

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Tuesday, April 30, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Chemeketa Community College
4000 Lancaster Drive NE
Building #2, Room #179
Salem, Oregon 97305

PRESENT: Commissioner Kevin Cameron, Commissioner Sam Brentano, and Commissioner Colm Willis. Also present were Jane Vetto as county counsel, and Brenda Koenig as recorder.

ABSENT: John Lattimer, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

WELCOME

(Video Time: 00:01:36)

Welcome – Julie Huckestein, Chemeketa Community College President:

- Ms. Huckestein welcomed everyone to Chemeketa Community College; and
 - She thanked the commissioners for holding board session and town hall at the college campus.

Board discussion:

- The commissioners expressed their appreciation to Chemeketa Community College for all the work they do in the region, the work force, and for the education they provide;
- The Marion County Sheriff's Office offers the Student Opportunity for Achieving Results (SOAR) program at the college campus:
 - SOAR is a twelve week treatment and employment program for drug addicted individuals returning to the community after incarceration; and
 - There have been approximately 30 graduates from this program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Video Time 00:05:25)

Frank Pack:

- Mr. Pack is the Northgate Neighborhood Association Chairman;
- He would like to invite citizens in the neighborhood to attend a meeting:
 - The meetings are held every third Thursday of the month, at 6:00 p.m., at the Cornerstone Apartments Community Center on Portland Road.

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PRESENTATION

(Video Time 00:08:16)

East Salem Suburban Neighborhood Association, Michael Johnson, Member

Summary of presentation:

- Mr. Johnson worked with the county to have street lights installed in the neighborhood;
- He would like to invite citizens in the neighborhood to attend a meeting:
 - The meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at the fire station at 300 Cordon Road NE, Salem.
- Currently the East Salem Suburban Neighborhood Association is working with the East Lancaster Neighborhood Association in regards to a 122-acre parcel of land located at the corner of State Street and Cordon Road:
 - The land has been proposed for development;
 - An estimated 1,074 residential lots could be sold;
 - An estimated 10,000 more vehicles could be driving on State Street and Auburn Road; and
 - Traffic and stormwater management could impact both neighborhoods.
- Mr. Johnson urges everyone to get involved in their neighborhoods and attend a meeting.

(Video Time 00:15:37)

Hayesville-JanRee Neighborhood Association, Nichole Tarter, Chair

Summary of presentation:

- Ms. Tarter would like to invite citizens in the neighborhood to attend a meeting:
 - The meetings are held the third Thursday of every month, at 6:00 p.m., at the Peoples Church located at 4500 Lancaster Drive NE, Salem.

(Video Time 00:17:53)

Census Information – Lisa Trauernicht, Marion County Board of Commissioners Office

Summary of presentation:

- The county is currently assembling a Complete Count Committee for the 2020 census;
- Every year Marion County receives approximately \$1.1 billion from the state that is based on the county's census numbers;
- The funds are invested in some of the following areas:
 - Education;
 - Roads; and
 - Social service programs such as:
 - Head Start;
 - Housing; and
 - Section 8 Housing Vouchers.
- Citizens are urged to inform their neighbors about the importance of the census:
 - Individuals are needed who can help others fill out the census documents.

- The 2020 census can be taken online, but a paper version is also available;
- Community organizations with a computer bank are urged to open their facilities to citizens who would like to fill out the census information online, but have no access to a computer;
- Information about the census can be found on the webpage MCCounts.com, under the Board of Commissioners website.

Board discussion:

- The county has a series of meetings planned that focus on the 2020 census;
- The commissioners would like to put the importance of the census into perspective for the community:
 - The state of California has budgeted \$90 million for an accurate census count; and
 - They recently added another \$64 million to help ensure they get an accurate count.
- Getting the census count correct can result in billions of dollars being allocated to the state.

(Video Time 00:22:41)

Veterans Services Office – Linda Strike and James Riddle

Summary of presentation:

- The new location for the Veterans Services Office is 780 Commercial Street NE, Suite 302, Salem;
- Office hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday;
- Walk-ins are welcome on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.;
- A second officer is in the process of being trained; and
- The office is in the process of hiring a third officer.

(Video Time 00:24:55)

Dog Shelter – Tamra Goettsch, Marion County Community Services, Director

Summary of presentation:

- The dog shelter provides the following for all lost and stray dogs in the county:
 - Shelter with heated floors;
 - Care;
 - Items to keep them busy;
 - Licensing;
 - Food; and
 - Adoption in the event an owner cannot be located.
- The shelter's main purpose is to reunite a lost dog with their owner:
 - Unlicensed dogs can make it difficult to accomplish.
- The following are some of the advantages to licensing your dog:
 - It's a minimal expense;

- Saves hours in time for animals that are in stress;
- It helps community members locate a dog's owner;
- It helps the shelter with identifying the dog, and contacting the owner;
- Dogs are more quickly united with their owners; and
- It helps to prevent the spread of rabies in the community:
 - Dogs licensed with the county's shelter have been vaccinated.
- The shelter also works with volunteers who are interested in giving their time and their talents.

(Video Time 00:29:00)

East Salem Lighting District – Dennis Mansfield, Marion County Public Works

Summary of presentation:

- At one point in time, the county had 130 lighting districts;
- In November 2018, an order was approved disbanding all 130 lighting districts, and creating one district that encompassed all of East Salem;
- The district is divided into two major sections:
 - Hayesville; and
 - Four Corners.
- The county has met with Portland General Electric (PGE) to discuss the logistics for light installation within the district;
- On April 9, 2019, PGE tested several different lights for brightness, on existing poles, within the Four Corners area:
 - Lighting was selected based on feedback from the community.
- The installation will be done in four phases, starting in June 2019:
 - Phase One will add lights to existing poles in the southern portion of the Four Corners area;
 - Phase Two will add lights to existing poles in the northern portion of the Hayesville area;
 - Phase Three will add poles and lights in the southern portion of the Four Corners area; and
 - Phase Four will add poles and lights in the northern portion of the Hayesville area.
- The installation will be a two-year project scheduled for completion in 2021;
- Property owners will see a lighting assessment fee on their October 2019 tax statement:
 - It is estimated that each property will pay \$30 for the year 2019;
 - As lights get added to the district, the cost for lighting services will increase; and
 - Upon project completion, the estimated expense will be \$37-38 per year for each property.

Board discussion:

- Initially the commissioners were advised that the project would take ten years; and
- The commissioners would like to thank PGE and county staff for expediting the process.

(Video Time 00:33:14)

East Salem Capital Projects – Ryan Crowther, Marion County Public Works

Summary of presentation:

- County construction projects in 2018 included:
 - Resurfacing 21.7 miles of pavement:
 - This included 5.9 miles in East Salem.
 - Centerline rumble strips were added on the following roads:
 - Silverton Road;
 - Cordon Road;
 - Howell Prairie Road; and
 - Cascade Highway.
 - Thermoplastic striping was added on Cordon Road and Portland Road; and
 - Through the Slurry Seal Program, 3.31 miles of slurry seal was added to extend pavement life on urban streets.
- County construction projects for 2019 will include:
 - Sidewalk and sidewalk ramp improvements for the following areas:
 - Hayesville Drive NE; and
 - Silverton Road NE.
 - Curb replacements for the following areas:
 - Treeside Drive NE; and
 - 37th Avenue NE.
 - Urban improvements on 45th Avenue from Ward Drive to Silverton Road will span two construction seasons, and include the following:
 - Widening 45th Avenue;
 - Sidewalks will be installed on each side of the road;
 - Bike lanes will be installed on each side of the road;
 - A left turn lane refuge will be added at Fire Protection Way;
 - Constructing water quality improvements;
 - Storm drainage improvements; and
 - Upgrading the traffic signal at Silverton Road.
 - Improvements at Lancaster Drive and Macleay Road will include the following:
 - Replacement of an outdated signal; and
 - Extending the Macleay Road turn lane.
 - The Traffic Signal Interconnect Project will add fiber optic lines that will improve traffic signal operations and connect county facilities including the following:
 - Public Works;
 - Health and Human Services; and
 - The City of Salem Traffic Operation Center.
 - Slurry seal projects will include 2.84 miles of roadway in East Salem;
 - East Salem Service District Stormwater Drainage Improvements will include some of the following areas:
 - Buffalo Drive:
 - Drainage repair at Mary Eyre Elementary School.

- Eldin Avenue:
 - Replacing the culvert under Eldin Avenue;
 - Reshaping the drainage channel to increase capacity and flow; and
 - Planting vegetation along the banks to protect against erosion.
 - Draper Street:
 - Installation of 475 feet of storm pipe to relieve flooding.
 - Future projects in the area will include:
 - A bridge replacement on Silverton Road;
 - Left turn lanes along Cordon Road at the following intersections:
 - Kale Street;
 - Hayesville Drive;
 - Herrin Road; and
 - Ward Drive.
 - Signal replacements; and
 - Urban widenings, which include the following additions on Hayesville Drive:
 - Sidewalks;
 - Bike lanes; and
 - Storm improvements between Portland Road and Fuhrer Street.

Board discussion:

- Lighting on 45th Avenue is not included in the scope of this project, but will take place at a later date; and
- The board would like to thank Public Works for all of their work:
 - Similar projects are occurring all over the county.

(Video Time 00:38:22)

Public Safety Updates – Sheriff Jason Myers and Commander Joe Kast

Summary of presentation:

- Ten officers will be assigned to the East Salem Service District (ESSD):
 - One officer is currently working in the district;
 - Three officers are currently at the Police Academy; and
 - Six officers are either in training or new employee orientation.
- Five officers will be working full time within the district by October:
 - Five officers will be added after October once their training has been completed.
- The county is setting up two sub-stations in the district located at:
 - Chemeketa Community College; and
 - 4444 State Street, behind the church.
- Police cars and officer uniforms are being outfitted with the East Salem Service District logos; and
- Residents will be able to access information pertaining to their district on the county's website.

Board discussion:

- The commissioners thanked the Sheriff's Office for their work and quick response in getting the ESSD set-up for patrols:
 - Similar partnerships are occurring in other districts within the county.

CONSENT

(Video Time 0:41:45)

BUSINESS SERVICES

Approve adjusting the salary range upward for Election Board Workers and Information Technology Intern.

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

ACTION

(Video Time 0:42:21)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1. Consider approval of a proclamation designating the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Marion County. – Cary Moller, Cydney Nestor, Maridee Tudela, Megan Torres, and Maddie Tritt

Summary of presentation:

Cary Moller:

- 2019 marks the 70th year for mental health awareness in the United States;
- It is a time to think and talk about mental health challenges in our communities and with our students;
- Mental health is just as important as physical health; and
- One in five adults and one in six children at some point in their lives will struggle with a significant mental health challenge.

Cydney Nestor:

- Events planned in the month of May to support mental health include the following:
 - An article is being written focusing on hope, resiliency, and support, with the message that individuals with mental health challenges are:
 - Our neighbors;
 - Our friends;
 - Our community partners; and
 - Our family members.
 - A Facebook live event focusing on Peer Support Specialists is planned:
 - The county employs a number of individuals who have real life experience with mental health challenges:
 - They have parented or raised a child with mental health needs;

- They have experienced mental health challenges themselves; or
- They have been a recipient of a mental health service.
- On May 30th there will be an Employee Behavioral Health Fair informing individuals about the services Marion County Health and Human Services provides for behavioral health.

Maridee Tudela:

- Ms. Tudela works for Marion County Health and Human Services as a Youth Peer Support Specialist;
- She would like to speak about her mental health journey, and she believes people are more than their diagnosis;
- Ms. Tudela struggled with symptoms of a mental health illness, and was diagnosed when she was 21 years old;
- Her mental health diagnosis changed her life, and she finally had answers for some of the behaviors she was experiencing:
 - Sleepless nights;
 - Engaging in risky behavior;
 - Seeing and hearing things that were not there; and
 - Mood swings.
- During the low phase of her disorder she experienced debilitating depression and anxiety and that became the new normal for her:
 - She struggled to get out of bed in the morning;
 - She did not want to leave her home;
 - She was not engaging socially with her friends and family;
 - She was not attending school; and
 - She was unhappy with her job.
- Ms. Tudela's goal was to attend Portland State University and acquire a better, stable job;
- She had a lot of support from friends and family during this time period;
- Ms. Tudela was referred to the Marion County Early Assessment Support Alliance (EASA) program through the Psychiatric Crisis Center (PCC):
 - It is a two year program; and
 - Focuses on providing rapid identification, support, assessment and treatment for young people experiencing the early signs of psychosis.
- She was able to stabilize and better manage her symptoms with help from her team that included the following:
 - A therapist;
 - Psychiatrist;
 - Skills trainer;
 - Employment specialist; and
 - Medication.
- EASA helped her return to work, and go back to school, and get back on her feet:
 - Ms. Tudela was accepted into Portland State University to work on a Graphic Design degree; and

- Obtained employment as a Youth Peer Support Specialist through Marion County.
- Ms. Tudela's journey has not been perfect, but she has learned what she is capable of despite her mental health challenges:
 - She still struggles at times to manage her symptoms;
 - She no longer views herself as having something wrong;
 - Her diagnosis has given her the following:
 - Strength;
 - Wisdom; and
 - Courage.
 - Living with her illness has helped to normalize it;
 - She does not fear her illness anymore; and
 - It has given her a greater purpose in life:
 - Advocating for and helping others who live and go through similar struggles.

Madison Tritt:

- Ms. Tritt is a graduate of the Wraparound Initiative or Mid-Valley Wrap (MV-Wrap):
 - A program that focuses on building systems of care for children and youth.
- Initially she did not want to join MV-Wrap:
 - Her mental health was at a low point; and
 - She needed someone who understood her mental issues.
- The program really impacted her life, and her MV-Wrap team helped her with the following:
 - Understanding her mental health;
 - Showing her how to handle her mental health issues; and
 - Showing her how to advocate for her mental health needs.
- The program builds off of, and focuses on, an individual's strengths, rather than their weaknesses;
- When she entered the program she was doing poorly in school:
 - By the time she had completed the program, she had earned the Turn-Around Award out of all the students in her middle school.

Megan Torres:

- Ms. Torres is Madison Tritt's mother;
- She feels mental health is a topic that has always been whispered about rather than spoken freely;
- As a child and in early adolescence Ms. Torres struggled with the following:
 - Depression;
 - Anxiety;
 - Self-destruction; and
 - She would get overwhelmed quickly.
- She also excelled in areas that were of interest to her and could complete tasks;
- As a young adult, she was diagnosed with a mental health illness:

- Even after her diagnosis Mr. Torres still felt like she had a character defect:
 - That she had not tried hard enough;
 - She felt it was a dirty secret;
 - She refused to get help for her illness; and
 - She believed if she was a better person, then the illness would go away.
- Ms. Torres would receive calls from Ms. Tritt's kindergarten teacher stating how smart, kind, and helpful she was, and that she was also hiding under her desk;
- This was a common theme throughout grade school:
 - Ms. Torres believed it was due to Ms. Tritt's chronic physical health issues.
- By fifth grade Ms. Tritt was struggling and needing so much one-on-one attention in school that the teacher was unable to focus on the rest of the class:
 - The teacher asked Ms. Torres if she could get help for her daughter.
- Ms. Tritt was prescribed medicine that did help:
 - In middle school she started struggling again:
 - She stopped taking her medication;
 - She was being bullied; and
 - She had completely shut down.
- Ms. Tritt's therapist referred her to MV-Wrap:
 - Ms. Torres believes this program saved her daughter's life.
- She believes her daughter is brave, courageous, and insightful and has conquered many battles in her life;
- MV-Wrap assisted the family with the following:
 - Focusing on strengths when life was painful;
 - Seeing the positive within themselves;
 - Understanding the importance of medication;
 - It helped to normalize mental health;
 - Helped to create change within the family;
 - The program showed Ms. Tritt's family how to support her; and
 - Ms. Torres was also able to treat her own mental health issues.
- The program provided Ms. Tritt with a mentor who helped her to gain the confidence she needed to advocate for herself and make healthy choices;
- Mental health has been viewed as a challenging behavior that needs to be controlled:
 - It is something that needs to be addressed out loud and outside of the home.
- Ms. Torres feels people with mental health issues are incredible individuals with incredible characteristics.

Board discussion:

- The commissioners expressed their appreciation to Ms. Tudela, Ms. Torres, and Ms. Tritt for their bravery in sharing their stories;
- Many people have suffered mental illness, or have loved ones who have:
 - It is important for people to understand that it is just a level of complexity that some individuals deal with.
- Tax dollars that are being used for mental health programs are being well spent;
- The county and city have police officer's with mental health training:

- Individuals with mental health issues are getting assistance:
 - In their homes;
 - On the streets; and
 - At the hospital.
- Commissioner Cameron shared a story of a ride-a-long where he witnessed a Sheriff's Officer diffusing a disturbance in Aurora:
 - A City of Salem Police Officer and a Court Team Mental Health Specialist were also on site to offer assistance:
 - The individuals received immediate, on-site assistance; and
 - No one went to jail.
- The county employs three teams trained to assist in similar situations.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved for approval of a proclamation designating the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Brentano; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

The commissioners read the proclamation.


PUBLIC HEARINGS

6:30 P.M.

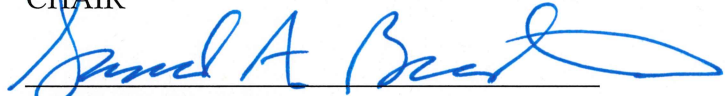
None.

Commissioner Willis read the calendar.

Commissioner Cameron adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.



 CHAIR



 COMMISSIONER



 COMMISSIONER

Board Sessions can be viewed on-line at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSUQ1gg6M78UsBE3q6w4rdf59Z5rXkEi5>

