

INFORMAL SESSION MINUTES

November 7, 2011

2:30 p.m.

Commissioners' Office

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

Staff: Laura Tschabold, Chuck Vesper, Rick Sanai, John Phelan, Tim Loewen, and Silas Halloran-Steiner.

Guests: Ossie Bladine, News-Register; Charlene Gibb, Northwest Senior & Disability Services; Randy Saunders, RSS Architecture.

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Mary called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.

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

* Contracts/Grants - See agenda for details.

Surplus Property - The Board discussed a request to purchase a surplus tax foreclosure lot owned by the county. Rick Sanai agreed to find out the status of the property and come back to the Board with a recommendation.

Department Updates

Public Works: John Phelan reported that the Maintenance Improvement Projects have been completed at a total cost of about \$1.4 million. He said that a total of about 23 miles were overlaid and the road crew did an exceptional job. He discussed the Habitat Conservation Plan, stating that crews would start grading and maintaining sensitive areas per the recommendation of U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and he hopes to get those areas back into shape within a few months. He provided updates on other projects, including the Green Bridge, the Laughlin Bridge, Worden Hill Road, the Wheatland Ferry, and the transition of the fuel system to above-ground storage tanks. He reported that there were no lost-time incidents for the last quarter, so employees received an incentive reward. He stated that this has been a good program.

Juvenile Department: Tim Loewen reviewed the programs in place for detention youth. He said that his department has seen the typical increase in referrals since school resumed. He provided an update on the Amity house project, the wood program, and Peer Court. He said that he and his staff have been reviewing probation policies and hope to get those cleaned up by the end of December. He discussed training and stated that his detention staff has done a good job in handling some high-profile cases. Mary added that Tim's department has been working closely with Silas Halloran-Steiner and HHS staff. She stated that one particular situation highlighted some of the flaws in the system regarding who pays for health care services.

Courthouse Remodel - Randy Saunders stated that the remodel project has been a difficult project, but is almost finished. He said that it will be a good step forward for the county in terms of heating and cooling energy efficiency, but has limitations due to grant criteria and budget considerations. He said that it would probably take another season to get through the fine-tuning phase that any new equipment has. He noted that the energy controls contractor is committed to stay with the county for a year from the date of substantial completion to help take care of that.

Chuck Vesper stated that the next big step in courthouse improvements will be a state initiative to improve security in all courthouses, but the county won't have much control over that.

Health Care Transformation - Silas reviewed a Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) agreement template and said that it would be discussed a great deal at the next week's Association of Oregon Counties conference. He provided a summary of the first team meeting in September and the agenda for the next day's meeting. He also discussed the next steps to be taken with potential partnerships.

He discussed the pros and cons of a CCO agreement with CareOregon and stated that his department could have as many as four different CCO contracts to manage. Charlene Gibb said that a sizeable portion of the population from the west end of the county could gravitate to a CCO formed by Marion and Polk Counties. Laura said that the county needs to have relationships with all CCOs that impact the county. Mary stated that the Board has little control over what happens, but the outreach and collaboration that Silas is doing will put the county in good stead with whichever partners it ends up working with. Silas noted that the initial health care transformation is for the Medicaid and Medicare population only, but it is important to think about how it will affect the rest of the population.

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary