

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, September 4, 2024  
9:00 a.m.

Senator Hearing Room  
555 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Kevin Cameron and Commissioner Colm Willis. Also present were Scott Norris as county counsel and Brenda Koenig as recorder.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Danielle Bethell and Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer

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

*(Video Time 00:00:00)*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

*(Video Time 00:06:06)*

**PROCLAMATIONS**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1. Consider approval of a proclamation designating the month of September 2024 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Marion County. –Phillip Blea and Kelly Martin

***Summary of presentation:***

- Last year's theme of 'Life is Better with You Here' continues this year:
  - There has been great community feedback.
- Events to support Suicide Prevention Awareness Month include:
  - Coffee sleeves will be given to over 23 coffee shops:
    - There will be 30,000 sleeves distributed; and
    - They will include information on hope and help.
  - Pop-ups at different locations and events; and
  - 988 outreaches with first responders:
    - There are 28 organizations participating; and
    - Over 5,000 cards were given to be shared with the community.
- Trainings for community members are available:
  - Increases help-seeking behavior and provides education;
  - Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) common training that is done; and
  - These are free of charge to the community.

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- Tool kits are available for small businesses who have less resources; and
- Mental health is promoted with Marion County Health and Human Services employees through various activities.

**Board discussion:**

- Everyday life can be challenging as there are conflicts and various issues;
- Every person is valuable, and every person matters; and
- Everyone has a role to play in the community and that is important to remember during harder moments in life.

**Motion:** Commissioner Willis moved to approve a proclamation designating the month of September 2024 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

The commissioners read the proclamation.

*(Video Time 00:21:55)*

2. Consider approval of a proclamation designating the month of September 2024 as Recovery Month in Marion County. –Carol Heard and Janell Wescott

**Summary of presentation:**

- Recovery month is held nationally every year during the month of September:
  - Educates Americans that substance use treatment and mental health services can enable those with mental health and or/ substance use disorders to live healthy and rewarding lives.
- There is stigma that discourages individuals from seeking help;
- Marion County Health and Human Services and our community partners are committed to support environments that encourage recovery; and
- Observing recovery month reenforces the following message:
  - The behavioral health is important to overall health;
  - Prevention works;
  - Treatment is effective; and
  - People can and do recover.

Janell Wescott:

- Ms. Wescott is a recovering addict;
- Alcohol has been a part of her life for 23 years:
  - Throughout the years there were other addictions.
- Her addiction caused her to lose employment opportunities;
- Relationships with her husband, children, family and other suffered due to her addiction;

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- She was part of recovery programs, but she did not take it seriously;
- Addiction was changing her into someone she did not like;
- She tried to quit on her own and she was unable to;
- She decided to enter Marion County addictions program and started the six-month process:
  - There were ups and downs, but the mentors did not give up on her.
- She was able to find herself and her worth:
  - She rebuilt broken relationships.
- She has a job at Bridgeway Recovery Services to help others as she was helped.

***Board discussion:***

- Thankful to Ms. Westcott for sharing her story and for all those involved in help those recovering; and
- Individuals recovering from addiction are committed to honesty:
  - The truth is more important than their addiction.

**Motion:** Commissioner Willis moved to approve a proclamation designating the month of September 2024 as Recovery Month in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous

The commissioners read the proclamation.

*(Video Time 00:36:28)*

**CLERK'S OFFICE**

3. Consider approval of a proclamation designating September 17, 2024, as National Voter Registration Day in Marion County. –Bill Burgess and Phillip King

***Summary of presentation:***

- National Voter Registration Day promotes voting an essential act;
- Voting gives individuals a voice to make democracy work and the government is held accountable to those it serves;
- League of Women Voters brought the proclamation forward:
  - This organization was founded in 1920 when women were allowed to vote.
- Over the course of American history, the ability to vote expanded to include more and more individuals;
- Every voter is able to vote privately and independently;
- In 1974, Oregon, lowered the voting age to 18, from 21 and removed the literacy requirement;
- In 1980 the guaranteed right for individuals with intellectual disabilities to vote was passed;
- Vote-by-mail came into effect, in 1998, for all elections in Oregon;
- In 2016 automatic voter registration was adopted by legislation;

- The following is ways to register in Oregon to vote:
  - Online at [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov);
  - In-person or through the mail, by filling out a registration card:
    - Found in libraries, United States Postal Service offices (USPS), city halls, clerk's office, and will be mailed to all those residing in Marion County.
  - Automatically subject to voter registration if you had a qualifying transaction at the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).
- Track your ballot at <https://marioncountyclerk.ballottrax.net/voter/>;
- Can also track your ballot at [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov):
  - Use the Oregon Secretary of State's MyVote website.
- The deadline to register to vote is October 15, 2024:
  - For new voters; and
  - If already registered, there is no cutoff to update your registration.
- Ballots are sent to local voters October 16, 2024:
  - Can pick up ballots from the clerk's office on September 23, 2024;
  - Military and overseas ballots are mailed September 20, 2024;
  - Out of state ballots are mailed October 7, 2024;
  - Last day to have replacement ballot sent is October 31, 2024:
    - Please come to Marion County Clerk's Office as soon as possible before election day, 8:00 p.m. if you did not receive a ballot or need a replacement.
  - Election day is November 5, 2024.
- When a replacement ballot is given the original ballot's statewide unique number is invalidated:
  - If the original ballot comes to the clerk's office, it is rejected and investigated.
- There is only one ballot per voter;
- Election day is November 5, 2024;
- Election observers are welcome; and
- If there are questions reach out to Marion County Clerk's Office at:
  - 555 Court Street NE Suite 2130 Salem, Oregon 97301;
  - Call 503-588-5041; and
  - Visit the website [www.co.marion.or.us/co/elections](http://www.co.marion.or.us/co/elections).

***Board discussion:***

- Notification is sent if there is an issue with the signature portion of the ballot:
  - This is sent through the tracker and through the mail; and
  - You have 21 days after the election to respond.
- Some individuals sign up for informed delivery through the USPS to know what mail they can expect to receive;
- It is important for voters to sign their ballot if they want their vote to count;
- It is great to be part of a place the fights for the civil rights of all; and

- Thankful for all and their service.

**Motion:** Commissioner Willis moved to approve a proclamation designating September 17, 2024, as National Voter Registration Day in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous

The commissioners read the proclamation.

*(Video Time 00:55:37)*

## CONSENT

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

#### Board Appointment – Solid Waste Management Advisory Council

4. Approve orders reappointing Keith Bondaug-Winn as Chair, and Bonnie Sullivan as Vice-Chair to the Marion County Solid Waste Management Advisory Council (SWMAC) with terms ending April 30, 2025.

### CLERK'S OFFICE

5. Approve the Purchase Order with the United States Postal Service in the amount of \$155,000 to provide postage for outbound ballots, voter pamphlets, and undeliverable election mail through June 30, 2025.

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

6. Approve Amendment #5 to the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to increase funding in the amount of \$126,573.60 for MHS 17, Non-OHP Community and Residential Assistance, for a new contract total of \$22,869,642.65, through June 30, 2025.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

7. Approve Amendment #1 to the Price Agreement with Dell Marketing LP, to add \$2,000,000 for a new contract total of \$6,500,000 for the purchase of Microsoft products through September 30, 2027.

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

(Video Time 00:56:53)

## ACTION

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

8. Consider a resolution approving a rural industrial improvement property tax exemption for Valley Fab Corporation for the 2025-2027 tax year. –Kelli Weese; Kip Morris, Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR); and Sonny Yakis and John Hans, Valley Fab Corporation

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

Kelli Weese:

- Valley Fab Corporation is located in Brooks, Oregon;
- The rural industrial property tax exemption program is a tool to support business who are working to make large capital investments and increasing their employment:
  - Allows three years of exemption for property taxes on any new qualifying improvements.
- Valley Fab Corporation's application was submitted to the Assessor's Office and meets all the requirements;
- It is up to the company to follow up with all the taxing entities it is subject to:
  - So, they can receive support letters from at least 75 percent of them.
- For 2024 the project site 10910 Portland Road NE has an estimated tax bill of \$29,705;
- The anticipated new property tax value is \$3.7 million and the estimated taxes for the site will be \$77,306, annually;
- There will be eight additional employees hired with a total of 89 employees; and
- Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR) is Marion County's partner that helps to spread the word on this program to various businesses in the county.

Kip Morris:

- Business Oregon asked SEDCOR to visit Valley Fab Corporation for implementing lean strategies; and
- During the visit it was identified that they were expanding facility and production capabilities:
  - The tax exemption program was brought up.

Sonny Yakis:

- Mr. Yakis is the Operations Director at Valley Fab Corporation;
- He has been with the company for 13 years;
- The company was founded by his brother in the early 1990s;
- It is a fabrication and manufacturing company;
- The company has tripled in revenue since he began working there;
- This is an opportunity to grow the company:
  - The projection is to double the company's size in 10 years.

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- They are currently investing \$1.5 million in new equipment, building and implementing lean manufacturing; and
- There are continuous opportunities to bring in better paying jobs to the community.

John Hans:

- Mr. Hans is the Controller at Valley Fab Corporation;
- The company is experiencing growth and requires more space;
- A new building is being constructed and machinery is being added:
  - This is a large amount of capital leaving the company that cannot take effect from conception to production for about two years.
- Abating taxes allows to grow into the new space and hire new employees:
  - The new building and equipment allow the company to be more competitive.

***Board discussion:***

- Marion County is the only county in Oregon to do this;
- Companies need time and space in between building facilities and being taxed for them;
- Marion County realized this, and the bill took two legislative cycles to happen;
- This program is for those outside the City of Salem;
- Some individuals testified against the bill:
  - Against giving tax dollars away;
  - Dollars are not given away; and
  - The dollars are invested in the community.
- Rural areas also need the opportunities that cities offer their businesses.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Willis moved to approve a resolution approving a rural industrial improvement property tax exemption for Valley Fab Corporation for the 2025-2027 tax year. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 01:0:19)*

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

9. Consider approval of the Contract for Services with Professional Therapeutic Community Network, Inc. in the amount of \$150,000 to provide monitoring, security, and supervision services for individuals under the jurisdiction of the Adult and Juvenile Panels of the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) retroactive to January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

–Jennifer Chun

***Summary of presentation:***

- This contract is for the following individuals:
  - Those who are not Medicaid eligible;
  - Those who do not have income; and/or

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- Services are not covered by Medicaid but are required by the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB):
  - For the purposes of the individuals and the public's safety.

***Board discussion:***

- Commissioner Cameron stated the following for the record:
  - This item and the next item are retroactive to January 1, 2024; and
  - They are the result of the long-awaited contracts from state partners.

**Motion:** Commissioner Willis moved to approve the Contract for Services with Professional Therapeutic Community Network, Inc. in the amount of \$150,000 to provide monitoring, security, and supervision services for individuals under the jurisdiction of the Adult and Juvenile Panels of the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) retroactive to January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 01:08:36)*

10. Consider approval of the Contract for Services with Marimea Bodunov in the amount of \$200,000 to provide adult foster care services for individuals who are not Medicaid eligible or without Social Security Income (SSI) benefits retroactive to January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. –Jennifer Chun

***Summary of presentation:***

- This is also for individuals who have no other income; and
- Marion County Health and Human Services (MCHHS) acts as a fiscal intermediary and processes the providers invoices and is reimbursed through the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for payment.

***Board discussion:***

- No discussion.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Willis moved to approve the Contract for Services with Marimea Bodunov in the amount of \$200,000 to provide adult foster care services for individuals who are not Medicaid eligible or without Social Security Income (SSI) benefits retroactive to January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.



(Video Time 01:09:56)

## PUBLIC WORKS

11. Consider an appeal of the hearings officer's decision denying Conditional Use (CU) Case #24-006/Joy Blackman Revocable Trust. –John Speckman

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

- Joy Blackman Revocable Trust applied for a CU to establish a non-farm dwelling on a 5.97 acre in a Special Agricultural Zone:
  - Located on the 3300 block of Little Haven Lane South Salem.
- Marion County Hearing's Officer held a noticed hearing on May 2, 2024;
- The decision for denial was issued July 30, 2024:
  - Based on the determination that a variance required to Marion County code 17.110.800 to allow more than four dwellings to be accessed off the private road Little Haven Lane.
- Appellants request the board to make an interpretation of the code;
- Marion County staff recommends the board accept the appeal as it requires policy interpretation;
- Options for the board to consider:
  - Accept the appeal and schedule a public hearing with a date to be determined; or
  - Uphold the hearings officer's decision and decline to accept the appeal.

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

- Marion County code does not allow access to more than four dwellings; and
- Marion County Planning interprets this as if a parcel is abutting a public right-of-way, it does not count it toward the four dwellings:
  - The abutment is very narrow, almost, flag lot like; and
  - Unlikely to be another driveway.



**MOTION:** Commissioner Willis moved to accept the appeal and schedule a public hearing with a date to be determined. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 01:15:25)

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

None.

Commissioner Cameron adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

  
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CHAIR  
Not Present At Meeting  
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COMMISSIONER  
  
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COMMISSIONER

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