

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, March 10, 2021
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, Jane Vetto as county counsel, and Brenda Koenig as recorder.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Video Time 00:01:12)

David Beem:

- Mr. Beem is requesting more funding for residents with special needs to facilitate getting these individuals to locations where they would be able to receive the COVID-19 vaccination:
 - Some of these individuals live in remote areas of the county; and
 - Mr. Beem suggested this could be facilitated through the vaccination events happening at the Oregon State Fairgrounds.

PRESENTATION

(Video Time 00:03:34)

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) update. –Katrina Rothenberger

- Ms. Rothenberger reported the following updates for the COVID-19 pandemic as of 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021:
 - There have been an estimated 18,753 cumulative cases within the county from the start of the pandemic; and
 - An estimated 289 individuals have died from symptoms related to COVID-19.
- The data for the previous two-week period, February 21, 2021 through March 6, 2021, is as follows:
 - There were 455 cases of COVID-19;
 - The case rate was 130.8 per 100,000 residents;
 - The test positivity rate was 3.6 percent; and
 - There was a decline of over 7 percent from the previous two-week period.
- To move in to the moderate risk level, the county must have fewer than 100 new cases per 100,000 residents during a two-week period:
 - In Marion County this equates to having less than 348 new cases.

- Testing levels are back up to above average for the county;
- For the week of March 4, 2021, Oregon received the following doses of COVID-19 vaccine:
 - An estimated 83,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine;
 - An estimated 78,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine; and
 - An estimated 34,000 doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.
- Marion County will receive a minimum of 6,800 doses of vaccine this week to be distributed as follows:
 - An estimated 5,000 doses to Salem Health;
 - An estimated 1,800 doses to Marion County Health and Human Services (MCHHS); and
 - Some to federally qualified health centers and pharmacies.
- Over one million Oregonians have received at least the first dose of the vaccine:
 - An estimated 71,000 of these doses were administered in Marion County.
- MCHHS is expecting more vaccines to arrive within the next couple of weeks;
- MCHHS is preparing to expand vaccine eligibility, and has been working with community partners to identify strategies for allocating available vaccines efficiently;
- Oregon Health Authority (OHA) estimates the large volume vaccine clinic sites may be able to close by the end of May;
- Vaccine administration will shift to primary care providers and pharmacies;
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention released new guidance for fully vaccinated individuals:
 - They may visit with vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals indoors without wearing a mask, and without staying 6 feet apart;
 - They may refrain from testing and quarantine if no symptoms are present after close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19; and
 - The CDC recommends continuing COVID-19 precautions while in public.
- MCHHS is receiving questions about whether the available COVID-19 vaccines will protect against the emerging COVID-19 variants:
 - Currently available vaccines provide some protection against the emerging variants; and
 - MCHHS continues to monitor the vaccines efficacy.
- The best way to protect yourself from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated when you become eligible.

Board discussion:

- MCHHS has been doing the following to support individuals with special needs so they are able to receive the vaccine in a timely manner:
 - Working with the Human Services division to identify individuals with special needs, and having these individuals come directly to the health department to receive the vaccine;
 - Holding smaller clinics for these individuals;
 - Working with NorthWest Senior and Disability Services to get vaccinations to homebound individuals;
 - Working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to vaccinate individuals in smaller group homes; and

- Salem Health has a plan for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities to be able to obtain vaccinations in quiet environments.
- There is Marion County specific COVID-19 data, including risk levels, available on the OHA website;
- Marion County is currently in the high-risk level:
 - The counts for adults in custody have been removed from the county's numbers.
- Marion County's COVID-19 numbers have improved dramatically since the beginning of the pandemic;
- Oregon and Marion County are doing better than a lot of the country in containing the spread of COVID-19; and
- Restaurants have been open for an estimated ten days; and
- If there is a spike in COVID-19 cases due to residents dining out then case numbers may increase this week.

(Video Time 00:15:34)

MOTION: Commissioner Bethell made a motion to substitute a revised board order for Action Item #5 under Public Works: Consider approval of an order adopting temporary use restrictions on North Fork Road SE, Gates Hill Road SE, and Pioneer Road SE. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

CONSENT

(Video Time 00:16:39)

FINANCE

Approve an order reappointing Patrick Vance to the Marion County Budget Committee with a term ending June 30, 2023.

PUBLIC WORKS

Schedule final consideration to adopt an administrative ordinance for March 17, 2021, granting Zone Change/Comprehensive Plan Amendment (ZC/CP) Case #20-005/Mark D. Stadel, Trustee of the Mark D. Stadel Living Trust.

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

ACTION

(Video Time 00:17:35)

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1. Consider approval of an order appointing Trevor Womack, City of Salem Police Chief, (absent) and Joseph Budge, Cities of Woodburn and Hubbard Fire Chief, (present) to the Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council with terms ending March 14, 2024.

–Commissioner Kevin Cameron

Summary of presentation:

- The Public Safety Coordinating Council plays an important role in Marion County;
- The council serves as an advisory board to the commissioners for issues concerning public safety;
- There are over 30 people serving on the council; and
- There was no fire department representation on the council prior to the recent wildfires.

Joe Budge:

- Chief Budge serves as the Fire Chief for the City of Woodburn and the City of Hubbard fire districts;
- He started his career as a volunteer for the City of Hillsboro Fire Department;
- He looks forward to bringing the fire service perspective to the council;
- All current fire chiefs meet four times a year as members of the Marion County Fire Defense Board:
 - This board consists of 20 fire chiefs from around the county; and
 - Chief Budge will communicate to the council the needs of the fire service as identified by this board.
- Chief Budge is interested in the countywide radio project that the council is involved in:
 - This project would establish a state-of-the-art communication system for public safety within Marion County.

Board discussion:

- The commissioners thanked Chief Budge for his willingness to serve on the council.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to approve an order appointing Trevor Womack, City of Salem Police Chief, and Joseph Budge, Cities of Woodburn and Hubbard Fire Chief, to the Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council with terms ending March 14, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:23:20)

2. Consider approval of the 2021 Federal Agenda. –Barb Young, Kirby Garrett and Michael Skipper, CFM Advocates

Summary of presentation:

Barb Young:

- The 2021 Federal Agenda contains both grant and policy initiatives;
- Marion County has used the services of CFM advocates for several years;

- CFM has helped Marion County develop their 2021 Federal Agenda, and they will represent Marion County in Washington D.C.;
- The following process is utilized for developing the Federal Agenda:
 - Input is received from a wide range of Marion County departments and elected officials which entails:
 - Funding requests;
 - Policy priorities;
 - Infrastructure needs; and
 - Needs where there are no other funding streams available.

Michael Skipper and Kirby Garrett:

- Marion County's federal agenda is what informs and shapes CFM's efforts in Washington D.C. on behalf of the county;
- The agenda may require changes throughout the year;
- CFM has secured over \$27 million in federal earmarks and grants on behalf of Marion County since 2007:
 - Over \$10 million in federal funding has been secured since 2018.
- The proposed 2021 Federal Agenda entails the following:
 - Planned projects eligible for federal funding:
 - North Santiam Canyon Economic Distress Relief Plan:
 - An estimated \$3 million for broadband deployment;
 - An estimated \$60 to \$90 million for wastewater infrastructure;
 - An estimated \$1 million for Detroit Lake marina excavations;
 - An estimated \$1.8 million for North Fork Road improvements; and
 - An estimated \$12 million for a public safety radio system.
 - An estimated \$32 million for the I-5 and Aurora-Donald interchange reconstruction.
 - Policy initiatives and legislative priorities:
 - Surface transportation reauthorization to address the backlog of infrastructure needs within Marion County;
 - The Aurora Airport runway expansion;
 - The Detroit fish passage project:
 - The county works with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to minimize drawdowns of the reservoir.
 - The Secure Rural Schools (SRS) reauthorization;
 - Responsible, sustainable solutions for federal forest management of Oregon and California Railroad Revested Lands (O & C Lands), and United States Forest Service (USFS) lands located within Marion County;
 - Opioid and methamphetamine funding:
 - Improve coordination between federal, state, and local partners to address these ongoing crises; and
 - Provide local law enforcement with the necessary tools to respond to incidents involving opioids and methamphetamines.
 - Repeal inmate and juvenile corrections exception for federal health benefits;
 - Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) technology funding:

- Funds for local police department equipment needs.
- Protect funding levels for the following programs that support Marion County projects and priorities:
 - The Economic Development Administration (EDA);
 - The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP);
 - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield;
 - Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA);
 - Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD); and
 - The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program:
 - This grant provides funds for criminal justice programs.
- A waste-to-energy facilities policy that would continue to recognize this type of energy as clean energy; and
- Wild and Scenic River designations:
 - There are currently legislative proposals to designate a large number of rivers in Oregon as Wild and Scenic Rivers:
 - The designation is intended to protect and preserve these rivers; and
 - The designation comes with restrictions that could limit allowable activity and access to these rivers.
 - Marion County would like to provide input in the selection process for rivers within the county:
 - This input would be based on the county's priorities.

Board discussion:

- Commissioner Cameron thanked CFM Advocates for their work on behalf of Marion County; and
- Commissioner Willis expressed his concern about Congress considering reintroducing earmarks.

MOTION: Commissioner Bethell moved to approve the 2021 Federal Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 01:07:30)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

3. Consider approval of a proclamation designating the month of March as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Awareness Month in Marion County. –Corrisa Neufeldt, Marco Benavides, Kathy Schnebly, IDD Advisory Committee Chair, and Tiffani Olsen, Residential Director for Shangri-La Corporation

Summary of presentation:

Corrisa Neufeldt:

- In 1987 President Reagan proclaimed March as “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month”;

- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Awareness Month is an opportunity to promote respect for and educate others about individuals who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities;
- Oregon was the first state in the country to close institutions for individuals with IDD, and support a person's right and choice to live in their own homes and communities;
- Over 3,000 children and adults in Marion County receive IDD services;
- The county has an estimated 350 residential and foster homes that support children and adults with IDD;
- The county has over 1,600 personal support workers who support children and adult individuals with IDD;
- The following is COVID-19 data as of February 22, 2021:
 - Statewide there have been 522 individuals with IDD that have been confirmed to have COVID-19:
 - An estimated 86 of these individuals are from Marion County.
 - Statewide there have been 940 support staff that have been confirmed to have COVID-19:
 - An estimated 201 of these individuals are from Marion County.
 - The IDD community has had to deal with the deaths of individuals, family members, and workers from symptoms related to COVID-19;
 - Within Marion County there has been over 100 outbreaks of COVID-19 in IDD congregate care settings; and
 - Over \$80,000 in support has been distributed:
 - To families with children with IDD who are dealing with school closures; and
 - To assist individuals with IDD, their families, and their care providers in gaining access to COVID-19 vaccinations.
- The effects of the recent wildfires on the IDD community:
 - Over 600 individuals and families were in evacuation zones;
 - Over 30 residential and foster homes had to be evacuated; and
 - There were staff, providers, and families who had damaged or lost homes.
- The effects of the recent winter storms on the IDD community:
 - Nearly all 350 congregate care and foster homes lost power from a few hours to over a week; and
 - Marion County Emergency Operations Center responded to numerous calls from families who required help in caring for individuals with complex medical and behavioral care needs.
- Care providers, staff, community partners, and families have had to take on a lot of additional responsibilities during the pandemic and these disasters; and
- The pandemic and recent disasters have underscored the importance of including individuals with IDD in the county's emergency preparedness, response, and mitigation efforts:
 - MCHHS was awarded a grant to support these efforts;
 - A Diversity and Inclusion Strategist was hired to support this work; and

- MCHHS will continue to engage its community partners who work with individuals with IDD and other disabilities to support these efforts.

Kathy Schnebly:

- Marion County has made progress in the support provided to individuals with IDD; and
- The county needs to look at how it can support individuals with IDD and their families during future emergencies.

Tiffani Olsen:

- The pandemic has made it very challenging for Shangri-La to keep everyone safe:
 - Infection control policies and protocols have been reviewed and updated as needed.
- The pandemic has been very challenging for individuals with IDD, their families, and support staff;
- Eleven individuals served at Shangri-La have been confirmed to have COVID-19:
 - One of these individuals died from symptoms related to COVID-19; and
 - Shangri-La was one of the first residential care homes to have a COVID-19 outbreak.
- Twenty-nine direct support staff within the IDD residential department have been confirmed to have COVID-19;
- Marion County partners have been an invaluable resource during this time:
 - Testing and vaccination teams have come directly to the residential care homes.
- Shangri-La has experienced staffing challenges during the recent emergencies:
 - No individuals with IDD supported by Shangri-La needed to be evacuated during the recent wildfires;
 - There were several support staff that did need to evacuate; and
 - During the recent winter storms Shangri-La had to find hotel accommodations for some of their residents.

Marco Benavides:

- Mr. Benavides' position is funded through a grant for 18 months:
 - He will work on assessing the needs of the disabled community, including individuals with IDD, and how these needs can be met; and
 - He will assist with determining the county's response to crises with regards to the disability community within Marion County:
 - He will work closely with the Marion County Emergency Manager.
- Following are a few of the many challenges that need to be looked at and addressed when deciding how to support disabled residents:
 - Accessibility;
 - Transportation; and
 - Communication during an emergency.

Board discussion:

- Commissioner Willis acknowledged Marion County Public Health staff and others for their work during the pandemic identifying issues and implementing policies for dealing with COVID-19 within residential care facilities;
- Commissioner Cameron thanked staff, case managers, families, and individuals within the disability community for staying strong throughout the recent disasters;
- Marion County residents need to be prepared for emergencies; and
- Recent crises have highlighted the need for improved communication within the county.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to approve a proclamation designating the month of March as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Awareness Month in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

The commissioners read the proclamation.

(Video Time 01:37:09)

4. Consider approval of Amendment #2 to the Room Block Rental Agreement with BP Hospitality, LLC, that extends the term date through June 30, 2021, and adds \$684,000 for a new contract total of \$2,884,000 to provide isolation for Marion County residents with no other source of housing, that test positive for COVID-19 and require quarantine. –Ryan Matthews

Summary of presentation:

- This amendment adds three months to the length and funding of the original agreement that started in June 2020;
- This facility has been a resource for individuals living in congregate care settings, multi-generational family homes, and farm worker housing who have tested positive for COVID-19:
 - These individuals have no other way to self-isolate.
- The goal of this resource is to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to help prevent large outbreaks;
- Marion County has successfully operated this facility for the past nine months;
- Following are some of the services and support provided by the county:
 - Providing staffing and security at the motel;
 - Distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) to motel workers;
 - Developing relationships with local vendors for laundry service, food delivery, sanitation, and disinfection of rooms, transportation to and from the motel, and other services; and
 - Establishing safety protocols.
- Marion County received approval for a non-congregate sheltering project through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):
 - The county will be reimbursed with FEMA funds for this agreement.

- Over 200 individuals displaced during the wildfires were housed at the motel for six weeks;
- Individuals impacted by power outages during the recent ice storm were housed at the motel;
- This facility continues to be a resource for the county; and
- This amendment will allow this facility to remain available over the next three months as the county continues to deal with the pandemic and other crises.

Board discussion:

- Commissioner Bethell thanked Mr. Matthews and his staff for the work they have done during the pandemic;
- Mr. Matthews thanked his staff for all their hard work and the coordination required by this agreement;
- The motel has helped to keep individuals safe and healthy during the pandemic, wildfires, and winter storms;
- This agreement and contract with the motel are one of the areas where the county showed leadership at the beginning of the pandemic;
- The extension of this contract is for three months, with the option to go six months if needed; and
- Federal FEMA dollars are paying for this agreement.

MOTION: Commissioner Bethell moved to approve Amendment #2 to the Room Block Rental Agreement with BP Hospitality, LLC, that extends the term date through June 30, 2021, and adds \$684,000 for a new contract total of \$2,884,000 to provide isolation for Marion County residents with no other source of housing, that test positive for COVID-19 and require quarantine. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 01:49:00)

PUBLIC WORKS

5. Consider approval of an order adopting temporary use restrictions on North Fork Road SE, Gates Hill Road SE, and Pioneer Road SE. –Brian Nicholas and Lani Radtke
(Motion made and approved to substitute a revised board order.)

Summary of presentation:

Brian Nicholas:

- This order would limit public access to the county rights of way listed;
- This order allows access for property owners, property owner guests, and any workers hired by property owners;
- This order allows access by county, state, and federal workers; and
- This order would prohibit the following along the county rights of way for the three roads listed:

- Access to the Little North Fork of the Santiam River;
- Parking; and
- Biking.

Lani Radtke:

- The recreational areas served by these roads received severe damage from the wildfires;
- All three roads were immediately closed after the wildfires, and all three were reopened when it was deemed safe;
- There are safety and environmental concerns with the roads remaining open;
- There is increased truck traffic on these roads as trees are being cleared and homes are being rebuilt;
- The parks and public lands in this area that are managed by the Forest Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Bureau of Land Management will remain closed for the summer;
- There is not enough parking capacity at the recreational areas served by these roads:
 - Individuals are parking outside of designated parking areas causing safety issues.
- Regulatory signage will be posted throughout the area:
 - Public Works is working with the Oregon Department of Transportation to develop a signage plan.
- Public works will identify options for gates and barriers; and
- Communication about this plan will involve public notice via press release, mailings to property owners, notifying the cities located near the affected areas, and signage.

Board discussion:

- Residents in the area are being encroached on:
 - These temporary restrictions will help protect residents and their property.
- These temporary restrictions are necessary to protect individuals from hazards created by the wildfires and ice storm;
- Marion County Public Works is working as quickly as possible, given available resources, to reopen the county's lands and parks;
- Lieutenant Nick Hunter of the Sheriff's Office addressed the confusion over who has the authority for the water rights-of-way in this area:
 - The Oregon State Marine Board has authority over the waterway;
 - There is a collaborative effort between the state and county to inspect and monitor these areas;
 - The Sheriff's Office has been performing drone studies because they cannot physically get to all locations;
 - Hazards on the river change then there are changes in the water level; and
 - The Sheriff's Office is working to identify hazards on the river:
 - Once identified the information is shared with the Marine Board and posted on the Marine Board's website;

- The Marine Board prioritizes the removal or mitigation of these hazards based on traffic and use of the areas where hazards exist; and
- In the future the county may become involved in the removal of some of these hazards to facilitate reopening.
- Ms. Vetto clarified that if approved, the order would be effective today; and
- Ms. Vetto clarified the details of the revisions.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to approve an order adopting temporary use restrictions on North Fork Road SE, Gates Hill Road SE, and Pioneer Road SE. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 02:08:36)

6. Consider approval of an order for the temporary closure of North Fork Park, Salmon Falls Park, and Bear Creek Park and Campground. –Brian Nicholas

Summary of presentation:

- Public Works has closed these parks by locking gates and posting signs;
- This order is a formal action by the board declaring the parks closed to public access;
- The duration of this order is longer than what is normal for park closures;
- This order is needed for public safety;
- This order would prohibit the public from using park lands to access the river; and
- There is a lot of wood debris submerged, and moving down the river.

Board discussion:

- There has been significant damage in the Opal Creek area;
- Forest trees in the area are unstable; and
- Marion County residents are encouraged to visit forests in neighboring counties that were not impacted by the wildfires.

MOTION: Commissioner Bethell moved to approve an order for the temporary closure of North Fork Park, Salmon Falls Park, and Bear Creek Park and Campground. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.


PUBLIC HEARINGS

9:30 A.M.


None.

Commissioner Cameron read the calendar.


Commissioner Cameron adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.



CHAIR



COMMISSIONER



COMMISSIONER

Board Sessions can be viewed on-line at

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