



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# Management Update Minutes

**Thursday, September 19, 2019, 9:30 a.m.**

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem  
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Silverton Conference Room

## ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Kevin Cameron, Sam Brentano, and Colm Willis, Jan Fritz, Tom Rohlfiing, Tamra Goettsch, Rex Weisner, Scott Norris, Joe Fennimore, Dan Danicic, Brian May, Lanie Radtke, Nate Combs, Van Khieu, Justine Flora, Kathie Carter, Cynthia Granatir, Tom Kissinger, Barb Young, Lisa Trauernicht, Chad Ball, Jolene Kelley, and Kristy Witherell as recorder.

Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

## INFORMATIONAL:

### **Discuss Potential Refund Credit for Property Taxes**

- Tom Rohlfiing

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

- This is the first year the Assessor's Office has had a potential refund credit for property taxes;
- In the past, there was a different program to defer billing, but the legislature changed the process:
  - The taxpayer is now obligated to pay the amount disputed up front to the county, which gives them incentive to have the case settled.
- There are four utility companies that are appealing their property taxes in the amount of \$3 million total;
- Believes that it is wise to set up a potential refund credit account:
  - The Assessor's Office will deposit the disputed property taxes in the account until the case is settled.
- Instead of risking a large loss to the service districts, taxes can be collected and set aside into an account:
  - The treasurer would maintain the account; and
  - It would potentially earn interest.
- The recommendation from the Assessor's Office is to set money aside to cover the refunds; and
- The Assessor's Office will send letters to the taxing districts affected to let them know of the potentially smaller distribution than they otherwise would have received.

## **Non-MCLEA Health Plan Renewal Update**

- Justine Flora, Kathie Carter

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

- The Health Insurance Study Committee (HISC) has completed their recommendations for the 2020 health benefits;
- Open enrollment will be online this year through Elogic;
- The providers will be the same as last year:
  - PacificSource Health Plan;
  - Kaiser;
  - Delta Dental; and
  - Kaiser Dental.
- The final increase in benefits is 8.35 percent:
  - Increases are based on taxes and large health claims in 2019.
- There was a moratorium on the Health Insurer Fee, which is back for 2020:
  - Accounts for 2.6 percent of the increase;
  - It is a federal tax from the Affordable Care Act; and
  - The Health Insurer Fee for Kaiser is less due to it being a nonprofit company, and they are taxed at a different rate.
- Marion County uses a composite structure:
  - If the Cadillac Tax is incorporated, a tiered plan would be more cost effective for employees.
- One federally required change on the high deductible plan is an increase to the deductible:
  - In order to qualify to be considered as a high deductible health plan, the county is required raise the deductible:
    - The deductible will be going from \$1,350 individual to \$1,400 next year; and
    - From \$2,700 for family, to \$2,800 next year.
- HISC discussed changing the out-of-pocket maximum for the PacificSource PPO Plan, which increases the monthly premium;
- The group came to a unanimous vote to have no changes to the insurance plan;
- Options for the Kaiser Plan is to switch from a custom plan, to a shelf plan:
  - HISC would like to keep it at a custom plan.
- The HISC team decided not to make drastic changes to the healthcare plan for next year, because of the changes that happened this year;
- The HISC wants to see the plan mature for one more year;
- Employees have the choice to enroll in the high deductible health plan:
  - Has a lower out-of-pocket maximum;
  - Lower premium; and
  - The county makes a generous contribution to the deductible.

### ***Board discussion:***

- The HISC members insurance plans are confidential;
- If the PacificSource plan went from a \$15 copay for office visits to a \$25 copy, the increase to the employee would be 6.6 percent, instead of a 8.35 percent increase:
  - HISC acknowledged the savings, but decided to keep it the same coverage as this year; and

- If the copay was changed to \$25 a month, the overall savings would be \$325 a year to the employee.
- The commissioners would like to see a high deductible plan that has a zero employee contribution; and
- The commissioners would like a work session to be scheduled to look at all of the health care plan options.

### **Discuss Beekeeping in Residential Zones**

- Joe Fennimore, Scott Norris

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

- The board initiated a resolution for code amendments to consider allowing beekeeping in residential zones, subject to certain standards, and refer the matter to the planning commission for a public hearing and a recommendation:
  - The hearing was held on August 20, 2019;
  - The recommendation is to adopt the same standards that the City of Salem adopted:
    - Up to five hives;
    - Can have up to seven hives from April through August;
    - Have to keep the area clean;
    - Provide water; and
    - Provide a barrier to keep them from going into the neighbor's yard.
- Staff is recommending that the board amend the Marion County Code, Title 8, which outlines rules on having animals;
- It will be a two-step process:
  - One ordinance to amend the zone code; and
  - The other ordinance to adopt the ordinance with those standards.
- The public hearing is scheduled for October 9;
- There were a couple of beekeepers that showed up to the public hearing with the planning commission; and
- The amendment to the zone code has to take place after the public hearing.

### **Review Joel Conder's Reappointment to the Marion County Fair Board**

- Tamra Goettsch

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

- Last year, the Marion County Fair Board began looking at appointments a bit late;
- One or two members of the fair board have their terms expire each year;
- This year there are two members terms expiring at the end of this year:
  - Joel Conder and Heidi DeCoster.
- Ms. DeCoster is not seeking reappointment, but would like to help with the public competitions at the fair;
- Joel Conder is interested in continuing to serve and the Marion County Fair Board supports his reappointment;
- Ms. Goettsch will be looking to fill the vacancy on the fair board through the key volunteers; and
- Consideration for appointments will be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

**Board discussion:**

- The commissioners are appreciative of Mr. Conder's hard work on the fair board.

**Review of Proposed Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Materials Management Grant Application/Materials Management Taskforce**

- Brian May, Thomas Kissinger

**Summary of presentation:**

- The last Solid Waste Management Plan Effort was adopted in November 2009;
- There has been a lot of changes in the recycling industry and the China market;
- In the last three years, there has been a significant increase in solid waste;
- Some Marion County facilities are at capacity, while others are underutilized;
- In December 2017, Marion County accepted the Solid Waste and Energy Final Report from Gershman, Brickner, and Bratton (GBB) that gave a synopsis of the system and waste disposal options;
- The county identified a grant opportunity through DEQ for materials management planning to help fund a potential master plan effort;
- DEQ has come out with their 2050 vision:
  - Issued the framework for action in 2012, and are looking for partners to implement the framework;
  - The systems within the state needs to begin conforming to the vision in order to meet DEQ's goals;
  - DEQ provided a framework that includes the following:
    - Policy and regulations recommendations;
    - Focusing heavily on collaboration and partnerships; and
    - One of the key scoring criteria's is that the county partners with a community based organization that is a new partnership.
- Public Works presented to the Solid Waste Management Advisory Council (SWMAC), highlighting the intention of the grant;
- Public Works is in the process of a feasibility study and facility analysis:
  - The feasibility study will head directly into a Facilities Master Plan, which will take the recommendations from the feasibility study, and develop a plan for implementation of the recommendations; and
  - Public Works will work on a Materials Management Plan, which will replace the Solid Waste Management Plan from 2009:
    - It will have six phases:
      - Internal planning and research;
      - Identify values and principles;
      - A taskforce, which will be a subcommittee of SWMAC that will set the vision and goals for the plan;
      - System analysis;
      - Strategy building; and
      - Plan adoption.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in June 2019:
  - The goal was to find a consultant who can examine and analyze the current system:
    - Identify ideal attributes of the future system; and
    - Provide recommendations for system improvements.

- GBB was awarded the contract and has been working on the facilities analysis since August 2019:
  - This will focus on issues with capacity at transfer stations;
  - Look at growth throughout the county; and
  - Impacts of not using Covanta.
- Public Works met with GBB on August 20 and 21, 2019, to discuss the project plan:
  - Staff toured the sites with GBB:
    - Salem-Keizer Transfer Station;
    - North Marion Transfer Station;
    - Brown's Island;
    - Covanta;
    - Marion Resource Recovery Facility; and
    - Garten.
  - Staff provided data for their analysis portion of the systems:
    - Staff anticipates that the draft report will be completed by December 2019, and reviewed by SWMAC; and
    - Will bring it to the board to review in early 2020.
- Public Works is preparing for the short legislative session in February 2020;
- The grant application is due on October 4, 2019;
- Public Works will have SWMAC look at the application before it is submitted;
- The Finance Department will review the grant application once it is completed; and
- Public Works will be notified in December 2019, if they are awarded the grant:
  - The money will be available in March 2020.

***Board discussion:***

- The board would like to see the draft by December; and
- DEQ recognizes Covanta higher than a landfill in their waste hierarchy.

**East Park Estates Development Agreement Update**

- Daniel Danicic

***Summary of presentation:***

- A developer is developing the old PictSweet property along Cordon Road and State Street:
  - Wants to annex the property into the City of Salem;
  - The county entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the developer:
    - Their development will affect county facilities in the future:
      - Transportation; and
      - Stormwater.
    - Will continue to work together cooperatively to solve the impacts of their development.
- The developer submitted a development proposal to the City of Salem;
- The development will happen in six phases, over ten years;
- Involves residential, not commercial pieces;
- Multifamily area, with a small commercial piece;
- The City of Salem attached conditions of approval:

- Required that the developer enter into a development agreement with the county;
- Construct the Auburn Road signal;
- Make improvements to Cordon Road and State Street signal;
- Build a multi-use path along Cordon Road; and
- Dedicate right-of-way along Cordon Road.
- The City of Salem Planning Commission held a public hearing on the matter:
  - No opposition;
  - Two neighborhood association representatives attended the meeting and did not raise concerns; and
  - Late submittals of written comments and have left the record open.
- The concept of the agreement is to address areas of impact to the county:
  - Offsite intersection impacts:
    - Beyond the perimeter of this development, the traffic can affect other intersections to a small degree:
      - Marion County wants the developer to share proportionately in the cost to update the infrastructure on Cordon Road.
- The developer is motivated to move ahead with the project and agreed with the conditions that have been proposed.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### **Update**

- Jolene Kelley

- Ms. Kelley gave a brief update of upcoming scheduled events and communications activities.

## COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND UPDATE:

Kevin Cameron:

- The Marion County Reentry Initiative Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>:
  - Enough sponsorships to cover the cost; and
  - 315 people registered to date.

Colm Willis:

- Attended the Marion County Housing Initiative meeting on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

COMPLETED BY: **Kristy Witherell**

Reviewed by: *Joanna Ritchie*