

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, May 5, 2021  
9:00 a.m.

Senator Hearing Room  
555 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Kevin Cameron, Commissioner Danielle Bethell and Commissioner Colm Willis. Also present were Scott Norris as county counsel and Brenda Koenig as recorder.

**ABSENT:** Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer

Commissioner Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

*(Video Time 00:01:10)*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Beem:

- Mr. Beem would like agencies and families from different counties to participate in the Oregon State Fair; and
- He requested a county volunteer identification badge.

Commissioner Cameron read an email request from Terry Lynn Anderson on the record:

- Ms. Anderson believes the Scotts Mills Dam is a benefit to the community:
  - She would like to see non-destructive improvements made to the dam including the following:
    - Speed enforcement;
    - Transit time; and
    - Weight limits.

**PRESENTATION**

*(Video Time 00:13:20)*

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) update. –Katrina Rothenberger

- Ms. Rothenberger reported the following updates for the COVID-19 pandemic as of 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 5, 2021:
  - There have been an estimated 21,516 cumulative cases within the county from the start of the pandemic;

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- The current positivity rate is estimated to be 8.5 percent;
- An estimated 303 individuals have died from symptoms related to COVID-19; and
- An estimated 43 county residents are currently being hospitalized for symptoms related to COVID-19.
- The positivity rate has been averaging 8.5 percent since the beginning of pandemic;
- The bulk of the cases in Marion County are from:
  - Central Salem;
  - Northeast Salem;
  - South Salem;
  - Brooks; and
  - Keizer.
- Marion County is moving from extreme risk to high risk on Friday, May 7, 2021:
  - Restaurants and bars will be able to open for indoor service.
- The continuously changing metrics have been challenging to track;
- There has been a decrease in hospitalizations from the prior week;
- An estimated 37 percent of the total Marion County population has received at least one dose of the vaccine:
  - An estimated 47 percent of county citizens age 16 or older has received at least one dose of the vaccine:
    - An estimated 13 percent has received the first dose; and
    - An estimated 34 percent is fully vaccinated.
- Fully vaccinated is defined as at least two weeks after receipt of the second dose of the vaccine;
- Children between the ages of 12 and 15 will be eligible for the Pfizer vaccine starting Monday, May 10, 2021:
  - Parents must accompany children to the vaccination site.
- Individuals that have had COVID-19 are still encouraged to get vaccinated:
  - Immunity lasts longer and is stronger than natural immunity from the virus.
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations:
  - Fully vaccinated individuals may participate in the following activities without a mask:
    - Attending small outdoor gatherings;
    - Walking, running, hiking, and biking outdoors;
    - Dining at outdoor restaurants with fully vaccinated family and friends;
    - Attending outdoor gatherings with a mix of non-vaccinated and vaccinated individuals from multiple households; and
    - Attending large outdoor events such as concerts, parades, and sporting events:
      - Masks are still encouraged in these settings.

- Vaccination appointments are available at the Oregon State Fairgrounds and other mobile pop-up events in the community; and
- Cases of COVID-19 have increased in individuals between the ages of 20 and 29:
  - Individuals within this age group are encouraged to get vaccinated.

***Board discussion:***

- Employers are encouraging employees to get vaccinated; and
- Businesses are incentivizing vaccinations.

*(Video Time 00:13:25)*

**PROCLAMATION**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - ACTION**

1. Consider approval of a proclamation designating the month of May as Older Americans Month in Marion County. –Commissioner Danielle Bethell and Marilyn Daily-Blair, Center 50+ Director

***Summary of presentation:***

Commissioner Bethell:

- The pandemic taught us to cherish our older American population;
- Older Americans were greatly impacted by the pandemic:
  - They were isolated from family; but
  - They showed great resilience.
- The county owes a debt of gratitude for contributions made by older adults in the community.

Marilyn Daily-Blair:

- The volunteer structure provided by older adults has a value to the economy of \$77 billion nationwide;
- These individuals are committed to serving the community through:
  - Serving on budget committees;
  - Serving in schools;
  - They are small business owners; and
  - They volunteer with non-profits.
- In a normal year, over 425 Center 50+ volunteers give an estimated 100,000 hours of service to the community;
- Approximately 165 seniors in Marion County stepped forward during the COVID-19 pandemic to volunteer for the following:
  - Delivering meals;
  - Answering phones; and
  - Visiting other seniors.
- At the start of the pandemic and within a six-month period, volunteers:
  - Provided over 13,000 hours of service;

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- Served over 1,000 seniors a week; and
- Served in over 22 community care settings.
- Approximately 50 percent of the general Center 50+ population do not utilize modern technology as their main communication source;
- The center has found ways to encourage and facilitate participation without technology;
- Ms. Daily-Blair recognized the contributions of two members of the Center 50+ community:
  - Linda Schellenberg, President of Center 50+; and
  - Kristy Bowman, Center 50+ Volunteer of the Year.
- The center strives to keep the senior population safe, healthy, and engaged;
- They encourage seniors to connect with and help other seniors in their own neighborhoods;
- Senior loneliness and isolation is an epidemic; and
- Ms. Daily-Blair thanked the board for recognizing and valuing older adults.

***Board discussion:***

- The center is utilized for meetings and gatherings;
- There are many great activities available for older adults;
- It is important to serve others; and
- Seniors have a lot of experience to share.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bethell moved to approve a proclamation designating the month of May as Older Americans Month in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

The commissioners read the proclamation.

**CONSENT**

*(Video Time 00:28:35)*

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Schedule final consideration to adopt an administrative ordinance for May 12, 2021, for Comprehensive Plan Amendment/Zone Change/Property Line Adjustment (CP/ZC/PLA) Case #21-001/Wing Properties, LLC and Shane and Tracy Meyerhofer.

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

## ACTION

(Video Time 00:29:13)

### PUBLIC WORKS

2. Consider approval of a Purchase Order Agreement with Traffic Safety Supply Co. in the amount of \$117,768.29 for the one-time purchase of replacement school zone flasher equipment from the State of Washington Cooperative Contract.

–Lani Radtke and Don Alexander

#### **Summary of presentation:**

- School flashing beacons installed in school zones indicate when a school zone speed limit is enforceable;
- They are effective at getting motorist's attention and they increase compliance;
- The beacons are more closely tailored to school start and dismissal times and locations;
- The units are solar powered;
- They are remotely programmable;
- They are equipped with tattle tail lights for enforcement in both directions;
- They will replace obsolete technology that can no longer be repaired:
  - The beacons will reduce staff time spent on repairs that could be spent on other traffic safety needs.
- The county currently has 24 pairs of beacons located at 22 schools;
- The beacons are popular with schools and families;
- Updated technology will improve remote connections:
  - This will improve safety by allowing quick remote programming when emergency situations occur that change the regular school schedule.
- The county will implement a phased approach to replace the beacons over multiple years:
  - The current procurement is for ten pairs of beacons:
    - This is roughly half of the number of beacons needed.

Don Alexander:

- The county replaced almost all cell phone modems that connect with the beacons:
  - The cell phone carrier changed from Verizon to AT&T.
- The county made sure all existing school beacons were operational for the start of the school year; and
- Traffic control is required when using a bucket truck for repairs on older systems:
  - The county is working to relocate control cabinets so repairs are less cumbersome.

#### **Board discussion:**

- The beacons are important for the safety of children in school zones;
- The beacons are effective at slowing motorists down, which in turn reduces stopping distance;

- The City of Salem has implemented beacon arms:
  - The beacon arms act as an additional warning to motorists; and
  - They draw attention from far away.
- Ms. Radtke and Mr. Alexander will look into what the city is doing.


**MOTION:** Commissioner Bethell moved to approve the Purchase Order Agreement with Traffic Safety Supply Co. in the amount of \$117,768.29 for the one-time purchase of replacement school zone flasher equipment from the State of Washington Cooperative Contract. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.


**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

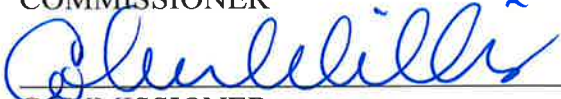
9:30 A.M.

None.

Commissioner Bethell read the calendar;  
Commissioner Cameron adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

  
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CHAIR

  
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COMMISSIONER

  
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COMMISSIONER

**Board Sessions can be viewed on-line at**  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSUQ1gg6M78UsBE3q6w4rdf59Z5rXkEi5>