
- Before they can do the household hazardous waste cleanup, they want a declaration that there is a health emergency;
- Language was added regarding soil erosion concerns;
- The resolution outlines that there was a state and federal emergency declared:
 - That there is debris and ash that can contain dangerous chemicals;
 - That there is a threat to public health due to the watershed being compromised; and
 - A state of emergency needs to be declared for cleanup because the rainy season is coming and is going to shorten the county's time to mitigate these issues.
- Ms. Vetto will add Lionshead Fire to the resolution;

- President Trump declared a state of emergency on September 15, 2020, which is the date that FEMA starts the 18 months:
 - Ms. Vetto will add that date to the resolution.
- This will be before the board at Wednesday's Board Session.

Beachie Creek Fire Update:

- ODOT is trying to have the highway open by this weekend.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

COMPLETED BY: **Kristy Witherell**

Reviewed by: *Joanna Ritchie*