



OREGON

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Management Update Minutes

Monday, January 25, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

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

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Kevin Cameron, Danielle Bethell and Colm Willis, Jan Fritz, Brian Nicholas, Jane Vetto, Lani Radtke, Joe Fennimore, Eric Anderson, Brandon Reich, Brian May, Tom Kissinger, Russ Dilley, Austin Barnes, Lindsey King, Elizabeth Parker, Barb Young, Lisa Trauernicht, Chad Ball, Jolene Kelley, and Kristy Witherell as recorder.

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

INFORMATIONAL:

Discuss Scheduling of a Public Hearing for Comprehensive Plan/Zone Change/Partition (CP/ZC/P) Case 19-005

- Joe Fennimore

Summary of presentation:

- A public hearing was held in June 2019;
- In December 2019, the recommendation was issued by the hearings officer;
- The applicant's representative requested that the hearing be delayed until he was able to respond to the issues raised by the hearings officer;
- In December 2020, the applicant submitted the conditional information and asked for a public hearing to be scheduled;
- It is a complicated case;
- Looking for the board's recommendation on a hearing date;
- There is a hearing scheduled for February 17th, which is also a zone change, but not as complicated as this case;
- There will be issues with goal exceptions; and
- It will take each commissioner a day to review the file.

Board discussion:

- The commissioners suggested a hearing date of February 24, 2021.

McKay/Yergen/Ehlen Roads Safety Corridor Discussion

- Lani Radtke

Summary of presentation:

- The safety corridor stretches from Highway 219 to Interstate 5;
- It has a crash history that far exceeds any expected crash rates;

- Two years ago, there was a house bill that was passed that allowed safety corridors, which were normally only allowed by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) at the state level on state highways;
- They are now allowing a pilot project for counties to consider this safety corridor designation;
- It gives the county a different approach:
 - Can post special signs;
 - Increase fines;
 - Work with other agencies for the four “E’s” approach:
 - Engineering;
 - Enforcement;
 - Education; and
 - Emergency services.
- Marion County is the first county in the state to be chosen for the program;
- Need a board order to designate the safety corridor;
- The order is on Wednesday’s Board Session for consideration; and
- The signs are ready to go in now.

Board discussion:

- The commissioners would like Highway 22 in the canyon to be temporarily recognized as a safety corridor due to the fire.

Review Concurrence with City of Salem on Urban Comprehensive Plan Policies

- Brandon Reich

Summary of presentation:

- Salem can make changes to their Comprehensive Plan;
- Part of that plan is in East Salem, which is outside of the city limits, but inside of the Urban Growth Boundary;
- Sometimes changes are made to the policies that affects the way housing goes in:
 - How it is accessed; and
 - How it is serviced.
- The county can either choose concur in those policy changes, or not;
- If the county concurs, they apply inside the county area of the Urban Growth Boundary;
- If the county does not concur, they only apply within the city;
- The city has not been submitting the changes to the county to concur in;
- There is a concurrence process within the Comprehensive Plan;
- Salem may bring a request to the board to consider whether they want to amend the concurrence process, so in the future it is clear which policies the county does concur in, or the city can move forward without the county concurring;
- If the county does not concur, Salem development starts looking a certain way:
 - The county development can look similar, but different enough that if the area gets annexed, the city can consider it to be non-conforming;

- This can sometimes cause issues for property owners looking to finance or sell their property; and
 - There is an advantage to concurring with the city.
- Salem staff would like to hold a joint work session and present their affordable housing ideas in East Salem:
 - They would like to add some mixed use on Lancaster Drive, where there would be residential housing, along with commercial;
 - They want to rezone near the city, where it could potentially be annexed to multi-family; and
 - Want to create an ability for people to work from their home.

Board discussion:

- The commissioners are not in support of removing the concurrence requirement for policies of the Comprehensive Plan;
- The commissioners are opposed to the city of Salem annexing East Salem;
- When the City of Keizer adopts a policy that would effect inside their urban area, the county has the option to concur or not;
- If a policy involves all four jurisdictions, Salem, Keizer, Marion County, and Polk County, they all have to agree to it; and
- The commissioners would like to see the county's ideas on affordable housing in East Salem before they see the City of Salem's ideas.

Discuss North Fork Public Access

- Lani Radtke, Brian May, Thomas Kissinger

Summary of presentation:

- This area was heavily impacted by the Beachie Creek Fire;
- There is an unsigned parking restriction area that has been heavily damaged from the fire;
- There are three parks that are closed because of hazardous trees:
 - Infrastructure issues; and
 - Working through the FEMA process on how to rebuild those parks.
- Looking for direction on how to limit traffic on North Fork Road;
- Public Works has a meeting scheduled with the North Fork Road Corridor group:
 - Bureau of Land Management (BLM);
 - U.S. Forest Service; and
 - Sheriff's Office.
- Looking for the groups' feedback on what their agencies may be doing in that area and will bring that information to the board for discussion;
- In the last three years, the county set up pay stations for parking:
 - In 2018, there were 68,000 cars entering North Fork Road;
 - In 2019, there were 145,000 cars entering North Fork Road; and
 - In 2020, there were 73,000 cars entering North Fork Road.
- Public Works is seeing cars parking at park entrances along the side of the road to try to enter the parks;
- Public Works has increased their signage at each park that states that the parks are closed due to wildfire danger;
- The Sheriff's Office has increased enforcement;

- There is concern that the river access is not stable or safe due to the fires;
- If the county wants to increase the no parking up North Fork Road, there will not be enough county resources to do so and will need to be contracted out;
- Three quarters of North Fork Park is on BLM property and they are not eligible for FEMA reimbursement:
 - ODOT is not cutting their trees; and
 - BLM is responsible for cutting their hazard trees at the park.
- There is a lot of debris coming down the river;
- North Fork Park will not be ready to be reopened by this summer;
- The U.S. Forest Service will not be opening Opal Creek this summer;
- If the county does not manage the road now, there may be a record number of visitors trying to utilize the river this summer; and
- U.S. Forest Service has blocked their road.

Board direction:

- The commissioners believe that the road needs to be closed and only allow local access:
 - This will allow the residents to recover without having visitors using the road for recreation.
- The commissioners would like to have an open house with the residents and get their input on closing the road;
- There is a significant amount of road infrastructure that needs to change in order to put in a kiosk on North Fork Road:
 - The kiosk would need to be staffed;
 - Need telephone and computer access; and
 - All jurisdictions are supportive of the kiosk concept.
- The commissioners would like to have a conversation regarding the state park at Detroit; and
- Will follow-up with a work session regarding North Fork Road closure.

BEACHIE CREEK FIRE UPDATE:

Public Works:

- Damage inventory is due to FEMA one week from today;
- Category C is in the final review stages;
- Putting in for recovery under Category B for the radio work on Halls Ridge;
- FEMA has been receptive to quantifying all of the costs of the impacts to parks:
 - They will be doing an alternate project:
 - Will not have to rebuild what was lost; and
 - A pot of funding is established that represents what was lost and those dollars can be reinvested in the parks to be redeveloped in different ways.
- Will make the Category B a 25 percent local match, based on donated labor:
 - Category B is immediate response costs.
- The county has until March 17th to finalize the applications;
- The federal direct assistance for radio replacement has not changed from two weeks ago:

- The state and FEMA are still talking;
- The county has given the state the cost estimate; and
- The request is being supported, but it does not fit in the process of asking for direct federal assistance.
- ODOT changed their contract to remove damaged septic tanks, instead of filling them with the sand slurry cement.

Tamra Goettsch:

- The Multi-Agency Shelter Transition Team (MASTT) has conducted 75 interviews;
- Still trying to get a list of people that have been placed in FEMA housing so they can be removed from the housing list at SIT;
- There are veteran needs and access to resources for support services; and
- SIT has had a lot of success with getting contacts with the Social Security Office and the DMV because of the MASTT meetings.

Brandon Reich:

- Has seen an increased number of permits to repair and replace dwellings:
 - Repair and replacing septic systems.
- Has had five percent of the homes that were affected by the fires come in for replacing or repairing;
- Has had 10 percent of the homes come in for an authorization for a permit to repair; and
- The total revenue for waiver is less than \$70,000.

Jolene Kelley:

- The county put together a Hazard Tree FAQ sheet:
 - It is on the county website;
 - It covers what the power companies are doing;
 - What ODOT is doing;
 - What homeowners can expect; and
 - A list of phone numbers for questions.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

- Salem Fire will be distributing 100 vaccines to their employees.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Summary of presentation:

- Working on a contract with Clearwater Strategies for lobbyist services;
- Working on a bill tracking form;
- There is a process for those that would like to testify in support or opposition of a bill:
 - All testimony will be done via Zoom.
- Attended a lobbyist meeting last Friday with the Association of Oregon Counties:
 - There is a concern with communication at the capitol and accessing legislators.

OTHER:

Lisa Trauernicht:

- The Valley Development Initiatives through COG manages the Housing Rehabilitation Program, which is a CDBG Program:
 - It is a low interest loan program with no repayments;
 - In the last couple of years, there has been an increase in people that have used the program;
 - There is \$80,000 available for housing rehabilitation;
 - The qualification process is difficult due to it being an income qualification, plus other restrictions; and
 - John Schmidt from COG is managing the program.

COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND UPDATES:

Danielle Bethell:

- Toured FEMA homes in Mill City:
 - FEMA will be assigning families to the homes on Wednesday.
- Attended the North County Vaccination Distribution Partnership Meeting:
 - Medical clinics are going to rely heavily on the county for vaccine distribution.

Colm Willis:

- The Culture Committee would like to resume Tea with the Commissioners.

Kevin Cameron:

- Attended the Oregon Transportation Commission last week and testified in support of the Aurora Interchange and the \$26 million ask;
- Chad Ball sat in on a Travel Salem meeting regarding bringing in an Iron Man competition to Salem in July; and
- Attended Salem City Club.

Meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

COMPLETED BY: **Kristy Witherell**

Reviewed by: *Joanna Ritchie*