

## YAMHILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### ACTION LIST FOR SPECIAL SESSION

December 7, 2020 1:00 p.m. Special Session

Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
<https://zoom.us/j/92419556656>  
Webinar ID: 924 1955 6656

*Welcome! Due to COVID-19 and physical distancing requirements, all meetings are being held virtually via Zoom. The public can view the meeting via the YouTube link on the Yamhill County Meetings page. <https://www.co.yamhill.or.us/meetings>. Public comments will be received up until the meeting time via email at [bocinfo@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:bocinfo@co.yamhill.or.us) or by mail at 535 NE Fifth St., McMinnville, OR 97128.*

Call to order, flag salute.

1. **B.O. 20-433** - Consideration of approval of the Yamhill County COVID-19 Response + Recovery Grant recipients as recommended by the review committee, striking the applicant The Friends of the Yamhelas Westsider Trail and adding an additional \$150,000 of CARES Act funding to the Business Recover/Adaptation category to fund additional applicants as funding allows down the list by score.
2. Other business as necessary
3. Adjourn

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED  
PRIOR TO THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
SPECIAL SESSION

ON

MONDAY, December 7, 2020

AT

1:00 P.M.

Questions, concerns or comments about these items can be directed  
to staff or the Commissioners by contacting the Commissioners' office at

(503) 434-7501

OR

[BOCINFO@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:BOCINFO@co.yamhill.or.us)

**From:** Lee Schrepel <lee@fruithillinc.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 8:29 AM  
**To:** Mary Starrett; Casey Kulla; Rick Olson  
**Cc:** Ken Huffer; BOC Info  
**Subject:** Grants for "Capacity Building"

**Importance:** High

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Dear Commissioners,

I cannot believe what I've heard: you are considering providing an "Capacity Building" grant from economic stimulus money to the *Friends of the Yamhelas Westsider Trail* in the amount of \$8,900. *Seriously?*

This non-profit is not a company with a payroll that is threatened by the repeated lockdowns of the covid pandemic. This is not an employer trying to build products, meet deadlines, keep doors open or pay taxes.

This is not an organization that will ever contribute tax dollars back to the County or to the economy. This is an organization that has repeatedly pushed, thru its agent (you, the County administration), land uses that have proven (thru LUBA) to be out of conformance with Oregon law!

With the County, the Board of Commissioners & staff of the Planning Department & County Counsel serving as "proponent" for the Yamhelas Westsider Trail (YWT), how can you even consider such a grant? Think about transparency. Think about transactions at arm's length! Think about supporting companies that are really & truly threatened & struggling. Talk about an 'insider' situation!

Whether my position supports or opposes the YWT, this is **wrong - wrong - wrong!** What 'capacity' are you trying to build? What economy are you attempting to salvage? Bonafide employers, business owners & shareholders in Yamhill County - the **TAXPAYERS** - should be ashamed you might even consider this! County citizens holding pink slips from their places of employment should be demanding to be heard by you before such a travesty is committed!

Stop the silliness. Support struggling local business. Keep people working in the private sector! Stop the game-playing with public money!

Lee

Lee Schrepel, **FRUITHILL, INC.**  
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[www.FruithillInc.com](http://www.FruithillInc.com)  
Email [communitycantata@gmail.com](mailto:communitycantata@gmail.com)  
[www.CantataChoir.org](http://www.CantataChoir.org)  
"Quality Fruit For Generations!"

**From:** Lee Schrepel <lee@fruithillinc.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:42 PM  
**To:** Casey Kulla  
**Cc:** Mary Starrett; Rick Olson; Ken Huffer; BOC Info  
**Subject:** Grants for "Capacity Building"

**Importance:** High

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Casey & other commissioners,

I don't care - *it doesn't matter* - what the source of funds for this might be. It's a terrible abuse of the public trust. It makes absolutely no contribution to the public welfare to give from extremely limited resources to a non-profit such as this, which seems to be an arm of the BOC (or vice versa). It's not bringing more people into employment. Not saving the jobs of anyone. Not salvaging the investment of a merchant or manufacturer. Not saving the failing investment of shareholders. *All it does is help a favored constituency of the BOC!*

If the Friends of the YWT "qualify" under the criteria you as a BOC established, what does that say about the quality of your work? What does it say about how you manage public funds? What does it say about the trust the public has in you?

This needs to be discussed in public. It needs to appear in letters to the editor or investigative journalism. People need to know what you're doing with money that could help keep doors open & people working during a time of terrible challenge.

I can't believe, Casey, the way you've rationalized this in your response to me of earlier today. I hope it's not too late for you to save face on this.

Lee

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Email [communitycantata@gmail.com](mailto:communitycantata@gmail.com)  
[www.CantataChoir.org](http://www.CantataChoir.org)  
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On 12/7/2020 9:24 AM, Casey Kulla wrote:

Thank you, Lee, for the thoughtful email.

For more background information: not all of the grants that are under consideration are specifically related to COVID; these non-COVID-related are subject to guidelines and eligibility requirements agreed upon by the commissioners and the grants were assessed by an outside group of economic development experts from across the county (which we as a board approved). This is part of our annual consideration of requests for funding, but this year, we asked a group of knowledgeable folks to assess the requests and make recommendations, rather than have us as commissioners make the

initial assessments. From what I understand, the FYWT application scored highly under the capacity-building category and their application indicates that they are eligible for COVID-related funds. However, I am going to suggest that this application get funded from the funds approved by the budget committee in May.

This is the initial guidance to applicants: [https://www.co.yamhill.or.us/sites/default/files/COVID-19%20Response%20Grant%20Guidelines\\_09.30.20.pdf](https://www.co.yamhill.or.us/sites/default/files/COVID-19%20Response%20Grant%20Guidelines_09.30.20.pdf).

I hope this helps shed more light on the organizations that are being recommended and why. You will note that even some Chambers of Commerce are getting funds, too. Thanks again for the email and I am happy to explain the process in further detail if you would like.

We have another round of funding specifically for businesses impacted by COVID; the application opens Dec 11<sup>th</sup>. If you know of folks in need of emergency funding to keep their business going, please direct them to the county website for the application.

Thanks, Lee.

Casey

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**From:** Lee Schrepel <[lee@fruithillinc.com](mailto:lee@fruithillinc.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 8:29 AM

**To:** Mary Starrett <[starrettm@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:starrettm@co.yamhill.or.us)>; Casey Kulla <[kullac@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:kullac@co.yamhill.or.us)>; Rick Olson <[olsonr@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:olsonr@co.yamhill.or.us)>

**Cc:** Ken Huffer <[hufferk@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:hufferk@co.yamhill.or.us)>; BOC Info <[cocinfo@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:bocinfo@co.yamhill.or.us)>

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