

Board of County Commissioners Business Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 06/15/2023

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

Thursday, June 8, 2023 – 6:00 PM

In person and via virtual technology (Zoom)

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

CALL TO ORDER

I. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Elected Officials

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

B. Disaster Management

1. Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Oregon for Lease of the Medical Examiner's Office Space. Total Contract Value is \$81,625.44 over 2 Years. Funding is through budgeted County General Funds.

C. Health, Housing, & Human Services

1. Approval of a Contract Renewal with Dirgesh LLC, dba Econo Lodge Southeast for On-Call Hotel Rooms for Temporary Housing and Shelter to our most vulnerable residents. Contract renewal value is \$1,030,500 for one year. Funding is through Supportive Housing Services Measure funds. No County General Funds are involved.
2. Approval of a Grant Agreement with the Oregon Department of Housing & Community Services for programs related to the Governor's State of Emergency due to Homelessness. Total value is \$1,883,236. Funding through the State of Oregon. No County General Funds are involved.

D. Tourism

1. Approval of Amendment #2 increasing funding from and extending duration of a Professional Services Contract with Travel Portland. Amendment value is \$256,018 for 12 months, contract value is increased to \$425,529 for 3 years. Funding is through Travel Portland. No County General Funds are involved.

E. Technology Services

1. Approval of a Board Order authorizing a purchase order through a cooperative contract with CDW Government, LLC for Hewlett Packard Enterprise Aruba Network Switches. Total value is \$399,333.98 for an estimated 7 year life cycle. Funding through departmental cost allocation. No County General Funds are involved.

F. Transportation & Development

1. Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for provisions of Building Inspection/Plan Review Services with the City of Happy Valley. Agreement value up to \$50,000 per year for 5 years. Funding is through restricted development permit fees. No County General Funds are involved.
2. Approval of a Contract with North Santiam Paving Company for chip rock supply and hauling. Total value is \$335,740. Funding through County Road Fund. No County General Funds are involved.

3. Approval of Personal Services Contract with Accela Inc. for migrating the Accela on-premises software to the Accela cloud-hosted platform with 5 years annual maintenance. The Total Contract Value is \$1,116,902.50 for 5 years. Funding is through development permit fees. No County General Funds are involved.

Clerk to the Board Mayernik read the consent agenda.

Chair Smith asked if any commissioner wished to remove any item from the consent agenda. No requests were received.

Commissioner West: "I move we approve the consent agenda as read." Commissioner Savas seconded the motion.

Chair Smith asked if there was any further discussion. None was heard.

Clerk called the poll

Commissioner West Aye

Commissioner Savas Aye

Commissioner Schrader Aye

Chair Smith Aye; motion passes 4-0.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Chair Smith opened the meeting for public testimony.

Jason Ellerby (Oak Grove) – Potential McLoughlin Boulevard Safety Improvements

Ron Smith (Gladstone) – Against Equity and Inclusion Office Budget

Dan Hedlind (Eagle Creek) – Against Equity and Inclusion Office Budget

Commissioner Savas made comments clarifying that the Sheriff's Office is not laying off any deputies in the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget.

Bill Wehr (Damascus) – Against Oregon House Bill 2002

Chair Smith closed the meeting for public testimony.

III. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

County Administrator Gary Schmidt recognized Transportation & Development staff for installation of an audible crosswalk indicator and Water Environment Services staff for receiving a National Association of Counties Achievement Award.

IV. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner West made comments on Measure 110.

Commissioner Schrader made comments on Measure 110.

Commissioner Savas yielded his time.

Chair Smith made comments on Measure 110, homelessness, and the Oak Grove Library.

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:37 PM.

From: Emily Mandelbaum [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 1, 2023 5:56 PM
To: BCCMail <bcc@clackamas.us>
Subject: Public Comment re: DEI Programs

Warning: External email. Be cautious opening attachments and links.

To the board of county commissioners:

Regarding the Oregonian's [May 31 article](#) on Clackamas County commissioners vote to discuss defunding our county's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs: These programs are not divisive, nor do they create a victim mentality. These programs give voice to members of our community who are vulnerable and have neither the position to speak up nor the power to be heard. These programs ensure they are not forgotten during major discussions guiding the future of our county. They offer a way to be included, supported and protected by our community.

Commissioner Shull stated that he believes the DEI programs are divisive. With all due respect, I disagree. I believe that his history of making hateful statements about our trans community, about Muslim Americans, and about Jewish people is divisive.

Commissioner Ben West stated that he believes DEI programs promote victim mentality. With all due respect, I disagree. I believe that DEI programs give voice to victims who already exist. The different ethnicities, religions, genders, identities, races and creeds in our community make ours a chorus of beautifully diverse voices. Silencing victims of discrimination only serves those who refuse to believe that other people can live differently than they do.

To defund this team is to inject ignorance into the commission. And I cannot believe that five smart people would intentionally choose ignorance over compassion. DEI programs are about education. They are about reminding ourselves who belongs in our community and about making right wrongs that have been here for hundreds of years.

Please do not refund these programs. They serve a key purpose in ensuring our county serves the entire county.

Thank you,

Emily Lowry
[REDACTED]
Milwaukie, OR 97222

[REDACTED]

From: Elvis Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 4:20 PM
To: BCCMail <bcc@clackamas.us>
Subject: Public Communication for Clackamas County Board 6/8/23 Business Meeting

Warning: External email. Be cautious opening attachments and links.

To Whom It May Concern,
Please find attached my written Public Communication for the Board of County Commissioners, Business Meeting, June 8, 2023

Thank you,
Elvis Clack
Milwaukie

Sent from Yahoo Mail. [Get the app](#)

To: The Board of Clackamas County Commissioners

(Honorable Chair Smith; Vice Chair Shull and Commissioners Savas, Schrader, and West)

Date: 6/7/23

Re: Public Communication: I **support paring the Budget of the Equity and Inclusion Office**

Even before the creation of Clackamas' Equity and inclusion Office (EIO) in 2021, Clackamas is creating positive relations and understanding with the Native American tribe, the Grand Rhonde Tribe. Indigenous people, such as the Grand Rhone peoples, are part of the so-called BIPOC "community."

Then too even before the creation of Clackamas' EIO, Clackamas County government seeks out data as to the wellbeing of those in the BIPOC "community."

Clackamas County thus already pursues many of the positive aspects of Equity and Inclusion before it creates its EIO.

Milwaukie City Councilor Nicodemus is critical in his recent West Linn Tidings OpEd of the Board considering reducing the funding for Clackamas' EIO. I am not sure Councilor Nicodemus is fully aware that before Clackamas' EIO, Clackamas County still has positive relations with indigenous people and an appreciation for the economic and other circumstances that face people of color in the County.

Milwaukie has one Equity staff person and most of the City's efforts at Equity and Inclusion are voluntary, focusing on community events designed to lift the spirits of those **Nicodemus refers to** in his OpED as "marginalized."

Milwaukie is not faced with the same budgetary stresses at this time as Clackamas County, as the **County looks for budgetary savings to help fund the building of a much-needed new Court House.**

So, with the Sheriff's Budget having been rationalized by the Board, it makes sense for the County to pare the EIO budget, too. Especially considering the County will continue with its positive efforts at Inclusion – that are already in place prior to the creation of the EIO. **In my opinion, paring EIO staffing from 3 positions to 1 would not seriously impair the County's positive performance on Inclusion.**

In fact, there is a danger that a larger EIO could morph into a program that discriminates against Asian and white people (those not associated with the BIPOC "community") as has been found with some state public university Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) departments – these departments having also become quite sizeable. Texas is moving to

eliminate public institution DEI departments, precisely because DEI has crept into hiring decisions, and in the process has been found to discriminate against Asians and Whites (those not associated with the BIPOC “community.” (https://www.wsj.com/articles/dropping-dei-in-texas-schools-diversity-equity-inclusion-college-university-students-fe537faa?mod=hp_opin_pos_2#cxrecs_s)

I would also suggest renaming EIO to stand for The *Equality* and Inclusion Office – an Office not so concerned with equal outcomes but rather equality of access.

Sincerely,

Elvis Clark
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222