

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Senator Hearing Room
555 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

PRESENT: Commissioner Danielle Bethell and Commissioner Colm Willis. Also present were Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer, Jane Vetto as county counsel, and Brenda Koenig as recorder.

ABSENT: Commissioner Kevin Cameron

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

(Video Time 00:08:42)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Krause:

- Mr. Krause expressed concerns with the homeless population:
 - Individuals are operating under primitive instincts to survive on the streets;
 - Many were raised where unemployment was high;
 - Individuals experiencing homelessness may be depressed;
 - Individuals may be bored and turning to drug usage; and
 - The behavior of an individual experiencing homelessness is not unnatural to organized society.

(Video Time 00:12:05)

Motion: Commissioner Willis moved to remove agenda Item # 9 under Public Works to consider the incoming funds Grant Agreement with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Underserved, Rural Community Population and Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:12:30)

CONSENT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Committee Appointment – Ambulance Service Area Advisory Committee

1. Approve orders appointing Melvin Peterson, and reappointing Brian Butler, Mike Berger, and Shawn Baird to the Marion County Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Advisory Committee with terms ending on January 31, 2027; and appointing Jim Walker to the ASA Advisory Committee with an ending term date of January 31, 2025.

Board Committee Appointment – Solid Waste Management Advisory Council

2. Approve orders reappointing Brian Sund as a Citizen-At-Large and William Posegate as a Recycling Industry Representative to the Marion County Solid Waste Management Advisory Council (SWMAC) with terms ending December 31, 2027.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

3. Approve an order authorizing the Marion County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to execute and authorize payments under the Marion County Down Payment Assistance Program in an amount up to \$125,000 for each application.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

4. Approve an order to adopt a new discovery fee schedule as referenced in Exhibit A, for fees charged by the Marion County District Attorney’s Office effective March 1, 2024.

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

(Video Time 00:13:46)

ACTION

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Committee Appointment – Budget Committee

5. Consider approval of an order appointing Patrick Vance to the Marion County Budget Committee with a term ending June 30, 2026. –Jeff White

Summary of presentation:

Jeff White:

- Mr. Vance has served on the Marion County Budget Committee since 1999;
- He has served as the budget committee chair for multiple years;
- Mr. Vance has agreed to serve another term on the committee;
- The Marion County Budget Committee consists of six members:
 - Three citizen members; and

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- Three county commissioners.
- Committee term dates are staggered with a single appointment every year.

Patrick Vance:

- Citizen participation in government is important no matter how small:
 - This keeps individuals informed about government.
- Marion County has many volunteers, donating multiple hours of service on various committees; and
- Citizen participation helps to balance committees that contain elected officials and government staff.

Board discussion:

- Commissioner Bethell expressed her appreciation to Mr. Vance for his many years of service to Marion County on multiple committees including:
 - The Marion County Health Advisory Board; and
 - The Marion County Sheriff's Advisory Committee:
 - Both committees are instrumental to the work that the commissioners do;
 - Having a public voice on the committees for two departments, that may be the most impactful to county citizens, is invaluable; and
 - Serving on a committee can provide insight into the work that is being performed by the county.
- Commissioner Willis expressed the following:
 - He appreciates Mr. Vance's years of experience that he brings to committee appointments;
 - He is very knowledgeable and understands the budget process;
 - He appreciates Mr. Vance's love of self-government;
 - Individuals can experience burnout and become cynical and frustrated after multiple years of service, but Mr. Vance is still enthusiastic about his work; and
 - It is important for individuals to keep their optimism.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to approve an order appointing Patrick Vance to the Marion County Budget Committee with a term ending June 30, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:19:27)

COMMUNITY SERVICES

6. Consider approval of the Subrecipient Agreement with United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley in the amount of \$200,000 to provide funding assistance to support the expanded operations at the United Way SafeSleep Shelter retroactive to July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026. –Steve Dickey

Summary of presentation:

- The agreement with United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley will assist with the expansion of services for the SafeSleep Shelter;
- The shelter is currently able to accommodate 20 unsheltered women, or women with children, that are seeking a safe place to sleep;
- Without the shelter, individuals may be sleeping on a street in an unsafe environment;
- The expansion will provide accommodations for up to 40 individuals; and
- The funding will assist with additional staffing and supplies for the increased accommodation.

Board discussion:

- This is one of the most vulnerable and valuable county programs;
- SafeSleep United is located inside the City of Salem limits:
 - Typically, the county cannot utilize Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding within the City of Salem because the city has its own program;
 - SafeSleep United serves individuals from across Marion County and not just within the City of Salem; and
 - A countywide client base has provided the county with the opportunity to invest CDBG funding to assist with the shelter expansion.
- Citizens are encouraged to reach out to United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley to fully understand the work being done;
- Women who are street level homeless are harmed daily by individuals in their environment:
 - SafeSleep United helps to prevent assaults; and
 - It is important to protect vulnerable individuals in communities.
- The county has been working to resolve assaults in homeless camps for multiple years;
- The expansion is important to help keep people safe in communities; and
- The organization provides case management that helps support and stabilize women.

Motion: Commissioner Willis move to approve the Subrecipient Agreement with United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley in the amount of \$200,000 to provide funding assistance to support the expanded operations at the United Way SafeSleep Shelter retroactive to July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:24:31)

7. Consider approval of the Architecture and Engineering Standard Professional Services Agreement with Maul Foster and Alongi Inc. in the amount of \$221,554 to provide engineering and permitting services for the Detroit Marinas Excavation and Resiliency Project through December 31, 2026. –Lari Rupp

Summary of presentation:

- The contract with Maul Foster and Alongi Inc. will provide engineering and permitting for Phase 2 of the Detroit Marinas Excavation and Resiliency Project;
- The project supports long-term economic recovery in the North Santiam Canyon;
- The project includes the excavation 162,000 yards of sediment beneath two commercial marinas at Detroit Lake and assists with the following:
 - Maintaining an annual summer lake season starting May 1 and ending October 1; and
 - Supporting the local economy.
- It is estimated that the project will create \$1.2 million annually in both direct and indirect economic activity throughout the region;
- It is estimated there will be \$14.6 million in economic gain over the next 20 years;
- The excavated sediment may be utilized to expand and extend out the Osprey Point peninsula from the Detroit Flats Day Use Area;
- Potential impacts to the City of Detroit include:
 - Supports the city’s recovering economy by extending the summer tourism season;
 - Creates a new destination for residents and visitors by offering:
 - Pedestrian boating and non-boating activities; and
 - Access to an existing island when water levels are low for fishing and pedestrian activity.
 - Provides a safe boating experience by blocking existing shallow water hazards between two channels;
 - Generates economic activity by increasing pedestrian and vehicle traffic in the city; and
 - Creates positive changes to local wildlife habitats.
- Phase 2 of the project entails:
 - Engineering;
 - Permitting support;
 - Pre-final design;
 - Final design and bid documents; and
 - Bid phase assistance.
- The project is currently being funded by a combination of federal, state, and local sources including:
 - An American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation:
 - The allocation as a December 31, 2026, deadline.
 - A congressionally directed spending request from 2023;

- A Business Oregon grant that is utilizing the Brownfields Redevelopment fund; and
- Marion County Economic Development Program funds.
- Staff recommends the board approve the contract with Maul Foster and Alongi Inc. in the amount of \$221,554.

Board discussion:

- The county’s excavation timeline is dependent on permitting response times;
- There are multiple agencies at the national and state level that are involved in the project;
- The county hopes to excavate in the 2025-2026 drawdown period;
- If permitting times can be expedited, then excavations may begin in winter 2024;
- The project schedule is driven by the ARPA funding expiration deadline;
- The United States Forest Service (USFS) is not the lead agency for the project;
- Permitting authorities include:
 - The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD);
 - The United States Army Corp of Engineers; and
 - The National Marine Fisheries Service.
- The contract with Maul Foster and Alongi Inc. will provide funding through the engineering and permitting process; and
- Commissioner Bethell requested a memo be drafted expressing the importance of the project for an upcoming meeting with HUD.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to approve the Architecture and Engineering Standard Professional Services Agreement with Maul Foster and Alongi Inc. in the amount of \$221,554 to provide engineering and permitting services for the Detroit Marinas Excavation and Resiliency Project through December 31, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:31:32)

8. Consider approval of Amendment #6 to the Contract for Services with Keller Associates to add \$705,367 for a new contract amount of \$3,255,426 for public relations, project management, basin pilot testing, and additional septic system design tasks for the North Santiam Canyon Sewer Project through December 31, 2026. –Chris Einmo

Summary of presentation:

- Amendment #6 increases the contract by \$705,367;
- The amendment expands the scope of services provided by Keller Associates to include a field pilot test of an infiltration basin:
 - The basin is essential to the proposed sewer service plant that will serve the City of Mill City and the City of Gates;

- It will allow the effluent generated by the plant to be disposed into the groundwater in a safe and responsible manner; and
- The purpose of the field pilot test is to determine:
 - Travel time;
 - Discharge sustainability; and
 - Confirm the groundwater modeling using real-time field data:
 - A small basin will be constructed on the proposed site;
 - The basin will be filled with tap water to determine how the water travels; and
 - The information will be compared to the modeling results.
- The process will support the county's water pollution control facility permit application with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ);
- The contract allows for public relations support to help staff keep up with public engagement for the following cities:
 - Mills City;
 - Gates;
 - Detroit; and
 - Idanha.
- The contract with Keller Associates will also provide for field research and support before the county engages in engineering design including:
 - Topographic surveys;
 - Geotechnical analysis; and
 - Environmental and cultural clearances.
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding will be utilized for the project; and
- Staff does not anticipate any other funding sources being impacted.

Board discussion:

- It can take multiple months for the water to penetrate and travel to the river;
- Staff will be able to monitor the water travel rate to obtain early preliminary data that will support the county's application:
 - Staff will continue to collect data throughout the year; and
 - The additional collected information will provide follow-up data for the DEQ.
- The DEQ will decide based on the preliminary data:
 - The county will submit the application based on the computer modeling alone;
 - The permit application may move forward with just the preliminary computer modeling data; but
 - The DEQ would like the county to continue to collect the data for the long-term support to hold the permit.
- The county will contract with Keller Associates for public relations support:
 - Keller Associates will outsource with another firm to provide additional support; and
 - The public relations campaign will extend through 2026.

- The commissioners requested information on staff's plans for public outreach for the project.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to approve Amendment #6 to the Contract for Services with Keller Associates to add \$705,367 for a new contract amount of \$3,255,426 for public relations, project management, basin pilot testing, and additional septic system design tasks for the North Santiam Canyon Sewer Project through December 31, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:12:05)

9. Consider approval of the incoming funds Grant Agreement with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) in the amount of \$216,000 for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Underserved, Rural Community Population and Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment through March 14, 2025. –Greg Walsh

(Motion made and approved to remove item #9 from the Board Session Agenda.)

(Video Time 00:37:38)

10. Consider approval of the incoming funds Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) agreement with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) in the amount of \$113,083 for the reimbursement of Marion County Emergency Management program expenses through June 30, 2024. –Greg Walsh

Summary of presentation:

- The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) agreement is with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM);
- The incoming funds grant agreement is for \$113,083; and
- The grant is for the reimbursement of expenses for the Marion County Emergency Management program:
 - The annual grant provides additional support for the program; and
 - It encourages continued development throughout the program.

Board discussion:

- The state funding helps support the county's emergency management program.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to approve the incoming funds Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) agreement with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) in the amount of \$113,083 for the reimbursement of Marion County Emergency Management program expenses through June 30, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:39:06)

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

None.

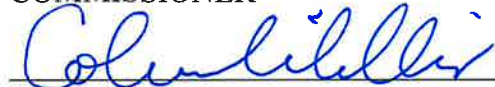
Commissioner Bethell adjourned the meeting at 39:41 a.m.

Not Present At Meeting

CHAIR



COMMISSIONER



COMMISSIONER

Board Sessions can be viewed on-line at

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