

WORK SESSION MINUTES

August 22, 2017

10:30 a.m.

Rm 32, Courthouse

PRESENT: Commissioners Stan Primozych, Mary Starrett and Richard L. “Rick” Olson.

STAFF: Ken Huffer and Cynthia Thompson.

Guests: Jay Disbrow, Councilor, City of Yamhill; Denise Harvey, Tribal Council, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Craig Johnson, Councilor, City of Willamina; Ila Skyberg, Mayor, City of Willamina; Kenna West, City Manager, City of Willamina; Scott Essin, Councilor, City of Newberg; Bob Andrews, Mayor, City of Newberg; Joe Hannon, City Manager, City of Newberg; Justin Hogue, City Administrator, City of Amity; and Beth Wytoski, Mayor, City of Dayton.

TOPIC: Elected Officials Transit Meeting

Commissioner Olson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Cynthia Thompson discussed the transit growth and management program. She talked about DKS and Nelson Nygaard, the two consulting firms who are writing the transit plan for Yamhill County. Ms. Thompson went over the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) that was approved in 2015 and the phases under this IGA that have begun the beginning of this year. She said phase 1 has been the public outreach. Her team has held 4 focus groups, distributed community and rider surveys, online surveys, and attended multiple summer community events. Ms. Thompson stated this is the first time a rider check has been conducted in Yamhill County and phase I is 95% completed. She said the consultants are working on existing conditions, goals and objectives, and land use impacts and future needs. She said this is the most extensive research that has ever been done for transit in Yamhill County. Ms. Thompson discussed the last legislative session and the financial impact to transit in Oregon and Yamhill County. She went over the different functions of the transit committees, Yamhill County Transit Area Advisory Committee (YCTA), Yamhill County Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee (STFAC) and the Project Advisory Committee (PAC).

Commissioner Olson presented a slide show (Exhibit A) discussing the development and progression of the transit plan over the next 20 years. Commissioner Olson talked about how Yamhill County Transit could connect to Salem, Tri-met and Tualatin transit, coordinating with connector providers. He discussed existing conditions analysis, additional revenue sources, community priorities, and the ability to serve choice and transit dependent riders. He reviewed the YCTA’s facilities, personnel and vehicles stating all operations fall under the management of First Transit.

Ms. Thompson discussed operational revenues and expenses, city contributions, fare rates, and the sustainable revenues. Upon completion of the transit plan, the county will go out

for a request for proposal (RFP) but in the interim Yamhill County extended their contract with First Transit for an additional two years. Cynthia said ridership is at 318,794, a 10% increase over last fiscal year and Dial a Ride has increased by 8%. The members discussed patrons who ride the buses – general public, youth and the senior and disabled. They went over the demographics of who is actually riding the bus and the need for more accurate information from First Transit. Cynthia talked about the aging fleet, infrastructure, the 6 new bus purchases, the technology grant for real time website and smart phone information. She said the next focus group meetings will be directed at the strategic development for key businesses and the education sector.

Commissioner Starrett discussed her concerns regarding the negative feedback she is receiving from senior and disabled citizens telling her they are experiencing poor customer service. Mr. Johnson discussed the dangers since the stop at Winco Foods moved to 99W out front of Big 5 Sporting Goods, adding that he has almost been struck by a car himself.

Mr. Essin discussed switching to a fixed route instead of the current circular routes that are being used in Newberg. Ms. Thompson said when determining the best routes it comes down to the hours of service and meeting the goal of frequencies at the stops that they are able to provide to the customers. She said in the rural areas they have to think creatively in that they only have a certain amount of money and how to allocate that money depends on the demands and needs. Ms. Thompson said she does not prefer circular routes but sometimes because of budget limitations it is the best choice. She said the consultants will look at key destinations and housing density to help determine the best options.

Ms. Wytoski shared that she would like to see the ridership data for her city. She stated that with a limited budget knowing her citizens' ridership use and frequency would help them to determine the city's contribution to Yamhill County Transit Area (YCTA). Mr. Disbrow discussed the process for adding a covered shelter. Mr. Andrews talked about safety concerns with some of the shelters.

Ms. Thompson acknowledged the requests she has received for the changes to local routes and the need to add in shopping and/or medical route options. Commissioner Olson passed out a data collection form to solicit feedback/rankings of priorities for services.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.