



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# Management Update Minutes

**Monday, December 7, 2020, 9:00 a.m.**

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem  
5th Floor, Suite 5231, Commissioners Boardroom

## ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Sam Brentano and Kevin Cameron, Jan Fritz, Tom Rohlfing, Brian Nicholas, Jane Vetto, Tamra Goettsch, Jeff White, Brian Nicholas, Brian May, Brandon Reich, Jason Schneider, Nate Combs, Mike Engberg, Barb Young, Lisa Trauernicht, Chad Ball, Jolene Kelley, and Kristy Witherell as recorder.

## GUESTS:

Kyle McMann, Marion County Fire District  
Ron Lee, Marion County Fire District  
Liz Dent, Oregon Department of Forestry  
Juan De Leon, Local 2557  
Nicole Tarter, Hayesville Jan Rae Neighborhood Association

Jan Fritz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

## INFORMATIONAL:

### **Oregon Department of Forestry Presentation**

- Liz Dent

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

- Half of the Santiam State Forest was in the footprint of the Beachie Creek Fire;
- The annual report provides information for all of the 15 trust counties where the department manages state forest lands;
- State forest is responsible for managing 730,000 acres of forest lands around the state;
- The Oregon Department of Forestry is charged with managing those lands for raised permanent value;
- Two-thirds of the money from timber sales goes to the counties:
  - The remainder stays within the Department of Forestry, which is used to fund their operations.
- The Santiam State Forest covers three counties:
  - Marion County;
  - Linn County; and
  - Clackamas County.
- The Santiam State Forest is more than 50,000 acres:
  - 25,000 acres was within the footprint of the burn;

- There is a good portion of the forest that did not burn, or only suffered a low intensity burn:
    - There were 13,000 acres that suffered high intensity burn.
- The department wants to clear cut more than 3,500 acres of high intensity burn area that is salvageable;
- Making sure roads are safe;
- Re-establishing fish passages;
- Making recreation areas safe;
- 2019 financial revenue:
  - Harvested 238 million board feet;
  - Timber value decreased by \$25 per 1,000 board feet;
  - Total revenue was \$107.5 million:
    - \$70 million was distributed to the counties; and
    - \$38 million was distributed to the Department of Forestry:
      - Actual operation costs were \$39 million.
  - Had 57 timber sales, which is estimated to sell at \$209 million board feet and bring in \$82.7 million; and
  - Estimated to produce another 215 million board feet and \$83.4 million in total revenue.
  - Social Benefits:
    - \$539,000 was distributed to Marion County.

***Board discussion:***

- The fire cost was an accurate number for this year:
  - Every year it is recalculated; and
  - The assessment rates may go up in the years to come based on the fire patterns.
- Ms. Dent was not engaged in the fire conversations:
  - They were happening in a different division.

**Marion County Fire District 1 Presentation**

- Kyle McMann

***Summary of Presentation:***

- Marion County Fire District 1 is a special district responsible for fire protection in the unincorporated areas around the cities of Salem and Keizer:
  - Also responsible for the communities of Pratum:
    - MacLeay;
    - Lake Labish;
    - Brooks;
    - Clear Lake;
    - Middle Grove; and
    - Four Corners.
- Services more than 50,000 residents;
- Has eight stations;
- On track to respond to more than 8,100 calls in 2020;
- Responds to two-thirds of the calls in the Urban Growth Boundary, which brings in the majority of their revenue;

- Provides ambulance transport services throughout the county through mutual aid agreements;
- In May 2020, the fire district went to the voters for an increase for the local option levy, which was defeated;
- In November 2020, the fire district regrouped and went to the voters for a status quo local option levy, which was also defeated:
  - This was the first time in the fire district's history that a levy or a bond has failed.
- The levy accounted for 30 percent of the revenue, which was \$2.4 million annually;
- In the process of laying off one-third of staff:
  - Includes 12 firefighter paramedics and battalion chiefs.
- Will take the fire district back to pre-2007 staffing levels;
- There are more than 50 volunteers, which is half of what was on the roster in 2001;
- The fire district still plans to keep the ASA agreement;
- The district has met with the City of Salem and surrounding fire departments regarding the staffing shortage;
- Starting January 1, 2021, there will be eight personnel per day staffed;
- The board is considering going out for another local option levy in 2022 due to it being a rural district trying to provide urban services:
  - One of the largest combination departments in the state based on land:
    - Population; and
    - Call volume.
  - Lowest for tax rate and budget.
- Looking for support from the commissioners; and
- Would like to explore being added to the service districts, like the Sheriff's Office has.

***Board discussion:***

- The fire district was rated by the insurance services office, which they only rate every 10 years, so individuals homeowners insurance should not increase; and
- The fire district is formally closing two stations:
  - Lake Labish; and
  - Macleay.

**Discuss Application of Proration of Property Taxes**

- Tom Rohlifing, Nate Combs

***Summary of Presentation:***

- Commissioner Cameron was contacted by a constituent regarding a letter that they received stating that they did not qualify for the proration of property taxes;
- This is due to the current state statute of how property taxes are calculated;
- Mr. Rohlifing had previously presented to the board the statutes and the issues regarding the statutes;

- The real market value of the property has to fall below the assessed value to receive any relief;
- The constituent's property is located on the North Fork River, which means that the land is valued high:
  - The land is assessed at more than half of the total value of the property; and
  - If the structures are removed, the real market value does not fall below the maximum assessed value.
- The assessed value is not broken out by land and improvements:
  - It is an assessed value for the entire property.
- The assessed value is \$107,000:
  - Prior to the fire, the real market value was \$261,851; and
  - The property owners were paying taxes on the assessed value.
- There are eight staff dedicated to reassessing damaged properties in the canyon;
- The constituent has removed everything off of their land after the fire:
  - Septic; and
  - Well.
- The constituent will be paying taxes on \$50,000 versus the \$107,000;
- There are three different legislative concepts:
  - There is a legislative concept that went through Senator Girod's office.
- The commissioners would like to sit down with the constituents to better explain the issues of why they are not receiving a proration of property taxes.

**Discuss Project Apofiki and Negotiating the Usage of the Community Service Fee:**

- Jason Schneider

***Summary of presentation:***

- The City of Woodburn asked to begin a conversation around a Community Service Fee;
- It would be in lieu of \$14.7 million in taxes that the county would forego should they go through a strategic investment program;
- The county would receive a \$3.5 million Community Service Fee, which could be distributed based on an agreement between the taxing districts that would be normally receiving those funds;
- The county would forego \$2.1 million in exchange for just over \$900,000;
- The City of Woodburn would forego \$4.5 million in exchange for \$1.8 million;
- This is meant as a starting point for a discussion of a community service fee;
- Business Oregon has not laid out how the process would work; and
- Looking for direction from the board.

***Board discussion:***

- The service districts that were left off were the education districts that were made available by the state:
  - Looking at districts that would be losing revenue.
- This is a proposal by Woodburn;
- Project Apofiki would not be on the tax rolls for 15 years; and

- Will set a joint Work Session at the first of the year when the new commissioner starts.

#### BEACHIE CREEK FIRE UPDATE:

##### Public Works:

- Had the initial scoping meeting with FEMA on December 3, 2020:
  - Everything needs to be turned in to FEMA no later than February 1, 2021.
- Set up a meeting schedule with FEMA to go over damage inventory on Monday's at 11:30 a.m.:
  - Will always discuss Category B at that meeting.
- Public Assistance registration deadline is December 13, 2020:
  - Ms. Kelley talked with Oregon Emergency Management about sending out a public announcement.
- The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is still bidding the trash cleanup, will follow up for an update;
- The tree removal protest was retracted and contracts will be signed this week;
- Can remove debris up to 18 months from the presidential declaration;
- Tree removal:
  - ODOT will have an agreement with the counties for tree removal;
  - Public Works staff will meet today to staff a project management team to manage tree removal;
  - The county will be present at the tree removal;
  - The county hired an arborist under Category A for North Fork Road and he marked the entire corridor:
    - Gates Hill Road.
  - Only removed trees upstream with Gates Hill Road on North Fork Road;
  - ODOT or the electric utilities mowed down the trees on Railroad Avenue;
  - ODOT will provide an arborist and mark the trees and the county will validate if those trees should be cut down;
  - The county's contracted arborists will follow the ODOT arborist; and
  - If there is a damaged tree on private property, the county will reach out to the property owner to get approval to remove.

##### Building Inspection Division:

- Have received many permits for replacing and repairing dwellings;
- Received permits for manufactured homes;
- Have received authorizations and permits to repair;
- There is not much of a turnaround time from Public Works;
- Septic permit turnaround times have been fairly quick; and
- Interested in looking at offering relief for permits for second homes.

##### COVID UPDATE:

- Have received 332 grant applications as of this morning.

OTHER:

Jolene Kelley:

- Received an email from Jayne Downing stating that they have been accepted for phase two of Project Turnkey, so they are moving ahead in the process.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

COMPLETED BY: **Kristy Witherell**

*Reviewed by:* *Joanna Ritchie*