

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD SESSION – MARION COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION #1

Tuesday, May 20, 2014  
3:00 p.m.

Senator Hearing Room  
555 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Sam Brentano and Commissioner Janet Carlson. Also present were John Lattimer as chief administrative officer, Gloria Roy as county counsel, and Kim Hulett as recorder.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Commissioner Brentano**

Commissioner Brentano opened the special board session and explained that there would be no regular board session the following day. He said that the county’s normal Management Update meeting was held on Monday, May 19, 2014, and the board approved a number of action items. In order to ensure those items are on the board record they will be ratified today.

Commissioner Carlson read the acted on items to be ratified:

- FEMA’s Community Rating System five-year cycle.
- Resource Connections of Oregon contract amendment #6.
- Marion County Compensation Board recommendation: Supplemental Recommendation – Justice of the Peace.
- Tax foreclosed property sale, 758 Young Street, Woodburn.
- SOLARC Architecture and Engineering, Inc. contract amendment #3.
- Courthouse Square Project Post Construction Report pursuant to ORS 279C.355.
- Notification of bid award of \$73,965 to North Santiam Paving Company for the Silverton Road Campus Drive and Parking Area Paving Project.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Carlson moved to ratify all items listed. Seconded by Commissioner Brentano; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

**2. COMMISSIONER VACANCY POSITION 1  
Discussion and Deliberation**

**Commissioner Brentano  
Commissioner Carlson**

Commissioner Brentano explained how the commissioner vacancy arose. He said that Commissioner Milne announced her retirement on Monday, April 7, 2014, and her last day with the county was April 21, 2014. Commissioner Milne was a Republican office holder and state law requires that the Marion County Republican Central Committee submit three to five nominees to the Board of Commissioners from which to choose a replacement, when a county

commissioner resigns before the elected term ends. Commissioner Brentano said that Marion County has 30 days from Commissioner Milne's last day to select a candidate to fill Commissioner Milne's vacant seat. On Tuesday, April 22, 2014, the Marion County Republican Central Committee submitted four names to Marion County. The commissioners held a public meeting that same day and developed a timeline and process for selection of one of the four candidates to serve through December 31, 2014. On Wednesday, May 14, 2014, the commissioners interviewed the four candidates in a public meeting and today the board will deliberate and select one of the four to fulfill Commissioner Milne's term. Commissioner Brentano said that the board is within the 30-day requirements of state law.

### **Add additional Comments to the Public Record**

Commissioner Brentano said the record was left open until Friday, May 16, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. to receive public comments. He said there were 55 comments received to add to the record.

Commissioner Carlson said the board process in Marion County is interesting because we have three commissioners and two present is a quorum. Meetings are always noticed when two or three commissioners attend. She explained that two commissioners never meet together unless it is a noticed meeting. She added that this particular decision is no different and the commissioners have not spoken to each other regarding whom they support. Commissioner Carlson said if both commissioners do not agree on this decision they will not be able to move forward because there are only two commissioners and there is no tie breaker.

Commissioner Carlson said that James Loftus said several times during the interview process that it was going to be a very difficult decision. She said it is a decision that cannot be taken lightly and the future of Marion County rests on this decision. She said that all four nominees were very well qualified and thanked them all for stepping forward.

Commissioner Carlson talked about the very first process she was in as a nominee for State Senate along with Kevin Mannix and Deanna Fuller. She said although she was not selected, it was a great learning process. She said at the meeting before the commissioners, Mary Pearmine said to Ms. Fuller and Ms. Carlson that there was a need for good women in government and asked them to please run for the position. Commissioner Carlson said this was an inspiration to her to get involved and she made it her first experience versus her last. She said the county has all kinds of different volunteer groups that fit within the expertise and interest areas that the nominees discussed in their interviews. She said she did not want to lose the nominees connection and interest in Marion County and encouraged all to get involved.

Commissioner Carlson said that she and Commissioner Milne went through this process before when Commissioner Brentano was selected. She said she found the criteria that was used when Commissioner Brentano was selected, and several of the criteria were not used in the current process. However, the information came through in the interviews. She said the first was a commitment to the job, the citizens of Marion County, to the employees, and to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Carlson said that any one of the four nominees could fulfill that commitment. The second criterion was to carry the full weight as one of three commissioners as it relates to committee assignments, work with other counties, and work with department heads

and elected officials. She said the word used was equity and the commissioners are not equal in the sense of being the same, but all three have the same power and authority. She added that the chair does not have more authority on this board than any other commissioner. Commissioner Carlson said the commissioners serve many times where their interests and passions lie. There are occasions when the commissioners are required to do things that they might not be that passionate about. She said she believes that all four nominees would be willing to carry their full weight and have a sense that they would serve as a team. Commissioner Carlson said the third criterion was to get to work immediately. She said she heard from each of the nominees that they were willing to step up and be part of this board.

Commissioner Carlson then discussed questions 5 and 6 of the interview. She said one question was when you are presented with two conflicting pieces of information how do you discern what is true and what is not. She said this is something the commissioners have to deal with constantly in public policy work. The commissioners receive information from various interest groups, individual citizens, and staff. There are often times when each piece of information does not present an entire picture and that is when the digging starts. It is also often that there is very little time to be able to figure everything out. She said it is a struggle and the commissioners have to try to get to the truth as they are creating public policy or managing Marion County.

Commissioner Carlson said the second question was to describe a situation where you worked out a solution to a problem in conjunction with a group of people and where you generally disagreed with that group's philosophy or point of view. She said as a county commissioner, this is done all the time and the commissioners become conveners and facilitators of groups. She said there are many different opportunities to bring people together in a room and to figure out how to negotiate a consensus with the group to solve a problem and move forward. She said often times the commissioners do not get the pleasure of working with people that they always agree with.

Commissioner Carlson reviewed the criteria she used to evaluate the nominees. She said the first was knowledge of the issues, people process, understanding of county government, and relationship to state and local governance, and relationships with other elected officials at all levels. She said Kim Brady was very strong on veteran's issues, human resources management, involved in private business, government, and non-profit corporation. She said Representative Cameron talked about Café Today, being a state representative, the co-leader of the legislature, worked with VIPS, and numerous employees. Commissioner Carlson said that Marty Heyen talked about her knowledge of emergency response and being part of CERT, and part of the sidewalk committee, and has had various consultant and government jobs in Information Technology (IT), as well as serving an interim IT manager. Commissioner Carlson said that James Loftus has served on the Stayton City Council, analyzed legislation, former vice president of Great West Technologies, and really took some initiative meeting with the department heads and elected officials. Commissioner Carlson said each nominee has knowledge of some issues and is stronger in some issues and not as strong in others. She said she thought there were varying understandings of county government and county government works closely with the federal and state governments. She also thought there were varying degrees of relationships with other elected officials at all levels amongst all nominees.

Commissioner Carlson said that in terms of relationships with chambers and civic groups, and other groups that Marion County works with, Ms. Brady talked about her volunteer work at school, being a soccer coach, being involved in church activities, and being a veterans court buddy. Representative Cameron talked about being involved with Little League, the Salem Chamber, particularly the Government Affairs team, Leadership Salem, member of the Marion County Reentry Council, the Governor's Reentry Council, has been active at Morningstar Church, and has served on the Oregon State University Alumni Board. Ms. Heyen has done volunteer work at schools, is also a precinct committee person, a CERT member, and active in her church. Mr. Loftus has been a chamber member, a speaker on Agenda 21, a precinct committee person, and active in his church. She said that all four nominees have strong connections with civic groups. She added that the commissioners are members of each of the chambers in Marion County.

Commissioner Carlson then reviewed the nominees' areas of interest. She said Ms. Brady talked about the Veterans Task Force, Public Safety, particularly juveniles, and the impacts of healthcare laws. Representative Cameron talked about safety first and last, and would do whatever the citizens of Marion County want him to do. Ms. Heyen talked about public safety and transportation, a special interest in emergency preparedness, and was willing to take over Commissioner Milne's assignment. Mr. Loftus talked about public safety at the top of his list and his interest in mental health.

Commissioner Carlson said the last criterion was the number of meetings watched. She said this was one of the questions on the Statesman Journal Editorial Board questionnaire this year, which some of the nominees were able to participate in and some did not. Commissioner Carlson said that Representative Cameron said he attended two or three meetings per month, which would be 12 in a total of four months. She said she thought she had seen him in many more meetings than 12 this year. Ms. Brady talked about two meetings in person and many on television. Ms. Heyen said she had attended four meetings in person and watched online. Mr. Loftus said six in person and six to seven online.

Commissioner Carlson said she had a troubling thing happen with her eye on the weekend and went to the eye doctor yesterday. She said she was wearing her Marion County pin and the eye doctor asked her where she worked. She said Marion County and pointed to her pin. She went home that evening and realized her pin was upside down. She told the doctor she was a commissioner and he might have seen a few signs out recently. The doctor said that he thought it would be difficult to distinguish herself from her opponent when there are not a lot of partisan issues. He said he thought the one thing you could use to distinguish yourself is the experience you have in dealing with county issues. Commissioner Carlson said she thought it was an interesting perspective and told him he would probably make more money continuing to be an eye doctor versus working as a political strategist. She said there was a great deal of insight in the doctor's comments.

Commissioner Carlson said she thought the experience of being in the legislative process, working with lots of people, particularly a split house where there were equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans, and having to negotiate policy issues there, as well as working with a

lot of people that he did not agree with and being a problem solver. She said his experience being on the Marion County Reentry Council and involved with county boards and commissions, the fact that she knows he has come to 12 meetings in the last two weeks versus the last four months. She said the commissioners received numerous emails and out of the 55, 49 were for Representative Cameron to be the next Marion County Commissioner. She said since Representative Cameron is the Republican that filed for position #1 the voters will make their opinion known after 8:00 p.m. tonight. She is confident that Representative Cameron would be the Republican nominee for that position to move forward into the next term. She said this selection not only reflects what the county needs for the next seven months, but also what the county needs for the next four years.

Commissioner Carlson then read excerpts received from Joanne Mosgrove, Larry Harvey, Kim Thatcher, Gregg Peterson, Wes Holt, Gary Wilhelms, Julie Parrish, and Kevin Mannix. She then named Gerry Frank, Kathy Goss, Bob Renggli, Chuck Lee, Gladys Blum, Ed Dodson, Terri Frohnmayer, Sue Miller, Rob Freres, Rich Duncan, and Mayor Harold White of the City of Aumsville who wrote in support of Representative Cameron. She added there were numerous other people who are associates and friends of Representative Cameron who wrote in support. She said Representative Cameron has people in attendance today that he is close to and have been very supportive of him as well. Commissioner Carlson said that for all these reasons her vote goes to Representative Cameron as the person to fill the position of Commissioner Patti Milne.

Commissioner Brentano thanked all the nominees and said last week he truly felt that each nominee could do the job. He said he has spent this last week trying to determine who could do the job the best. Commissioner Brentano said the Board of Commissioners has filled roles where they interview and fill vacant seats of legislators when they quit their post before the end of their term. He said the correct selection of a nominee is so important because it could have an effect on the entire county. Commissioner Brentano said he did not want to rank the nominees because only one was going to be chosen. He just wanted to choose one and hoped that person would rise to the top. He said he gave Anna Staver from the Statesman Journal a couple of criteria that was important to him. He said the first was not to have a narrow personal agenda or represent a certain political bias. He said this job is too big and the board deals with things every day that are so huge, including legal, health, engineering, chemistry, and public safety issues. He said anything that human beings do might come in front of the board. Commissioner Brentano said the decision can only be based on what we feel is best for the citizens of Marion County. He said he was very interested in countywide connections and experience. He said Salem is important to Marion County, but it is not Marion County. There are 20 cities and a number of different communities in Marion County and Salem is probably one third of the total population of Marion County. He added that the commissioners are not in districts, but they represent everyone and all the viewpoints. Commissioner Brentano said he was also looking at basic understanding for county issues and concerns, and not too many people have that skill. He said that proven leadership and experience is obvious and the ability to hit the ground running is important because there is a learning curve.

Commissioner Brentano said it has been approximately a month with things on hold and it will take some more time to sort things out when the nominee is chosen. He said all three will look at

the interests they have and how all the committees and subjects can be covered with a strong presence everywhere. Commissioner Brentano said he was not looking for a temporary seat, but hoping the person selected will go on long term. In addition, he wants someone that has the ability to work with all types of individuals. Commissioner Brentano said that the previous board was all Republicans and gave three completely different perspectives to issues. He said that 99 percent of the time each commissioner could make their points, make their decisions and move on. He said that one percent that did not happen left scars and he is hoping he can work with this person. He reiterated that there will be disagreeing issues, but the ability to move on and deal with the next subject is of utmost importance. Commissioner Brentano said there was one person who rose to the top of his criteria and that was Representative Cameron. He said he attended the meeting of the Republican Central Committee where Representative Cameron was the first nominee and it was important to him. He said there was overwhelming support for Representative Cameron from constituents. Commissioner Brentano said that Representative Cameron made time during the legislative session every other week for informal meetings at 7:00 a.m. to give people a chance to discuss subjects of interest. He said if the subject had merit then Representative Cameron made things happen and that is significant. Commissioner Brentano reiterated that Representative Cameron was also his choice.

Commissioner Carlson said there are two strategies in terms of how the appointment is made. The one strategy is that it is made with someone that the commissioners feel will continue in the role. The other strategy is that we have someone who is a caretaker for a few months that would fill the position until the elected person takes over. She said there are pros and cons with both strategies. She said Marion County has used the second strategy in the past. She said that one of the pros of using the caretaker approach is you do not give incumbency to the person that is in the role. The down side is you lose the momentum that you had when the elected person comes in to take that seat. Commissioner Carlson said the citizens of Marion County are best served if we move forward with the person the commissioners believe is best qualified for the position.

3. ACTION  
Adopt Board Order Appointing Qualified  
Nominee to Marion County Commissioner  
Position 1

Commissioner Brentano  
Commissioner Carlson

**MOTION:** Commissioner Carlson moved approval of an order appointing Representative Kevin Cameron to the vacancy in the office of Marion County Commissioner, Position 1. Seconded by Commissioner Brentano; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Chief Administrative Officer John Lattimer said the budget committee meetings will take place the day after Representative Cameron is sworn in to office.

4. RATIFICATION

Commissioner Brentano

This action was taken at the beginning of the meeting.

- FEMA's Community Rating System five-year cycle.
- Resource Connections of Oregon contract amendment #6.
- Marion County Compensation Board recommendation: Supplemental Recommendation – Justice of the Peace.
- Tax foreclosed property sale, 758 Young Street, Woodburn.
- SOLARC Architecture and Engineering, Inc. contract amendment #3.
- Courthouse Square Project Post Construction Report pursuant to ORS 279C.355.
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This ratification was performed at the beginning of the meeting.

5. ADJOURN

Commissioner Brentano

Commissioner Brentano adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

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CHAIR

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COMMISSIONER