

Board of County Commissioners Business Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 04/06/2023

A complete video copy and packet including staff reports of this meeting can be viewed at <https://www.clackamas.us/meetings/bcc/business>.

Thursday, March 30, 2023 – 10:00 AM

In person and via virtual technology (Zoom)

PRESENT: **Chair Tootie Smith**
 Commissioner Mark Shull
 Commissioner Paul Savas
 Commissioner Martha Schrader
 Commissioner Ben West

CALL TO ORDER

I. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Approval of a Clackamas County Supplemental Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Fiscal impact is an increase in revenues and appropriations of \$25,776,911. Funding through Beginning Fund Balance, Federal and State Operating Grants, Charge for Services, and County General Funds.

Budget Manager Sandra Montoya briefed the Board on the resolution and adjustments to the County budget.

Chair Smith called for questions or comments from the Commissioners. None were received.

Chair Smith opened the public hearing.

No public comment was received.

Chair Smith closed the public hearing.

Commissioner West: “Your honor, I move we approve the Clackamas County Supplemental Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 as presented by staff.” Commissioner Schrader seconded the motion.

Chair Smith called for further discussion. None was heard.

Clerk called the poll

Commissioner Schrader Aye

Commissioner Savas Aye

Commissioner West Aye

Commissioner Shull Aye

Chair Smith Aye; motion carries 5-0.

Chair Smith recessed the Board of County Commissioners and convened the Water Environment Services Board of Directors.

II. WATER ENVIRONMENT SERVICES PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Approval of a Supplemental Budget Resolution for Water Environment Services for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Fiscal impact is a transfer of appropriations of \$380,000. Funding through Water Environment Services’ Surface Water Operating Fund and Surface Water Construction Fund. No County General Funds are involved.

Assistant Director Ron Wierenga and Administrative Services Manager Erin Blue briefed the Board on the resolution and adjustments to the Water Environment Services budget.

Chair Smith called for questions or comments from the Directors. None were received.

Chair Smith opened the public hearing.

No public comment was received.

Chair Smith closed the public hearing.

Director Shull: "I move we approve the Water Environment Services Supplemental Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 as presented by staff." Director Schrader seconded the motion.

Chair Smith called for further discussion. None was heard.

Clerk called the poll

Director Schrader Aye

Director Savas Aye

Director West Aye

Director Shull Aye

Chair Smith Aye; motion carries 5-0.

Chair Smith adjourned the Water Environment Services Board of Directors and reconvened the Board of County Commissioners.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Elected Officials

1. Approval of Previous Business Meeting Minutes – *BCC*

B. County Counsel

1. Approval of a Board Order to Extend the Cable Television Franchise with WaveDivision VII, LLC, dba Astound Broadband. No fiscal impact. No County General Funds are involved.

C. Finance

1. Approval of Personal Services Contracts for As Needed Professional Real Estate Services with Apex Real Estate Partners, LLC, Brown and Carter Management Group LLC, CBRE, Inc., and Lancefield Realty Inc. Each contract not to exceed is \$150,000 for 3 years, total not to exceed is \$600,000. County General funds could be involved as these contracts are for "on call" or "as-needed basis" work.

D. Human Resources

1. Approval of a Personal Services Contract with Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Steward, P.C. for a Chief Negotiator for contract negotiations with the Clackamas County Peace Officers' Association and the Federation of Parole and Probation Officers represented employees. Total contract value is \$605,000 for 7 years. Funding is through budgeted County General Funds.

E. Transportation and Development

1. Approval of a Board Order authorizing purchase of three 2024 Freightliner 114SD Trucks with Columbia dump bodies installed through a State of Oregon Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Premier Truck Group of Portland. Total Contract Value is \$783,039. Funding is through the County Road Fund. No County General Funds are involved.
2. Approval of a Resolution Declaring the Public Necessity and purpose for Acquisition of Right of Way, Easements and Fee Property and Authorizing Good Faith Negotiations and Condemnation Actions for the Stafford Road: Pattulo Way to Rosemont Road Project. Total project value is \$16,516,846. Funding through Community Road Fund, System Development Charges and HB 2017 Safety Funds. No County General Funds are involved.

Clerk Mayernik read the consent agenda.

Chair Smith called for requests to remove items from the consent agenda. None were received.

Commissioner West: "Your honor, I move to approve the consent agenda as read." Commissioner Schrader seconded the motion.

Chair Smith called for further discussion. None was heard.

Clerk Mayernik called the poll
Commissioner Savas Aye
Commissioner West Aye
Commissioner Schrader Aye
Commissioner Shull Aye
Chair Smith Aye; motion passes 5-0.

Chair Smith recessed the Board of County Commissioners and convened the North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District Board of Directors.

IV. NORTH CLACKAMAS PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of a Supplemental Budget Resolution for North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Fiscal impact is a transfer of appropriations of \$153,000. Funding is through beginning fund balance, property taxes, fees and fines, and other revenue. No County General Funds are involved.

Clerk Mayernik read the consent agenda.

Chair Smith called for requests to remove items from the consent agenda. None were received. Commissioner Savas offered further explanation of the fiscal impact regarding staff expenses.

Commissioner Savas: "Move for approval the consent agenda for North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District." Commissioner Schrader seconded the motion.

Chair Smith called for further discussion. None was heard.

Clerk Mayernik called the poll
Director Savas Aye
Director Schrader Aye
Director Shull Aye
Director West Aye
Chair Smith Aye; motion passes 5-0.

Chair Smith recessed the North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District Board of Directors and reconvened the Board of County Commissioners.

V. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Chair Smith opened the meeting for public communication.

Anna Hoesly (Oak Grove) – Housing Assistance

Commissioner West made comments in response, followed by Commissioner Schrader, Commissioner Savas, and Commissioner Shull.

Fumi Tosu (Oak Grove) – March 22 Emergency Special Meeting

Chair Smith made comments in response, and asked County Counsel Stephen Madkour to offer further guidance. County Counsel explained that the emergency was the impending deadline to close the transaction and execute documents toward that closing.

Valerie Chapman (Unknown) – Project Turnkey

Les Poole (Clackamas) – Turnkey, Tolling

Commissioner Savas made comments in response, followed by Commissioner Schrader, Commissioner West, Commissioner Shull, and Chair Smith.

Stori Long (Oak Grove) – Draft homelessness resolution

Commissioner West offered comments and explanation of the resolution's intent and purpose.

Neal Walker (Unknown) – Turnkey

Jill Soli (Unincorporated Clackamas County) – Draft homelessness resolution

Kate Miller (Lake Oswego) – Housing

Carmenia Chales (Happy Valley) -- Homelessness

Bill Wehr (Damascus) – March 22 Emergency Special Meeting

Commissioner Savas made general comments regarding Clackamas County efforts around housing, mental health, and addiction treatment.

Chair Smith closed the meeting for public communication.

VI. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

County Administrator Gary Schmidt yielded his time.

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Schrader made comments about the effort in Oregon City to build a homelessness one-stop facility, engaging business communities, childcare, and Naloxone distribution.

Commissioner West made comments about Oregon Senate Bills 449 and 1013, coming legislation, Project Turnkey. Chair Smith made comments about the history of Senate Bill 449.

Commissioner Shull made comments about tolling, including Oregon Senate Bill 933 and an effort to put a measure on the November 2024 ballot, Oregon House Joint Resolution 23 on the Oregon surplus credit (also known as the “kicker”), safety in schools, the cost of government, homelessness, Measure 110, land use laws, and county autonomy.

Commissioner Savas offered comments on cultural differences and the need to try and find solutions for homelessness in Clackamas County.

Chair Smith made comments on homelessness response efforts and the need to listen to the community, her recent visits to the Oregon legislature, tolling, bonding efforts for the Interstate Bridge replacement project, Senate Bills 449 and 1013, rent assistance, a request from Portland General Electric to sign a letter of support, her work with the governor on the homelessness emergency declarations, and the need to work on housing outside of the Urban Growth Boundary.

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:59 AM.

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BREAKING NEWS: Judge orders Pence to testify

TO BCC 3-30-23
L.P.

ADVERTISEMENT

Portland businesses clash with Multnomah County's new Behavioral Health Resource Center

by Angelica Thornton
Wed, March 8th 2023, 5:47 PM PST



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PORTLAND, Ore. — It's been three months since Multnomah County's Behavioral Health Resource Center opened. As first reported by our news partners at Willamette Week, things are not going well for nearby businesses.

Steve Lien says he's fighting to save the West End neighborhood. Lien owns underU4men, an underwear and swimwear shop a few blocks from the BHRC. As Lien gave us a tour of his store, a man was slumped over on the sidewalk just below his window.

"When I arrived, he was in the process of smoking fentanyl," said Lien. "I almost wish I had Narcan, and I could make it so it wouldn't work for him anymore, but that probably isn't the right thing to do."

Lien says there've been several incidents where drug deals and scuffles have spilled into the store, and his employees had to break it up.

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Lien and his staff now arm themselves with mini bottles of pepper spray, and the store has a tactical stun gun. Lien blames the BHRC for the uptick in trouble, and how it's run by the Mental Health and Addiction Association of Oregon. He says the problems spiked when the center opened in early December.

"We've tracked our shoplifting events for a long time. We've always recorded them, and that's the change. An 800 percent increase and they're coming in and just grabbing and running," said Lien.

Businesses have complained about theft, vandalism, and human waste on the sidewalks. A worker for another property owner told KATU she cleans it up every morning. As we talked with people right outside the BHRC, a woman urinated beside the building right in front of us. A man named David tried to shield her to give her some privacy. David told us his story as he waited to get in.

"I do a little methamphetamine here and there," said David. "Maybe once a month."

David has been homeless in Portland for four-and-a-half years. He said people come to the BHRC because they have nowhere else to go.

"I'm going in there to get out of this cold, smoke a cigarette, and smoke me a joint of pot, and that's it," said David.

Drug and alcohol use isn't allowed at the BHRC, but it is a low-barrier facility. That means David doesn't have to jump through any hoops ... doesn't even have to make an appointment to get in, and that was the mission from the beginning. KATU toured the site in 2019 with then Multnomah County Commissioner Deborah Kafoury. She told us she was excited about the day center program that would be peer-run, meaning it's managed by people with lived experience with mental health, substance use, and homelessness.

"Once they come inside, and they get comfortable, and they establish relationships with the people who are working there, that's when they're open to taking the next step," said Kafoury.

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How is it going so far?

County leaders tell us the BHRC is doing exactly what it's intended to do. Christa Jones is a Community Health Program Manager. She says since December 5th, they've had more than 12,000 instances of people walking in the door to seek services, anything from a cup of coffee to a shower or a load of laundry. But Jones says the biggest win so far is the 300 referrals to treatment for addiction and mental health services.

"Many of these individuals who are here in this building right now have felt rejected. They've felt abandoned, and they've felt dismissed by our continuum of services, by our system, by our society," said Jones.

And that's why Jones says they can't do what some nearby business owners, including Steven Lien, are asking: close the part of the center where people can just come in and hang out.

"There are other day centers in the area. There are other social services in the area where they have appointment models. And what we recognize is that the folks that we're trying to serve are not as successful in those venues," said Jones.

In late spring, the BHRC will expand to offer a 33-bed shelter where people can stay as they navigate the housing system, and a 19-bed Bridge to Housing Program, to help people obtain longer-term housing within three months. Jones says it all starts with what's happening right now.

"This is a landing spot. This is a stepping stone for folks to come in and get warmth and to make that connection so that tomorrow when they're ready, they can engage and start investing in other services and supports," said Jones.

Jones called some of the issues in the neighborhood "growing pains." She said that's the reality of any new program, and the problems are not unique to the block around the BHRC. She told us they have safety partners inside the building. As far as increasing security outside, she punted to the Portland Police Bureau. PPB told us they have seen a significant uptick in calls around the BHRC. We asked if they've stepped up patrols or plan to, but we haven't heard back.

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WHEN WE CHECKED BACK IN WITH STEVEN LIEN WHILE EDITING THIS STORY, HE SENT US SOME VIDEO OF a man struggling with emergency responders on the ground outside his store. He told us he'd just called 911 twice after the man tried to smash a sign through his front window. Once again, he had to use mace to diffuse the situation.

"I even owned a nightclub in an old town. This is worse than I ever experienced in the Old Town area. So there has to be a change," said Lien.

Lien says this isn't about pushing Portland's homeless problem away from his store or out of downtown. He understands why the Behavioral Health Resource Center is needed. He says he just wants them to do better, to try to manage the impacts beyond their doorstep.

"We want them to be successful. We can help them be successful," said Lien. "But we need them to be a good neighbor for those of us in the community that have been here for a long time."

MORE TO EXPLORE

31-year-old woman pregnant with 13-year-old's baby won't face jail time

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