

## INFORMAL MINUTES

June 16, 2008

2:00 p.m.

Oval Office

PRESENT: Commissioners Mary P. Stern, Leslie Lewis, and Kathy George.

Staff: John Krawczyk, Laura Tschabold, John M. Gray, Jr., Caren Anderson, Chris Johnson, Bill Gille, and Marie McDaniel-Bellisario.

Guests: David Bates, News-Register; Jeff & Ann Stevenson, 16900 SW Sunrise Ln; Laura Lopez, PO Box 1565, McMinnville; and Ted Smietana.

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\* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Mary called the meeting to order.

\* Personnel - Steve presented personnel requests from various departments. See agenda for details.

Leslie stated that there had been some discussion with the Budget Committee about having the Board discuss all open positions before they are filled, given the economic outlook for 2009-10. She suggested having more discussion about this issue and possibly developing a county policy.

\* Contracts/Grants - See agenda for details.

Cell Tower - John G reviewed the latest proposal from Crown Castle International for a perpetual easement for the cell tower at the fairgrounds and stated that it is not a substantial increase from the previous proposal. He said that he is not interested in doing an agreement, but suggested referring the proposal to the Fair Board to see if there is any interest on their part.

Suicide Prevention - Caren Anderson introduced three members of the Suicide Prevention Coalition and stated that the coalition has been working with MACA and Channel 11 to create a Public Service Announcement and a video presentation, which she showed to the group. Laura Lopez provided some local statistics about suicide. Caren stated that a survivor support group will be starting in September for people who have lost someone to suicide.

Travel Advances - Kathy moved to ratify Laura Tschabold's approval of Debbie Gill's \$130 travel advance for veterans training. The motion passed unanimously. The Board agreed to have Laura work with Carol White to revise the current policy to require approval from the department head rather than the Board of Commissioners.

Budget - John K reviewed a handout of proposed changes to the 2008-09 budget. He said that he is still worried about the beginning balance because property tax revenue is not coming in as projected. Leslie reviewed changes to the Fair budget, noting that there will be a net increase of \$25,000 in revenue, which will go into capital improvements. Chris Johnson reviewed changes

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MS\_\_LL\_\_KG\_\_

to the HHS budgets for a net reduction of about \$100,000 because he didn't receive a grant he had applied for.

The group discussed the loss of O&C money and its effect on different counties. John K stated that some counties have large enough reserves to carry them through for a while. He said that the Public Works budget will have to be cut by about \$250,000 and the Board has approved an optional early retirement program for workers over the age of sixty, which could take care of the problem, depending on how many employees take advantage of the program. He said that the deadline for employees to make a decision is August 1, 2008. The Board agreed to identify potential cuts in each line of the budget, but defer the actual expenses until after the deadline. Kathy emphasized the importance of being clear to both the department and the public about what's happening.

John K stated that the gas tax cut is actually more than \$250,000, but the county is receiving a double payment in 2008-09 for the exchange of federal dollars for state dollars and that won't be available for 2009-10, which will cause additional financial stress. The Board agreed that these significant changes in the Public Works budget should be clearly documented.

Mary introduced Ted Smietana, the new Community Corrections Director effective July 21, 2008.

She stated that she has been working with Dave Lawson to formulate a transition plan with the incoming Assessor. She said that Scott Maytubby has some staffing ideas that may save some money, but will probably have to be discussed with the Department of Revenue.

The group discussed potential ways to save money to compensate for the reduction in property tax revenue, such as four-day work weeks and energy-saving projects.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Anne Britt  
Secretary