

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, September 7, 2022  
9:00 a.m.

Senator Hearing Room  
555 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

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

Commissioner Bethell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.  
Commissioner Willis arrived at 9:09 a.m.

*(Video Time 00:01:10)*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

*(Video Time 00:01:13)*

Commissioner Bethell requested and received unanimous consent to move item #8 to the front of the agenda.

*(Video Time 00:01:34)*

**ACTION**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

8. Consider approval of the Professional Services Contract with AKS Engineering and Forestry, LLC in the amount of \$199,000 to provide consulting engineering services related to the design and construction of the Mill City Homestead Development through December 31, 2023.

–Brian Nicholas

***Summary of presentation:***

- The project is called Santiam Meadows, and it is an affordable housing development in Mill City;
- Funding for the project will come from the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program:

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- The state of Oregon received a \$422 million award from the federal Housing and Urban Development Department;
- The funding is for wildfire disaster recovery;
- The funds are administered by the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Department; and
- One of the key objectives of the program is to construct, or facilitate the construction of, permanent housing in areas impacted by the 2020 wildfires.
- The purpose of the project is to provide needed housing in the canyon, specifically for individuals displaced by the 2020 wildfires;
- A cornerstone of the project is to promote home ownership;
- Public Works has put together a site development concept for the two parcels owned by Marion County:
  - The development potential is for approximately 64 single family dwellings:
    - This could change as the project progresses.
  - The project would include improvements to state highway 22, including a new entry into the neighborhood.
- Part of this phase of the project will be to finalize the site development;
- Public Works needs professional help obtaining the funding;
- Public Works has developed a proposed contract with AKS Engineering and Forestry:
  - They do a lot of development work in the county;
  - A scope of services has been developed, and a preliminary cost estimate has been negotiated; and
  - The scope of services has been broken into the following two parts:
    - Part 1 is all the information and materials needed to put together a funding application to OHCS to secure the full funding for the project, and includes the following:
      - Finalize the site layout;
      - Preliminary land use consultation with Mill City to ensure that the concept complies with all the key land use provisions in the city's code;
      - Develop a cost estimate;
      - Develop renderings that will help Public Works communicate to OHCS what the development will look like; and
      - Other materials that need to be included in the funding application.
    - Part 2 is site characterization and procurement documentation, and includes the following:
      - Land survey of the site;
      - Environmental surveys and reports;
      - Geotechnical services;
      - Traffic engineering;
      - Technical specifications; and

- Contingency tasks to take care of unknowns when they are encountered.
- The proposed contract value is \$199,000; and
- The goal is to have the work completed by December 31, 2022.

**Board discussion:**

- Several hundred families, many of them renters, lost their homes in the 2020 wildfires;
- There is not a lot of rental housing being recovered in the canyon:
  - A lot of rental housing properties are being sold and turned into secondary homes.
- It is a priority of the Board to produce housing and owner-occupied housing;
- On completion of the plan the county will be asking OHCS for more than \$20 million for the development of this housing;
- This housing development will provide permanent housing for individuals who are still living with family members or in RVs; and
- It has been two years since the fires.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the Professional Services Contract with AKS Engineering and Forestry, LLC in the amount of \$199,000 to provide consulting engineering services related to the design and construction of the Mill City Homestead Development through December 31, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:14:06)*

**Motion:** Commissioner Willis moved to remove item #7 from the agenda to consider approval of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) county grant application for ODVA funds in the amount of \$244,159 for fiscal year 2022-23. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:14:42)*

**PRESENTATION**

1. Travel Salem Quarterly Report. –Kelli Weese, Angie Onyewuchi, and Isis Thornton-Saunders, Travel Salem

**Summary of presentation:**

- Marion County has an agreement with Travel Salem that is in its last year:
  - The agreement expires on June 30, 2023.
- The Salem Tourism Promotion Area Committee allocated \$20,000 towards the Resilient Headwaters Project to help fund the following:

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- Rehabilitation of fire affected trails;
- New trail design and proposal of the Lakes Loop; and
- Photography.
- Travel Salem has been supporting the county's work on the Detroit and Gates downtown vision planning:
  - They have attended council sessions.
- Following is 2022 Marion County Fair attendance data:
  - There were almost 34,000 attendees, who stayed on average 3.5 hours:
    - This is down one hour from 2019.
  - Attendees came from Alaska, Oregon, Washington, and other states.
- Travel Salem is hosting their first tourism summit for the Mid-Willamette Valley:
  - The event is November 3, 2022;
  - It will be an opportunity for networking, education, and to bring stakeholders together;
  - There will be breakout sessions on different topics; and
  - The keynote speaker from Sparkloft Media will talk about trends in social media.
- Travel Salem is holding a social media seminar:
  - The event is September 15, 2022; and
  - Travel Salem's social media coordinator, Karalyn DeMarest, will be the speaker.
- The Commissioners were provided with data on Marion County social media impressions, engagements, and link clicks:
  - Social media is designed to inspire, and to ultimately drive individuals to action and booking of a destination; and
  - Social media is important for branding, and engaging individuals in their trip planning process.
- The Commissioners were provided with data on Marion County public relations, including the number of article features, impressions, and advertisement value.

***Board discussion:***

- The Marion County Fair attendance data is developed based on where an individual resides, not on their cell phone area code; and
- 31,100 Marion County residents attended the fair this year.

(Video Time 00:23:32)

**PROCLAMATION**

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES – ACTION**

2. Consider approval of a proclamation designating the month of September 2022, as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Marion County. –Phillip Blea, Laura Sprouse, and Scott Vu

***Summary of presentation:***

- The purpose of the proclamation is to bring more awareness to the importance of suicide prevention in our community;

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- Following is an update on the mental health awareness campaign that took place in May during Mental Health Awareness Month:
  - The theme for May was “it’s okay to not be okay”:
    - A lot of positive feedback was received from community members regarding the impact of this message.
  - Health and Human Services (HHS) staff raised awareness of statistics around mental health;
  - Staff did talks with the county’s two insurance providers regarding the mental health benefits that are available to employees through their insurance;
  - For the past year HHS has partnered with Incite Agency for Change:
    - They are a private public health entity providing suicide prevention and intervention training to county staff; and
    - Over 150 employees have been trained in best practice suicide prevention and intervention.
  - Employees from various county departments and county partners participated in the signs of hope campaign; and
  - Local cafes and the Salem-Keizer public school cafes and coffee carts joined in a coffee sleeve campaign:
    - 20,000 coffee sleeves were distributed with the message “it’s okay to not be okay” printed on them; and
    - The coffee sleeve campaign will be continued during September’s Suicide Prevention Awareness Month:
      - Curry and Washington counties are joining in the coffee sleeve campaign.
- The theme for September’s Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is “life is better with you here”:
  - The intention of the message is to bring positivity and a sense of belonging and value to every person in our community; and
  - The message will be posted on HHS’s Facebook and Instagram pages.
- Pop-up events are going to be held at cafes and higher education schools:
  - This afternoon staff will be at the Willamette University fitness center;
  - Tomorrow morning staff will be at Archive Coffee; and
  - Eight additional pop-up events are scheduled in Marion and Polk counties.
- HHS will be sharing information on 988, the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, that went into effect in July:
  - Northwest Human Services takes a lot of the local 988 calls; and
  - In the first one and a half months that 988 was live, Northwest Human Services saw a major increase in call volume:
    - They had 365 988 calls;
    - More individuals are calling with a willingness to share about their feelings and about the stressors they may be experiencing, including thoughts of suicide;

- Some individuals are calling for support before they are in extreme crisis; and
  - More youth have been calling and asking for support versus texting for support.
- Northwest Human Services also saw an increase in their in-house crisis calls;
- HHS has set a goal that all HHS staff will be trained in designated suicide prevention and intervention by June 30, 2023;
- Awareness helps, and the efforts of staff and the community are helping:
  - The preliminary suicide rates for 2021 are less than they were in 2019 to 2020.
- The aspiration is to have a future where Marion County is free from suicide.

***Board discussion:***

- Postcards are being sent to county behavioral health providers so they can send caring contacts:
  - Caring contacts are a non-clinical intervention that is proven to reduce thoughts of suicide, and improve help seeking, among individuals who are at risk:
    - A provider writes and sends inspirational messages of hope and encouragement to individuals receiving services.
  - The postcards have information on them about 988 and the county's Psychiatric Crisis Center.
- HHS developed a training matrix to guide training requirements for staff:
  - Based on their level of direct contact with individuals and their role, staff falls into one of three groups, and that group dictates what training is required:
    - Some of the training is in person, and some is done virtually.
- The health department does a good job of making staff, and the individuals they serve, feel cared for; and
- Awareness of the problem of suicide is increasing, and the efforts of staff and the community are making a difference.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve a proclamation designating the month of September 2022, as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

The commissioners read the proclamation.

(Video Time 00:44:53)

## CONSENT

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

3. Approve Amendment #1 to the Memorandum of Understanding with Marion County Public Works for updates to the original application for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Grant award for the LeBrun Road Resurfacing project.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

4. Approve an order appointing Melissa Gable and Lauren Thielke, and reappointing Karen Hilfiker and Linsey Ober as dog control officers for Marion County Dog Control effective September 7, 2022.

### FINANCE

5. Approve a quitclaim deed for the transfer of Tax Accounts 100458 and 100459 from Marion County to the City of Jefferson.

### TAX OFFICE

6. Approve an order for a property tax refund in the amount of \$235,146.66 for Lumen Technologies Inc., tax account number 142638.

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

(Video Time 00:14:06)

## ACTION

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

7. Consider approval of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) county grant application for ODVA funds in the amount of \$244,159 for fiscal year 2022-23. –Matt Lawyer  
**(Motion made and approved to remove item from the Board Session Agenda.)**

(Video Time 00:46:07)

9. Consider approval of the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation in the amount of \$1,500,000 for the design and installation of guardrails and signage along the North Fork Road and Gates Hill Road corridors and the replacement of a 22-foot access bridge spanning Little Sinker Creek. –Ryan Crowther

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

- The project scope includes the following items:

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- Replacement and construction of new guardrail at locations where the guardrail post burned, or where new hazards have been identified;
- Replacement of approximately 150 signs that were not replaced with other funding sources; and
- Replacement of a 22-foot-long local access bridge that spans Little Sinker Creek.
- Following is the estimated budget for the project:
  - \$800,000 for guardrail;
  - \$200,000 for signs; and
  - \$500,000 for Sinker Creek Bridge.
- All the work is expected to take place in 2023:
  - There is a plan ready for the guardrail, and once funding is received staff will move forward with obtaining bids;
  - Staff is working on the contract for the signs; and
  - Work on the bridge will start when the agreement for the funding is executed.
- There is no county match requirement for the project; and
- The funding is a direct allocation from the state legislature and is part of House Bill 5202.

***Board discussion:***

- Citizens have been asking why these roads are not open:
  - There are really dangerous situations on these roads.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation in the amount of \$1,500,000 for the design and installation of guardrails and signage along the North Fork Road and Gates Hill Road corridors and the replacement of a 22-foot access bridge spanning Little Sinker Creek. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.



(Video Time 00:50:01)

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

None.

Commissioner Bethell adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

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CHAIR

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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>**