

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

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 Cody Walterman as county counsel and Brenda Koenig as recorder.

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

Commissioner Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

*(Video Time 00:07:41)*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Beem:

- Mr. Beem expressed the following:
  - He is a spokesman for individuals with disabilities;
  - He is concerned for individuals with disabilities who live near the wildfires and their ability to leave in an emergency; and
  - He would like an emergency evacuation plan for individuals with disabilities.

***Board discussion:***

- Marion County received \$1 million from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to create a database for individuals with disabilities for emergency management; and
- In the event of an emergency, individuals should be in the database so that emergency responders can go and engage to get them out.

*(Video Time 00:09:34)*

**CONSENT**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**1. OLCC License – Recommended Approval**

Whitaker Wine Group – St. Paul, Oregon

## PUBLIC WORKS

2. Receive notice of the hearings officer's decision denying Conditional Use (CU)  
Case #24-006/Joy Blackman Revocable Trust.

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

*(Video Time 00:10:12)*

## **ACTION**

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

3. Consider approval of the Subrecipient Agreement with the Union Gospel Mission (UGM) to provide HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant funding in the amount of \$1,463,481 to assist with the Simonka Place for Women and Children Renovation Project retroactive to July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027. –Steve Dickey; and Dan Clem, Bryce Petersen, Kathy Smith, and Jodi Hack, Union Gospel Mission of Salem

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

Steve Dickey:

- The Subrecipient Agreement with the Union Gospel Mission (UGM) is for the Simonka Place for Women and Children renovation;
- This project has been in the works for an extended period of time; and
- There have multiple detailed discussions with both the board and the UGM regarding the project.

Dan Clem:

- Mr. Clem is the Executive Director for the UGM of Salem;
- Mr. Clem presented a plant to the Marion County Community Services team that symbolizes growth:
  - The plant will be planted when the new building is occupied.
- In 1968, June Simonka established the first women's shelter on the west coast;
- The shelter is expanding from 86 beds to 97 beds;
- The expansion will predominantly be for families;
- Currently children use their rooms, hallways and the courtyard to play:
  - The expansion will provide the children with more space to live and thrive while their mothers are receiving help to improve their lives.
- UGM wants to address homelessness by adding beds;
- Currently there is not enough space, and individuals are being turned away;
- The projects timeline entails:
  - Starting architect and engineering design;
  - Fund-raising events;
  - Construction beginning in April 2025; and
  - Construction completed in October 2025 before the arrival of cold weather.

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- Simonka Place for Women and Children provides educational classes; and
- Future generations will benefit from the expansion:
  - This is a one-time investment, but for many it is a lifetime investment;
  - It is an economically distressed area;
  - The investment will lift people and the community up; and
  - The impact to new lives will be incalculable.

Bryce Petersen:

- Mr. Petersen is the Board of Directors, Chair, for the UGM of Salem;
- Mr. Petersen expressed his appreciation to the board and staff for their work and support;
- There have been several meetings where the details and specifics of the grant have been discussed; and
- The UGM is excited to move forward with the project.

Jodi Hack:

- Ms. Hack is the Board of Directors, Vice-Chair, for the UGM of Salem;
- Ms. Hack expressed her appreciation to the board and staff for their work and support;
- Amazing work happens every day at Simonka Place for Women and Children; and
- Providing more space for children and mothers is greatly needed.

Kathy Smith:

- Ms. Smith is the Director for the UGM of Salem, Simonka Place for Women and Children;
- Seventy-four women and children were sheltered in the facility the previous night;
- The expansion will provide more space and opportunity for more women to experience life change;
- The fiscal year for UGM is from September 1st to August 31st:
  - In the last 11 months 149 women have found permanent, stable, and safe housing; and
  - This includes an additional 42 children.
- These numbers will continue to grow with the county's support; and
- Every woman and child staying at Simonka Place for Women and Children are grateful to be there:
  - It is not a five-star hotel;
  - It is not a homeless shelter; but
  - It is a home:
    - The women and children see it as their home until they can move into permanent housing.

**Board discussion:**

- Commissioner Cameron expressed the following:
  - Finding permanent housing is a critical need in the community;
  - There are many organizations that work on housing needs; and
  - The UGM's results speak for themselves.
- Commissioner Bethell expressed the following:
  - The UGM relies on multiple funding sources;
  - Navigating the hurdles that come with government funding and the strings that come with government funding is uncomfortable for organizations that rely on their neighbors;
  - She is grateful to the UGM board for making the commitment to navigate the grant process;
  - This renovation will impact multiple generations;
  - Youth is a small part of life, but what a child remembers is usually how they will live their lives; and
  - Staying in a warm, safe home, surrounded by love will make a huge difference in a child's life.
- Commissioner Willis expressed the following:
  - Children do not have political action committees;
  - Children do not have lobbyist;
  - It is a testament to every community when adults get together and give their time to take care of the children in our communities;
  - Communities stand up for children that have been victims of abuse or youth who are homeless;
  - He is grateful for the following:
    - Being part of a community where taking care of the children in our communities is who we are;
    - For the integrity of the UGM and the way that they conduct themselves:
      - Organizations that have integrity stand out.
    - To the UGM for partnering with the county to do this work for the women and children in our communities that need us.
  - It is important to take care of everyone in our community especially those individuals that need a hand up for a bit of time.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Willis moved to approve the Subrecipient Agreement with the Union Gospel Mission (UGM) to provide HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant funding in the amount of \$1,463,481 to assist with the Simonka Place for Women and Children Renovation Project retroactive to July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:31:13)*

#### PUBLIC WORKS

4. Consider approval of the Standard Professional Services Contract with Cushing Civil Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$768,675 for the design of civil site improvements at various radio communication sites associated with the Marion County Public Safety Radio Project through December 31, 2027. –Brian Nicholas

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

- The current public safety radio system utilized by the Marion County Sheriff's Office is being replaced;
- The project entails building a radio system that will have the capacity to serve all first responder agencies within the county;
- There are 17 sites in the system:
  - They are not all broadcast and receive sites; and
  - Some of the sites are just network sites including the following:
    - The public works building; and
    - The courthouse:
      - These sites are still part of the radio system.
- The contracts funding breakdown entails the following:
  - An estimated \$638,000 is for engineering and permitting core services and required tasks at each of the sites; and
  - An estimated \$130,000 is for contingency tasks that will be performed if the need arises:
    - Staff is hoping to keep the contract funding expense around \$640,000.

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

- The project and the contract with Cushing Civil Engineers, Inc. was discussed in detail at a prior Management Update meeting;
- The contract is part of a bigger project and is the next step in the process;
- A large percentage of the project will utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding:
  - Many ARPA projects need to be completed in 2026; and
  - The project will require follow-up work so the term date was extended.


**Motion:** Commissioner Bethell move to approve the Standard Professional Services Contract with Cushing Civil Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$768,675 for the design of civil site improvements at various radio communication sites associated with the Marion County Public Safety Radio Project through December 31, 2027. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.


*(Video Time 00:35:20)*


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

None.

Commissioner Cameron adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

  
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CHAIR

  
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COMMISSIONER

  
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COMMISSIONER

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