

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, August 21, 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 Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer, Scott Norris as county counsel, and Brenda Koenig as recorder.

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

(Video Time 00:04:45)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

(Video Time 00:04:51)

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to add an item to the agenda: Consider approval of an ordinance to allow eligible properties to be subject to special assessments pursuant to Chapter 94, Oregon Laws 2024 (Senate Bill 1545 (2024)); repealing Marion County ordinance #1473; and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Board discussion:

- Commissioner Willis expressed the following:
 - This is a tax exemption for the burned properties in the Santiam Canyon; and
 - He would like to show his support by voting for the ordinance.

(Video Time 00:05:37)

PRESENTATION

1. Dolly Parton Imagination Library presentation. –Kellie Weese and Margie Lowe, Marion and Polk Early Learning Hub, Inc.

Summary of presentation:

Kellie Weese:

- Ms. Lowe of Marion and Polk Early Learning Hub, Inc. (MPELH) is here to provide a report on the work being done to bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to Marion County families;
- The county has a grant agreement with the Marion and Polk Early Learning Hub, Inc.;
- The agreement allocates \$30,000 annually for three years; and
- The county will utilize economic development funds received from the Oregon Lottery for the contract.

Margie Lowe:

- Ms. Lowe expressed the following:
 - The organization started by serving only four zip codes in the following cities:
 - Salem;
 - Keizer;
 - Independence; and
 - Falls City.
 - MPELH now serves all of Marion and Polk counties;
 - Youth in Marion County have a lower reading level rate;
 - Children who don't read well by the end of grade three have a lower chance of graduating from high school and going onto secondary education;
 - Education is critical to the economic development of communities;
 - Marion County has helped to fund nine additional zip codes;
 - The program is available for children up to the age of five;
 - A child receives a free, age-appropriate book every month with no cost to the family;
 - Books include a leaflet to help build a child's reading skills;
 - The state has provided additional resources to focus on child literacy skills:
 - MPELH will collaborate with community partners to expand the resources.
 - The program is shared in various ways including:
 - Schools;
 - Social media; and
 - Various events.
 - There are currently 6,069 children enrolled in the program;
 - It can take 8-12 weeks for a child to receive their first book;

- MPELH's program is running at 156 percent of the national model registration rate:
 - The organization's outreach is more extensive than other affiliates.
- Every community in Marion County is currently in the program;
- MPELH's first fundraising event is scheduled in September:
 - Multiple community businesses are helping to sponsor the event.
- There are 17,000 children that are not in the program;
- Signing up for the program is easy and takes five minutes;
- The state has a match program that was started in May:
 - The Dollywood Foundation that runs the program nationally, reduced MPELH's bill by 50 percent; and
 - The foundation sent the other 50 percent to the state.
- Some states receive books that are bilingual:
 - Oregon will have this option once all the state's zip codes are enrolled in the program;
 - There are five Oregon counties that do not have all the zip codes enrolled in the program;
 - The state had a program that helped establish the program in rural communities; and
 - Dolly Parton will perform a show in Oregon once all statewide zip codes are enrolled.

Board discussion:

- The county's efforts and suggestions to help advertise the program include:
 - Drafting a press release with a QR code that directs families to the program;
 - Marion County Health and Human Services (MCHHS) has multiple programs and locations that can help promote the program;
 - Displaying posters in English and Spanish in various locations throughout the county where the public interacts;
 - The county has 20 unincorporated cities all with city councils that have a public comment period where the program can be presented; and
 - Clifford the Big Red Dog talked about the program and distributed information at the Marion County Fair.
- Marion County has a diverse population that speaks different languages:
 - The cities of Salem and Keizer have 96 languages that are spoken;
 - Youth are trying to navigate their native language and English at the same time; and
 - The goal of statewide enrollment hinders communities.
- Children at home need an option to continue to learn.

(Video Time 00:29:37)

CONSENT

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

2. Approve Amendment #1 to the incoming funds Grant Agreement with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to increase funding in the amount of \$203,680 for the Marion County Adult Drug Court, for a new contract total of \$549,312 through March 31, 2026.
3. Approve Amendment #1 to the incoming funds Grant Agreement with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to increase funding in the amount of \$54,742 for the Marion County Family Treatment Court, for a new contract total of \$214,474 through March 31, 2026.
4. Approve Amendment #1 to the incoming funds Grant Agreement with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to increase funding in the amount of \$31,778 for the Marion County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court, for a new contract total of \$192,218 through March 31, 2026.
5. Approve Amendment #1 to the incoming funds Grant Agreement with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to increase funding in the amount of \$74,501 for the Marion County Mental Health Court, for a new contract total of \$345,569 through March 31, 2026.
6. Approve Amendment #1 to the incoming funds Grant Agreement with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to increase funding in the amount of \$64,477 for the Marion County Veterans' Treatment Court, for a new contract total of \$208,485 through March 31, 2026.
7. Approve Amendment #1 to the Purchase Order with Redwood Toxicology Laboratory to add \$58,758 for a new Purchase Order total of \$123,558 to provide urinalysis testing for the Marion County Adult Drug Court through December 31, 2025.

HUMAN RESOURCES

8. Approve the recommendation to update the classification and adjust the pay grade upward for class codes #010, Office Specialist 1; #011, Office Specialist 2; #012, Office Specialist 3; #013, Office Specialist 4; #025, Administrative Assistant; #046, Treasury Specialist; #200, Juvenile Probation Officer Trainee; #201, Juvenile Probation Officer; #284, Administrative Assistant (Sheriff's Office); #287, Management Analyst 1 (Sheriff's Office); and #655, Management Analyst 1; and update the classification and uphold the pay grades for class code #288, Management Analyst 2 (Sheriff's Office); and #656, Management Analyst 2.

TREASURERS OFFICE

9. Approve an order for the distribution of Oregon State Forestry timber revenues, as referenced in Exhibit A, in the amount of \$6,190.67 per ORS Chapter 530.

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

(Video Time 00:32:49)

ACTION

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

10. Consider approval of the Purchase Order with School Health Corporation in the amount of \$376,500 to provide critical care and medical equipment for emergency response kits through June 30, 2027. –Ryan Matthews

Summary of presentation:

- The Purchase Order (PO) with School Health Corporation is for \$376,500;
- The PO will provide emergency response kits for the county’s Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) population;
- Marion County received one-time American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in the amount of \$753,000 to prepare the IDD population that was disproportionately impacted by the 2020 wildfires and ice storms;
- The contract provides families with the opportunity to stock up on some of the following:
 - Emergency supplies; and
 - Power generators and stations that help support medical equipment.
- The county received a portion of the funding in April;
- The \$376,500 is for the purchasing and delivery of the kits to families;
- The emergency kits will include:
 - Batteries;
 - Flashlights;
 - Emergency food;
 - Bottled water; and
 - First aid kits.
- The School Health Corporation can provide the ready-made kits;
- IDD families that wanted to participate went through a grant application process:
 - Interested individuals choose which type of kit best fits their needs;
 - The county reached out to 2,850 enrolled individuals; and
 - An estimated 1,715 individuals responded back expressing interest.
- The remaining ARPA funding will be utilized in the upcoming months once the needs of the IDD population has been identified; and
- The supplies help to support the IDD population in the event of an emergency.

Board discussion:

- This request was previously discussed at a Management Update meeting;
- A resident from a prior meeting requested a mapping resource that supports the IDD population in an emergency situation;

- The more proactive the county is in supporting individuals with IDD, then the better they are to responding to emergency situations;
- Resources to support individuals with IDD can be expensive; and
- This funding will make a difference in their lives.

MOTION: Commissioner Bethell moved to approve the Purchase Order with School Health Corporation in the amount of \$376,500 to provide critical care and medical equipment for emergency response kits through June 30, 2027. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:38:22)

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Consider approval of an ordinance to allow eligible properties to be subject to special assessments pursuant to Chapter 94, Oregon Laws 2024 (Senate Bill 1545 (2024)); repealing Marion County ordinance #1473; and declaring an emergency.

–Scott Norris (**Motion made and approved to add this item to the agenda**)

Summary of presentation:

- The proposed ordinance will adopt the provisions of Chapter 94, Oregon Laws 2024:
 - This was Senate Bill 1545 in the 2024 legislature.
- The bill allows for special assessment for rebuilt homesteads that were destroyed by the 2020 wildfires;
- The provisions of the ordinance are identical to Marion County's ordinance #1473:
 - This ordinance will repeal ordinance #1473 at the same time that it is adopted; and
 - This will allow for continuity and no gap in the effective dates of the two ordinances.
- The ordinance is proposed to be adopted by emergency procedure:
 - The board will first vote to read the ordinance by title once;
 - The board will then vote to adopt the ordinance; and
 - If approved the ordinance will take effect immediately.
- There have been 40 applications submitted for the program so far;
- The program has been well received; and
- Homes that qualify for refunds will be processed by the Marion County Tax Collector.

Board discussion:

- It was requested that refund balances be tracked.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved that the chair read the proposed ordinance by title once. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Cameron read the title of the ordinance once.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to approve an ordinance to allow eligible properties to be subject to special assessments pursuant to Chapter 94, Oregon Laws 2024 (Senate Bill 1545 (2024)); repealing Marion County ordinance #1473; and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:43:37)

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

None.

(Video Time 00:43:44)

Board discussion:

- Commissioner Bethell expressed the following:
 - Oregon House Bill (HB) 4002 and the recriminalization effort is not a swift action and it will take time:
 - There still will be challenges.
 - She would like the public to be informed so they can start engaging at the legislative level;
 - Bills that have been passed have hindered community livability; and
 - This is a small fix to a bigger issue;
 - The county does not have the tools or the funding to support all the needed work; and
 - Combining energies and voices with other counties experiencing the same issues has been successful.
- Commissioner Willis expressed the following:
 - It took three to four years of legalized drugs to get to the level of crime that we are seeing today;
 - We are not going to get back to where we were before Oregon Ballot Measure 110 overnight;
 - The county's work shows that having good government and providing good public service is hard but possible;
 - Doing something right takes work and sacrifice;

- The county has shown that progress can be made, and things can get better; and
- The county has a good plan, but it will take time to implement.
- Commissioner Cameron expressed the following:
 - The immediate penalty for dealing drugs is important;
 - He appreciates all the work that has been done;
 - It will take time to undo what was done;
 - Education and solid waste are a regional challenge;
 - Executing a policy is a challenge;
 - HB 4002 was established and now counties need to find a way to execute it so that it meets their needs:
 - The execution is going to take time.
 - More will get done if counties work together.

Commissioner Cameron adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

CHAIR

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

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