



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# Management Update Minutes

**Monday, May 4, 2020, 9:00 a.m.**

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem  
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Boardroom

## ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Colm Willis, Sam Brentano, and Kevin Cameron, Jan Fritz, Jane Vetto, Tom Rohlfing, Laurie Steele, Brian Nicholas, Rex Weisner, Melissa Rounds, 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 the County's Statutory Requirement to Charge Interest on Late Tax Payments**

- Jane Vetto

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

- Commissioner Cameron received an email from Representative Clem who received an email from Peter Truitt, who owns Truitt Properties and Front Street Properties;
- The email from Mr. Truitt stated that he is currently being charged interest on unpaid balances for Marion County property taxes;
- He also stated that because the governor has restricted renters from paying rent during COVID-19, he is delinquent on his property tax payments;
- He is asking that the interest be lifted;
- The interest on delayed tax payments is statutory, which means that the county does not have authority to waive it;
- The governor has received this request and so far she has deferred the commercial and private income tax until July 2020;
- She has not delayed property tax relief;
- The county needs to respond to the letter that this is not a county issue, this is a state issue; and
- The late property tax fees were attached before COVID-19.

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

- The commissioners would like Legal Counsel to draft a letter to Peter Truitt stating what the county's policy is regarding property tax payments and send copies to Brian Clem and Senator Courtney; and
- The county needs to guard themselves from state issues.

## **COVID-19 Update:**

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

- COVID-19 cases in Marion County:
  - On Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, there were 17 cases;
  - On Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, there were 17 cases;
  - On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, there were 24 cases;
  - There was one new death over the weekend; and
  - Marion County had the highest cases statewide per capita over the weekend.
- Reviewing the Community Roadmap to Reopening Marion County:
  - The commissioners would like to reopen Marion County on May 15<sup>th</sup>;
  - The commissioners will have a call on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> with the Governor;
  - The commissioners would like to vote on a resolution to open the county at Wednesday's Board Session;
  - The commissioners need to have time to go through the plan in detail;
  - The commissioners would like to focus on contact tracers and hospital capacity within the plan;
  - The resolution will state that the plan is fluid and flexible; and
  - Ms. Young will share the Reopening Roadmap with the cities within Marion County and ask for feedback.

### COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND UPDATE:

Sam Brentano:

- Attended the Northwest Seniors and Disabilities Services Meeting:
  - Asked Tonya De Hart to make a presentation at Board Session for a proclamation for Older Americans Month in Marion County;
  - There is an increased demand for senior services;
  - The Warrenton office was just paid off, which makes \$170,000 a year available for senior services; and
  - Getting fewer referrals, but financial abuse is ongoing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

COMPLETED BY: **Kristy Witherell**

*Reviewed by:* *Joanna Ritchie*