



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Management Update Minutes

OREGON

Tuesday, July 6, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

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

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Kevin Cameron and Danielle Bethell. Also present were Jan Fritz, Jolene Kelley, Matt Lawyer, Jessica Stanton, Tom Rohlfing, Scott McClure, Melissa Rounds, Lisa Trauernicht, Jane Vetto, Brandon Reich, Chad Ball, Brian Nicholas, and Kristy Witherell as recorder.

Jan Fritz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL:

Discuss the County Requirements for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program

- Lisa Trauernicht and Melissa Rounds

Summary of presentation:

- Yardi Systems, Inc. is the Emergency Rental Assistance Program vendor;
- Working with Yardi to set up the county's program in their system;
- Federal regulations require procedural policies be established:
 - Looking for board direction.
- The funding is for the following:
 - Rent arrears;
 - Rent forward;
 - Utility arrears; and
 - Utility forward.
- The funding can also be used for the following:
 - Rent to own;
 - Manufactured homes on rented land; and
 - Hotel stays for displaced individuals.
- The second round of funding does not require the landlord to be involved:
 - The first round of funding went directly to landlords:
 - Some landlords do not want to participate:
 - If they accept no funds they can evict tenants earlier.
 - Does the county want to give funding directly to tenants, and should this funding have a cap.
- Under the contract Yardi is to contact landlords;
- There is some duplicate coverage with state programs:

- Yardi will try to determine if an individual is receiving funds from another entity, but there is no formal program in place that will identify and prevent all double dipping.
- Eligibility can be based on monthly or annual income;
- The county is not adding any eligibility criteria that is not required by the federal government;
- Working with community partners to have them help individuals fill out the application and gather the required documentation; and
- Yardi will contact the county in regards to cases with special circumstances that do not fall under the general parameters.

Board discussion:

- Commissioner Bethell has received feedback that the application process is difficult;
- There are no consistent parameters;
- If money is given directly to tenants there needs to be some type of accountability to ensure the money is being used on rent or other eligible expenses;
- Tenant needs to provide documentation provided by their landlord that they are behind in rent:
 - Rental agreements in the canyon and other rural areas can be very informal.
- Garbage service should be included with utilities;
- Remove 4.714, internet service; and
- There should be no funding cap if a request is valid.

Ice Storm/Beachie Creek/COVID-19 Update

- All

Summary of presentation:

Brian Nicholas:

- Waiting for final numbers for rights of entry:
 - Will be able to take new requests through July 15, 2021; and
 - Oregon Department of Transportation is trying to accommodate as many property owners as possible.
- Submitted an extension request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Category B, erosion and sediment control projects; and
- Mr. Nicholas signed the gate procurement contract:
 - Contract headed to Finance; and
 - Requesting to have it ready for July 14, 2021 Board Session.

Tamra Goettsch:

- Finding more individuals that have not been connected to any resources;
- Problems have been encountered by individuals working with the Small Business Administration:
 - The county needs to provide support to these individuals.
- There are still families in hotels.

Brandon Reich:

- Permit applications are still being received for structures and for septic systems; and
- Electrical and plumbing permits are part of the main dwelling permit.

OTHER:

Jolene Kelley:

- As of last Thursday Marion County had eleven heat related deaths:
 - Many were unsheltered or did not have access to air conditioning; and
 - Underlying medical conditions.
- There have been 107 heat related deaths statewide.

Tom Rohlfig:

- Senate Bill 464 – Wildfire Property Tax Relief:
 - A board order is required;
 - Mr. Rohlfig will assist the board in defining disruption of use:
 - Road closures;
 - Water service;
 - Telecommunications; and
 - Other areas that need to be defined.
 - Recommends a communication plan for each disruption of use; and
 - Marion County is interested in coordinating with Linn County.

Matt Lawyer:

- Employee appreciation luncheons are almost finished;
- Will be scheduling time with the commissioners to go to satellite campuses; and
- Have received a lot of positive feedback from employees.

Board discussion:

- The Youth Employment Program is close to starting:
 - Has been through Finance; and
 - The start date goal was July 1, 2021.
- Sherry Lintner called to confirm that the commissioners would like a script on each volunteer being recognized at the opening ceremony of volunteer awards; and
- The fair is being scaled back this year.

COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND UPDATES:

Danielle Bethell:

- Will be attending a meeting at 11:30 a.m. regarding the state denying wildfire impacted families benefits.

Kevin Cameron:

- Working with NW Natural on increasing the available natural gas in the canyon:
 - Affects Freres Lumber:
 - They have invested heavily in natural gas equipment; and

- They were never informed of the lack of capacity.
- Increasing capacity would be very expensive for NW Natural.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

COMPLETED BY: **Betsy Young**
Reviewed by: Melissa Rounds