

INFORMAL SESSION MINUTES

January 6, 2014

1:00 p.m.

Commissioners' Office Conference Room

PRESENT: Commissioners Mary P. Stern, Allen Springer, and Kathy George.

Staff: Laura Tschabold, Christian Boenisch, Tim Loewen, Ted Smietana, Jeff Lorton, and Valerie Anctil.

Guests: Nathalie Hardy, News-Register; Amelia Hylton, Newberg High School student; and Stan Primozych, candidate for commissioner.

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Mary called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Economic Development

Precision Agriculture: Jeff Lorton provided a report on the recent conference about unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), stating that the public was very engaged in the forum, and he had received very positive feedback and seen positive news reports. He noted that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has selected six test sites in the country for unmanned aerial systems, and Oregon is included in the Alaska site. He stated that, although not named as a designated site by the FAA, Precision Aviation in Newberg is a potential test site in Yamhill County.

The meeting recessed to executive session at 1:18 p.m. pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(g) to consider preliminary negotiations involving matters of trade or commerce in which the governing body is in competition with governing bodies in other states. The meeting reconvened at 1:52 p.m. with no final decisions made.

Jeff discussed two options for a follow-up conference in April: have the county cover the costs up front and look to others for compensation; or have a coalition put on the conference with the county as a sponsor. Laura asked Jeff to put together a couple of proposals for the commissioners to consider.

Jeff discussed a substantial grant opportunity from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with an application deadline of January 21, and mentioned that there will be many other grant opportunities coming up as well. He said that he would need to get some additional information for the commissioners before they make a decision about the USDA grant.

* **Elk Creek Forest Products:** Allen proposed an incentive grant for Elk Creek Forest Products, which is a specialty lumber company that has taken over the former Forest Grove Lumber property in McMinnville. He stated that Elk Creek has hired four new employees and will hire others, and is making an investment of about \$400,000 into equipment to increase its ability to manufacture products at a higher level. He said that he would like to give the company an economic development grant of \$15,000 to \$20,000 during the transition period to provide incentive and show that the county is looking at this as a long-term partnership. Mary said that giving a grant based on the number of new jobs created would be consistent with past Board actions.

Newton Lights: Allen stated that the creators of this holiday light show outside Amity have decided to shut down their endeavor after twelve years of investing much time and money. He discussed

the possibility of providing support for them to expand the operation and find a better location, such as the fairgrounds, and sponsorships. He said that this is a unique and impressive holiday experience that draws visitors from all over, and it has a great deal of potential for economic benefit to the community, even without charging admission.

The meeting recessed at 2:16 p.m. and reconvened at 2:19 p.m.

* Personnel - Approve the employment of Jamie Ann Trudeau as Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Specialist 2 in HHS Adult Behavioral Health, regular full-time, Range 20, Step 2, effective January 24, 2013.

* Committees - See agenda for details.

Department Updates

Juvenile Department: Tim Loewen reviewed statistics for detention, Peer Court, and Juvenile Violations Court. He said that he is looking into new contracts with Tillamook and Columbia counties, which are looking for detention space now that Clatsop County has closed its detention center. He said that he would be meeting with Jayne Mercer to discuss ideas resulting from her recent tour of Marion County's community projects facility with Cliff Toney. He provided an update on the Behavior Rehabilitation Services and Title IV-E programs. He said that the state is putting former Juvenile Crime Prevention dollars into more educational purposes, so the county will now have to apply for that through a competitive grant process.

Community Corrections: Ted Smietana reported that he has recently added new employees with the increased state funding and has also filled some vacancies, for a total of eight new hires. He stated that it is hard to see the impact of the Justice Reinvestment Program yet, but the process is working and referrals are coming. He reported that ten cases have been completed already since November 1, 2013.

He stated that the Evidence-Based Decision Making Initiative (EBDMI) grant has now officially ended, but he would be continuing the policy team and work, and one state out of the six that were involved in the grant would be chosen to take the project to the next level. At Kathy's request, he agreed to put together a summary of accomplishments, changes, outcomes, and the status of initial goals. He discussed some of those changes and accomplishments. Mary stated that this initiative is not just about the money, but is about doing the right things for the right reasons, protecting society, and getting the most cost-effective outcomes.

Following commissioner updates, the meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary