

INFORMAL WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 13, 2019 1:30 p.m.

Room 32, Courthouse
535 NE Fifth St.

Present: Commissioners Richard L. “Rick” Olson, Mary Starrett and Casey Kulla

Staff: Ken Huffer, Christian Boenisch, Josephine Ko, Andrea Paolo, Brian Van Bergen, Silas Halloran-Steiner, Cynthia Thompson, Carrie Martin, Mikalie Moreno, Sheriff Tim Svenson and Emily Williams

Guests: Nicole Montesano, News Register and others as listed on the sign-in sheet

Commissioner Olson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

A. CALENDAR SESSION: This time is reserved for the review of the commissioner’s joint schedule (if needed).

The Commissioners reviewed joint schedules for August 12 – 21, 2019. No other county business was discussed.

B. WORK SESSION: This time is reserved for topics of discussion scheduled for the Commissioners in advance. If a work session is not needed, the balance of the meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m.

1. Work Session – None.

C. INFORMAL SESSION: This time is reserved for briefings, receipt of reports, consultation among commissioners and staff, reports from commissioners on recent actions in the areas of their responsibilities, and other personnel and administrative decisions as appropriate.

1. Department Updates:

a. Sheriff and Emergency Management – Sheriff Tim Svenson

Sheriff Svenson provided the Emergency Management update. He noted regional exercises and local FEMA trainings. A partial Homeland Security grant was awarded which will fund department emergency upgrades and a generator. He discussed updating the COOP plan and working with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Polk County to identify and inventory regional resources for emergency equipment and supplies.

Sheriff Svenson continued by addressing recruitment in the jail and expressed challenges getting lateral hires also reflected across other region agencies and plans to discuss lateral incentive package options with the department liaison soon to attract more applicants to the county region. He discussed the jail security enhancement project and assessing jail space needs. He will follow up with the Board and county counsel to further discuss the vendor and costs.

b. Economic Development Advisory Committee update – Abisha Stone, SEDCOR
Ms. Stone presented an overview of the EDAC Grants Review Sub-Committee recommendations for small grants and strategic plan grant recipients. Fifty applications were received for both grants. Ms. Stone addressed qualifying merits of the projects that are awarded grant funding.

2. Thursday Formal Session Agenda Review

- a. Consent Agenda Review (keep or move to non-consent)
- b. Non-consent Agenda Review (add to consent or leave off)

Mr. Huffer noted that an item for proposed equity and diversity HHS training will be added to Old Business. There was discussion regarding the proposed training curriculum. The consensus of the Board was to move forward items F1 through F8 to Thursday's agenda, with exception of item F5, which will be removed as it is a duplicate.

3. Executive Session - None

4. Commissioner Updates/Announcements/Discussion:

- a. Discussion of an Ordinance to increase the Board of Commissioners from three to five (Commissioner Kulla)

Commissioner Kulla addressed a draft ordinance proposal to refer to voters to increase the number of commissioner seats from 3 to 5 full time paid positions.

The consensus of Board majority was to add a non-consent agenda item to Thursday's agenda seeking approval of directing staff to do research on referring an ordinance. Mr. Huffer requested that the work session schedule be reviewed at next week's informal meeting at which time this item will be added to the schedule to create an ordinance for referral.

5. Adjourn - Following commissioner updates the meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Carolina Rook
Secretary