



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
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FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

8:00 AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative work session was held on Friday, January 19, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform.

Deschutes County Attendance:			
x	Commissioner Patti Adair, Chair	x	Nick Lelack, County Administrator
x	Commissioner Anthony DeBone, Vice Chair	x	Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
x	Commissioner Phil Chang	x	Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
x	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager	x	Tim Brownell, Director Solid Waste
x	Sara Crosswhite, Director 9-1-1		Steve Dennison, County Clerk
x	Chris Doty, Director Road Department	x	David Doyle, Legal Counsel
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace	x	Janice Garceau, Director Health Services
	Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney	x	Peter Gutowsky, Director Community Development
x	Geoff Hinds, Director Fair & Expo	x	Kathleen Hinman, Director Human Resources
x	Deevy Holcomb, Director Community Justice		Bill Kuhn, Treasurer
	Scot Langton, Assessor		Keith MacNamara, Manager Veteran's Services
	Tania Mahood, Director Information Technology	x	Kevin Moriarty, Forester
	Shane Nelson, Sheriff	x	Elizabeth Pape, Internal Auditor
x	Lee Randall, Director Facilities	x	Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer

x	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager		Holly Harris, Director Behavioral Health
x	Heather Kaisner,	x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager
x	Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant		
Others Present:			
x	Doug Riggs, Director NW Policy Advocates		

1. Introductions

Chair Adair called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

2. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner DeBone shared that he may travel to Salem next Friday. His top priorities this legislative session are Ballot Measure 110 reform and housing production.

Commissioner Chang shared that legislative concepts related to ODF wildfire suppression funding are rapidly evolving. He recently met online with Commissioner Perkins (Hood River County) and Sen. Golden and learned that Sen Lieber's \$10/tax lot statewide proposal has been dropped. This would have brought in close to \$20 million. Sen. Golden expressed concern that large out of state real estate investors would get a tax break from Sen. Lieber's proposal and feels this needs to be addressed prior to moving forward with determining revenue mechanisms.

3. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs shared that we are 17 days away from the start of the short 35-day session which begins on February 5. He anticipates there to be 320 to 350 bills in total. During Legislative Days, many Legislative Concepts (LCs) are published with an LC number but no bill number. Significant leadership changes will likely take place but not until the end of the session or after the session. Two significant themes of this session are BM110 reform and housing/homelessness. There will be significant investments in housing/homelessness and funding for continuing operations. Another theme of this session includes individual budget items. Despite the record revenue forecast, the Ways and Means committee advocates putting money into the rainy-day fund and not spending. The session will move very quickly.

4. Department Updates on Priorities

Chair Adair asked Doug if there will be any funding towards juniper removal projects. Doug responded that soil and water conservation districts have received

their allocations from last year, and we won't likely see any additional funding, aside from funding for monitoring.

Erik Kropp shared that Rick Russell with Mountain View Community Development has a conceptual design for an RV park. He is asking the state for \$4 million and is asking the County to support his request. He has met with the local delegation and is pitching his concept. Responding to Chair Adair, Erik said that Rick is asking for \$3.98 million for Phase I (RV sites - operational) and an additional \$2.5 million for Phase II (completion of community spaces), but he will get clarification from Rick on funding requests for Phases I and II and get back to Chair Adair.

Commissioner Chang voiced his support for Rick's project, and asked Doug if there might be opportunities within the housing and homelessness package for funding his project. Doug said that there are three separate housing/homelessness packages:

- LC19 is the Governor's package and is a \$400 million catchall bill. Funding for shelter operations and opportunities for housing infrastructure are included in this package.
- LC40 is a Senate Housing Committee bill focused on middle income housing.
- A third is a House package sponsored by Rep. Dexter.

Commissioner DeBone shared his frustrations with the limitations in the County's ability to build housing infrastructure due to restrictions from the land use system. He shared that the City of Redmond's CORE3 and Oasis village are in support of Rick Russell's proposal. The City of Redmond is asking the state for \$1.8 million to complete 21st street. In addition, the Heart of Oregon Corp has a capital funding request for its campus.

Tom Kuhn shared some of his department's priorities, both of which are related to Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The first is LC15, Oregon EMS Modernization. The state EMS system is disorganized and not uniform. Over a period of 5 to 6 years, the hope is to improve the structure of the organization. This may have impacts on our local Ambulance Service Area standards and may address EMS workforce issues. The second item he's watching closely is Lane County's BM110 Improvement Proposal which provides Public Health (PH) and Behavioral Health (BH) timely access to ambulance transport data, including alerts to county staff for suspected overdoses. Janice shared that our County already collaborates with EMS and the local hospital through its toxicology reports, but she supports statewide legislation. Heather Kaisner said that real time data will assist with targeted outreach and prevention strategies.

Chair Adair thanked Chris Doty and the Road Department for their excellent work in taking care of the roads during this latest weather event.

Janice is tracking LC115 (HB4092), sponsored by Rep. Nosse. This bill addresses the administrative burden affecting the BH workforce and costs of the BH workforce and system. Another bill, sponsored by Rep. Nosse and AOCHP is a \$7.5 million package to fund Aid and Assist at a level necessary to cover the cost. Currently, the hospital system is clogged with the Aid and Assist population. Another important topic is BM110 reform, and ensuring there are meaningful resources attached to do the work if they recriminalize low level possession.

Related to BM110 reform, Doug shared that Republicans have put forth a detailed plan. There is some alignment with the addiction committee's plan, such as investment in treatment and resources for treatment services, and expungement after completion of treatment. An area of disagreement lies in what level of misdemeanor is provided. Republicans advocate for misdemeanor A and the addiction committee advocates for a misdemeanor C. He added that the original BM110 advocates are an active coalition who are aggressively lobbying for no changes whatsoever to BM 110. This group is well-organized and well-funded.

The Republican proposal eliminates the OHA public advisory body and gives all authority to the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission. This body is a research and reporting organization rather than an action organization. Annaliese Dolph leads this commission and knows the subject matter well. Janice expressed confidence in her leadership, and hopes they find meaningful ways to include input from those with lived experience in the discussion.

Heather Kaisner asked Doug if funding for prevention will be in the BM 110 reform packages. He responded there are three unallocated pots of money available for BH programs. It is predicted that the governor will announce BH funding packages for "shovel-ready" packages in early February. He added there is a lack of funding for substance abuse treatment for youth and adolescents. Commissioner Adair referenced a recent OPB article by Emily Green, which states that youth drug prevention programs are inadequate and not backed by science.

Responding to Chair Adair, Sara Crosswhite shared that 911 is receiving fewer calls, but the type of calls coming in are more challenging. Additional behavioral health resources are needed.

Kristie Bollinger shared that a bill sponsored by Sen. Conrad relates to outlining new procedures for counties to process surplus proceeds from tax foreclosed properties. She testified last week before the Senate Judiciary Committee on current procedures. Doug has this on his watch list.

Tim Brownell provided a brief update on siting for the new landfill. He anticipates the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to deliberate and determine the new site in March or April.

Chris Doty briefly discussed two bills related to permit fee authority for road departments to charge utility companies fees for plan review and inspection when locating utilities in the road rights of way. These are gaining some momentum.

Deevy Holcomb is closely watching BM110 repeal/reform. Juvenile Community Justice is watching for any prevention and intervention as part of BM110 reform.

Doug shared that an AOC youth behavioral health summit takes place today in Salem. He again highlighted the quick turnaround time, in that bills have only eight days to be heard, have a work session, and pass out of the committee of origin. He urged department heads and commissioners to reach out to himself, Jen Patterson and County Administration as LCs are assigned bill numbers so that they may add these to the bill tracker.

Jen Patterson provided the dates for which legislators are invited to attend weekly legislative updates: January 26, February 9 and February 23.

Nick advised that various County departments and offices are operating under variable hours due to the current weather conditions.

Next Meeting: The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 26 at 8:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Chair Adair adjourned the meeting at 8:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant