

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**BOARD MEETING****WORK SESSION MINUTES****June 17, 2020**

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Alex Tardif, Commissioner Margaret Magruder, and Commissioner Henry Heimuller.

Board Discussion:

Commissioner Tardif, reported that he was able to speak to Louise Kallstrom, Finance Director regarding this morning's discussion regarding the supplemental budget that was approved in May for the Treatment Court funding. Louise will coordinate a meeting with the District Attorney, Treatment Court Coordinator and Commissioner Tardif to discuss what needs to be done to move forward to make funding available.

LUBA REMAND PROCESS:

Tiffany Johnson, Assistant County Counsel, Karen Schminke, Land Development Director, and Matt Laird, Land Development Services were present to discuss LUBA remand processes. The purpose of this discussion is to review the County's process for reviewing decisions that have been remanded by LUBA. Many of the staff people that would be involved in this process are new to Columbia County and this general discussion will assist in meeting the Board's expectations when a request is received by an applicant. No action taken.

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENTS:

Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, Louise Kallstrom, Finance Director and Nancy Merlette, Finance Manager were present to discuss the process for mileage reimbursements and documentation that would support backup. She is requesting that for mile reimbursements that google maps be printed. Commissioner Heimuller stated that this will be an additional cost to the county to print out all of these maps, perhaps we could figure out a digital format that the maps could be attached. No action taken.

MEDIATION FUND:

Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, Louise Kallstrom, Finance Director and Nancy Merlette, Finance Manager were present, Crystal Reeves, State Court Administrator joined via telecommunication to discuss the Mediation Fund with the Board. The purpose of this discussion is to review Court-ordered mediation that will require a supplemental budget. Louise briefed the Board on Oregon Statutes under 107.775. ORS 107.775(3) Subject to the provision of the Local Budget Law, the compensation and expenses of personnel performing mediation services for the circuit court and other expenses of mediation services provided by the court shall be paid by the county or may be agreed upon by the counties involved. Finance's recommendation would be to move funds out of a restricted fund and place into the general fund in upcoming years. Crystal explained that mediators charge at \$75.00 per hour, there is a maximum of \$600.00 or 8 hours that can be charged per case. A supplemental budget will come before the Board next week. No action taken.

LOCAL ACTIVE MONITORING:

Mike Paul, Public Health Director joined via telecommunication to discuss local active monitoring and to announce that we have been awarded \$214,000.00. Mike briefed the commissioners on current positions

that are paid by this funding, and proposed positions to help cover disease investigator and contact tracing. The board directed Mike to move forward in hiring temporary staff to fill positions for disease control investigating and contact tracing investigations. Mike will prepare a budget and present to the Board breaking down where the money is being allocated.

PHARMACY LICENSE APPLICATION:

Mike Paul, briefed the board for a pharmacy license that would allow an onsite pharmacy that would be available to the Public Health Nurse to administer tuberculosis pharmaceuticals at home visits. Staff will prepare the application and place onto an upcoming consent agenda.

BROADBAND:

Joe Franell, Blue Mountain Network /Oregon Broadband Council Chair, and Holly Miller, IT director were present to discuss broadband in Columbia County also joining the discussion were Commissioner Thompson, Clatsop County and Commissioner Yamamoto, Tillamook County. The purpose of this discussion is to discuss Columbia County partnering with Clatsop County, Tillamook County and Blue Mountain Networks. Under the CARES Act the Federal Government has allocated money to counties, including 20 million dollars for broadband. 10 million of these dollars are available for infrastructure and capacity related problems due to COVID-19.

Joe and Holly traveled Columbia County areas this morning to look at areas that could support infrastructure and fiber optics, primarily in the Vernonia area. Commissioner Heimuller thanked Joe for being here and the knowledge he has been able to share.

Commissioner Yamamoto shared how Tillamook County started their fiber optic program 20 years ago and what they have experienced trying to complete the last mile of fiber optics to homes. Charter, CenturyLink none of these companies want to sign on to do this last part in rural areas.

Joe Franell, Blue Mountain Networks has a business model that is based around rural areas. Joe explained what they could do for Columbia County

Holly Miller, feels that this is a fabulous opportunity for the county to work with a private provider.

Holly would like to have further discussion with the Board to make sure that everyone is comfortable with the process. The commissioners are all in agreement that Vernonia will be the best location to target for this broadband project. Conversation will also need to be had how all three counties are going to move forward working together as a tri-county and how we are going to get the best bang for the buck. Discussion will be scheduled to take place next week during one of the BOC meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

With nothing further to come before this Board the meeting adjourned.

Dated this 17th day of June, 2020

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Jacyn Normine
Board Office Administrator

By: _____
Alex Tardif, Chair

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner