

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

9:00 a.m.

Commissioners' Board Room
1115 Commercial Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

PRESENT: Commissioner Sam Brentano, Commissioner Patti Milne, and Commissioner Janet Carlson. Also present were Gloria Roy as county counsel and Kim Hulett as recorder.

PRESENTATION

Influenza Update – Dr. Karen Landers

Marion County Health Officer Karen Landers, MD, MPH gave an influenza activity update (Attachment A). She explained that there is a high level of influenza activity in Oregon and that the predominant circulating strain is H1N1. She said that H1N1 is included in this year's vaccine and that the best way to prevent the spread of influenza is to get vaccinated. She said that other ways to prevent the spread of influenza is to wash hands frequently, stay home when sick, and cover a cough or sneeze. Dr. Landers said that influenza vaccinations are available through a person's medical provider or a flu clinic can be located online at www.flu.oregon.gov.

Commissioner Milne asked how long a person with the influenza virus is contagious and how long germs live on surfaces. Dr. Landers said that generally, a person is contagious a few days before their symptoms develop and after contracting influenza remain contagious for three or four days. She said that germs can live on surfaces a day or longer.

Commissioner Carlson asked how a person can tell that they have influenza rather than another type of respiratory infection. She also asked about the effectiveness of hand sanitizers. Dr. Landers said that influenza is a serious illness that affects the entire body. She said that people with influenza experience fatigue and have a higher fever. Dr. Landers said that hand sanitizing wipes work well against typical bacteria and fighting the flu, and that alcohol-based hand sanitizers kill some viruses, but not the norovirus. She said bleach is recommended for killing the norovirus.

Commissioner Brentano referred to the Oregon Health Authority's influenza graph and asked if the number of cases is on par with a typical flu season. Dr. Landers said that Oregon is seeing a typical flu season and that since influenza activity has not peaked, there is still time to get vaccinated. She added that she would be concerned if a new influenza virus appeared that no one in a community had been exposed to.

Commissioner Brentano asked when a person with influenza should seek medical attention. Dr. Landers said that most people recover from the flu, but if a person is unable to maintain hydration, has difficulty breathing, or is unable to stand without falling, then they should seek medical attention. She said

another reason to seek medical attention is if a fever develops after the person is already recovering. She said this could result in pneumonia.

Legal Counsel Gloria Roy asked about the importance of booster shots for young children. Dr. Landers said that children six months through age nine that have not been previously vaccinated are recommended to receive two doses of vaccine spread a month apart. She said that one dose is to prime their system and the second dose is to get their immunity up to level.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approve an order establishing Board, Committee and Commission assignments for Marion County elected officials.

HEALTH

Approve amendment #7 to receive \$634,437 from Oregon Health Authority to provide financial assistance to operate and contract for the operation of community addictions and mental health services through June 30, 2015.

JUVENILE

Approve receipt of \$800,000 from the Oregon Health Authority for behavioral rehabilitative services at the Juvenile Department.

TAX COLLECTOR

Approve an order authorizing a property tax refund in the amount of \$19,435.70 to Janis Crouch.

Approve an order authorizing a property tax refund in the amount of \$17,999.35 to Calyx Fruit, LLC.

MOTION: Commissioner Milne moved approval of the consent calendar. Seconded by Commissioner Carlson; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

ACTION

PUBLIC WORKS

1. Consider approval of a resolution supporting the Salem River Crossing – the “Salem Alternative” and the Oversight Team’s policy statements. – Cindy Schmitt

Commissioner Brentano said that the Salem River Crossing project has been ongoing for the last eight or nine years and that he is a member of the Salem River Crossing Oversight Team (OT). County Engineer Cindy Schmitt introduced City of Salem Transportation Planning Manager Julie Warnecke and Oregon Department of Transportation Senior Planner Dan Fricke who are project managers for the Salem River Crossing project. Ms. Schmidt asked that the board consider approval of a resolution supporting the

Salem River Crossing - the Salem Alternative. She said that the additional river crossing has been discussed by committee leaders for many years and that the additional crossing is needed to preserve freight mobility, provide direct access to critical emergency services, and resolve capacity issues on the two existing bridges. Ms. Schmidt explained that in August 2012, the OT made a preliminary recommendation of Alternative 4D, but after multiple work sessions and public hearings, the Salem City Council recommended substantial changes to Alternative 4D which developed into the Salem Alternative. She said that the OT is currently requesting feedback from each of the local agencies affected and will make their final recommendation in February. Ms. Schmidt said that staff is proposing that the board support the Salem Alternative as presented along with the policy statements that were added by the OT.

Julie Warnecke said that in June 2013, the Salem City Council voted unanimously in support of the Salem Alternative and that the OT directed the project team to go back and do additional analysis that resulted in some small refinements. Ms. Warnecke gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Salem Alternative (Attachment B) and noted that the Salem Alternative would have approximately half the environmental impact as the Alternative 4D plan.

Dan Fricke said that once the OT determines a preferred alternative recommendation, it will take 12 to 18 months to finish the Environment Impact Statement (EIS) and the Record of Decision (ROD) is the final action by the Federal Highway Administration. He added that the land use approval process and finance strategy are still being determined. Mr. Fricke said that two other approvals that still have to occur are the Salem Keizer Area Transportation Study (SKATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Collaborative Environmental and Transportation Agreement for Streamlining (CETAS).

Commissioner Milne asked the estimated cost of the Salem Alternative and its funding sources. Mr. Fricke said that the estimated cost is \$400 million and that following a workshop in 2008, the OT had recommended the project team focus on four types of funding: tolling, local option vehicle registration fee, local option gas tax, and property tax. Mr. Fricke said that there has been no commitment for state or federal money, but there is an assumption that there will be some funding from those sources.

Commissioner Carlson asked how the cost of Alternative 4D compares with the Salem Alternative. Mr. Fricke said that in the draft EIS, the estimated cost for Alternative 4D was \$682 million compared to approximately \$400 million for the Salem Alternative.

Commissioner Milne asked when construction might begin and how long it would last. Mr. Fricke said that based on similar projects, it would take 18 to 24 months for the design schedule and if the project is built in one phase, another 18 to 24 months to acquire all the right-of-ways. He added that it could take longer if the project is built in multiple phases.

Commissioner Brentano asked about connections and traffic flow in the Salem Parkway area. Ms. Warnecke explained that traffic flow in the Salem Parkway area would be similar to existing conditions with the exception of an additional signal in the northbound direction.

Commissioner Milne said she prefers the Salem Alternative and clarified that her support of the Salem Alternative is based on the most current information being presented and with the understanding that there would continue to be a number of decisions throughout the process that might change some parts of the plan. Commissioner Milne said that she hopes there will continue to be opportunities for public

input and that the entities involved will be open to public input and sensitive to the neighborhoods that will be impacted by the project.

Commissioner Brentano said that he prefers the Salem Alternative to Alternative 4D and explained that the suicide attempt a few years ago that completely shut down traffic was a real eye-opener to just how vulnerable the area is and how much Marion County relies on these structures. He said that without these bridges people are looking at crossing at Albany or Newberg and that is not acceptable. Commissioner Brentano said that all through this process his focus has been that there would be another crossing that lets the Salem Parkway continue out, provides access to Highway 22, and moves traffic out of downtown, especially truck traffic. He said that he was also worried about cost and safety and the Salem Alternative addresses those concerns. He said he is happy with what has developed and certainly wants to support it.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved approval of a resolution supporting the Salem River Crossing – the “Salem Alternative” and the Oversight Team’s policy statements. Seconded by Commissioner Milne; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

The Commissioners then read the resolution.

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

None.

Commissioner Brentano read the calendar.

Commissioner Brentano adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Attachments: (A) Influenza Activity Update PowerPoint
(B) Salem Alternative PowerPoint

CHAIR

COMMISSIONER