



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon  
(541) 388-6570

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# BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

**MONDAY March 20, 2023**

Barnes Sawyer Rooms  
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Anthony DeBone, Patti Adair and Phil Chang. Also present were Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator; Kim Riley, Assistant County Counsel; and Angie Powers, Board Administrative Assistant.

This meeting was audio and video recorded and can be accessed at the Deschutes County Meeting Portal website [www.deschutes.org/meetings](http://www.deschutes.org/meetings).

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **CITIZEN INPUT:**

- None provided.

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **1. Department Performance Measures Updates for Q2**

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, provided a brief update on progress made towards Q2 department performance measures by the following departments: 9-1-1, Community Development, Community Justice and the District Attorney's Office. This update provides a snapshot of departmental progress towards performance measures. This performance measure's objective was Safe Communities – Reduce crime and recidivism through prevention, intervention, supervision and enforcement.

Megan Craig and Chris Perry provided the update for 9-1-1. Commissioner Chang asked how many 9-1-1 calls are related to behavioral health crisis, and also about the 9-8-8 mental health crisis hotline. Mr. Perry didn't have specific data to share at this time, but explained that calls to 9-8-8 are routed to a call center and answered by clinicians all over the U.S., some of whom are located in Oregon. Commissioner Adair added that 9-1-1 is still short 7 employees, and staffing continues to be a challenge. She thanked Mr. Perry and Ms. Craig for their extraordinary teamwork.

Peter Gutowsky and Angie Havinear with Community Development provided a summary of their department's progress. Staffing, retention and training have presented unique challenges in meeting the measures. Commissioner Chang asked about voluntary compliance and prompt compliance, and if there is a trade-off between the two types of compliance. Homeowners sign an acknowledgement that they are in violation, and progress is measured from the date the complaint is made to the date the homeowner comes into compliance, and this can take up to a year. Mr. Gutowsky commended Ms. Havinear's leadership and her collaboration with the Sheriff's Office towards abatement. Legal processes and procedures towards code compliance are complex and her department must navigate the system while being transparent and forthright.

Tanner Wark provided a summary of the Community Justice department's progress. Commissioner Chang said that it would be helpful to see numbers extrapolated out beyond 60 days. Based on a number of factors related to the population with whom the department works, Mr. Wark explained that it is unlikely to reach 100%. Commissioner Adair spoke to the increasing number of vehicle thefts in our area. Mr. Wark highlighted his department's skill-building exercises, in response to Commissioner Chang's question about metrics. Responding to Commissioner DeBone, Mr. Wark said that 75% is an attainable target for criminogenic risk assessments.

Kathleen Meehan-Coop presented the District Attorney's Office progress. She spoke about two of her department's programs: Veterans Intervention Strategy (VIS) and the Emerging Adult Program (EAP), adding that her department's goals are largely recidivism-based. Responding to Commissioner Chang, Ms. Meehan-Coop explained that "revocation" means that the participant in the program has not followed the program plan or has committed another crime and were removed from the program due to non-compliance. Both of these programs have had great results. The EAP program was a pilot program with Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) state funding.

Commissioner DeBone expressed disappointment that our county's drug treatment court is going away. Commissioner Adair shared that 12 people from Veteran's Village have transitioned to more permanent housing.

## **2. Update on Redmond Safe Parking Program**

Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager, introduced Rick Russell and Sierra Hopper with Mountain View Community Development. Some amenities provided for Safe Parking sites are: portable toilets, clean water, garbage service and electricity. Employment support and access to healthcare are some services that are often provided.

Mr. Russell asked for support to increase the number of vehicles at the Redmond Safe Parking (located at SE 7<sup>th</sup> @ SE Evergreen) site on county-owned land from 4 to 6, and to extend the term of the lease for one year. He shared that there is no unauthorized camping allowed within 500 feet of Safe Parking sites. One neighbor complaint has been received, in connection with speeding vehicles to/from the site. Mr. Russell provided a map of the areas where previous Safe Parking program participants had been parked/camping prior to the Safe Parking participation. Currently the program as a whole has 11 spaces in total, but they hope to reach 39. He provided some input towards a proposed County ordinance on Safe Parking, and suggested the County operate the program similar to how the City of Redmond operates while also acknowledging that there may be additional land use issues in the unincorporated county.

Ms. Hopper shared some case studies about individuals who have benefitted from participation in the Safe Parking program, adding that there is a 90-day limit on participation in the program. Their waitlist is first-come, first-served, and certain requirements must be met. Typically, they have approximately ten people waiting, but they are constantly filling the spaces and don't leave them empty for long.

Redmond City Councilor Kathryn Osborne shared the story of her friend "Jill," a close personal friend who is homeless. Jill is a single mom with a special needs daughter and a baby. When they met, they were not a city councilor and a homeless single mom. The Safe Parking program was an opportunity for her and her children. She now has a job, a bank account and an Oregon photo ID.

Responding to Commissioner Chang's question about whether the Redmond Police Department has seen an increase in incidents of crime due to the Safe Parking site, Mr. Russell said that, aside from an RV being parked within 500 feet of the site and neighbor concerns about speeding vehicles, he's unaware of additional concerns.

Mr. Russell shared that \$300,000 to \$350,000 is the annual funding required for their continued operations. Unfortunately, Recreational Vehicles do not meet the state's definition of "shelter", so this poses a challenge for acquiring longer term state funding to make Safe Parking a sustainable program.

Commissioner DeBone acknowledged that this County-owned property was removed from the auction list to be designated as a Safe Parking site. He asked about Board support for routing these types of requests through the Coordinated Houseless Response Office (CHRO) and Cheyenne Purrington, Houseless Strategies and Solutions Director. Commissioner Adair spoke about many opportunities in our region for making progress towards tackling homelessness in Central Oregon. Commissioner Chang urged the Board to engage with HB 2001, the governor's houseless package, early on in the legislative session, to increase the likelihood that they'd be receptive to considering the classification of RVs as "shelter".

The Board expressed overall support for increasing the number of spaces from 4 to 6, and for extending the ground lease one year. Kristie Bollinger, Deschutes County Property Manager, will come to the Board with a Consent Agenda item next week.

### **3. Treasury Report for February 2023**

Bill Kuhn, Treasurer, presented the highlights from the February 2023 treasury report. He spoke at a high level, about the recent bank failures in the media, much attributed to asset management oversight and dramatic interest rate increases catching bank management off-guard. These national events have local impacts. He stressed that all of the County's bank deposits are collateralized to protect against losses, and not reliant on FDIC insurance. The Federal government has very few tools to fight inflation, and raising short-term interest rates is their main one.

Responding to Commissioner Adair about the LGIP being down to \$31.5 million, Mr. Kuhn explained that we are in the process of building our short-term liquidity back up. Mr. Kuhn is focusing on preservation of capital in light of the recent bank failures, and the County is in close contact with our Investment Brokers.

At a high level, the County's portfolio balance at the end of February was \$319 million and investment earnings were \$540,627 (higher than last month and this month last year). Average portfolio yield was higher, at 2.28% (January 2023 was 2.23%). The yield is being calculated on a weighted average time to maturity,

which is more accurate. The County has maximum flexibility in a time of market volatility.

#### **4. Consideration of revisions to the County's Investment Policy**

Mr. Kuhn summarized two proposed revisions to the County's Investment Policy:

- Remove a reference to 294.085 which was repealed in 2015.
- 294.145(1) references to make a commitment to invest funds or sell securities more than 14 business days prior to the anticipated date of settlement of the purchase or sale transaction. Deschutes County's policy references 21 calendar days. Adjusting the County's policy to align with ORS standards.

CHANG: Move approval of County Administrator signature on revised County Investment Policy F-10.

ADAIR: Second

VOTE: CHANG: Yes

ADAIR: Yes

DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion carried.

#### **5. Finance Report for February 2023**

Robert Tintle, CFO, presented the key points from the February 2023 finance report. For the month of February 2023, 3.5 FTEs were added. Revenue YTD in the General Fund is \$40 million or 91.5% of budget (last year's was \$37.1 million and 91% of budget). Expenses YTD are \$28.7 million or 63.3% of budget. Mr. Tintle highlighted that many of the County's larger departments experienced vacancy savings due to unfilled positions.

#### **6. Environmental Health Fees and FY 2024 Budget**

Tom Kuhn, Community Health Manager (via Zoom) and Eric Mone, Environmental Health (EH) Supervisor, provided an update to the Board on current activity in the Environmental Health program. Cheryl Smallman and Arielle Samuel were also in attendance to answer any budget-related questions.

He explained the budget and fees for the Environmental Health division of the Health Department. Environmental Health inspects restaurants, mobile food carts, pools/spas, hotels/motels/RV parks/campgrounds, temporary restaurants (Winter Fest, Munch 'n Music, etc.), public water systems, childcare facilities and school lunch programs. Restaurant fees make up 57% of EH's revenue. They have seen a dramatic rise in the number of mobile food carts and food cart "pods" or lots over the past decade. Ideally, these mobile food cart pods have city services

for water supply to encourage frequent handwashing and proper dishwashing. They have also seen a large increase in the number of temporary restaurants, and a slight uptick in the number of food/pool/lodging issued licenses.

Currently, the number of FTE inspectors does not meet the FDA Program Standards for staffing ratios. Currently, 4.95 FTE food service inspectors are projected to have 494 annual inspections per 1.0 FTE and the FDA recommends 280 to 320 inspections per 1.0 FTE.

Mr. Kuhn said that to balance the budget, staff suggests one of three options for the FY 24 budget:

- Adjust fees to increase with CPI at 6.4% and continue to allocate TRT (Transient Room Tax) at FY 23 level (\$418,417)
- Increase inspection fees by 37% and provide no additional TRT or CGF (County General Fund)
- Increase fees by 10% and consider reduction of TRT by \$50,000, or keep TRT level and use to offset increased expenditures in future years

In response to a question from Commissioner DeBone about the start-up cost of mobile food cart permit fees, Mr. Mone shared that Deschutes County ranks 7<sup>th</sup> highest in the state.

Commissioners DeBone and Chang were supportive of the third bullet point (increasing fees by 10% and consider reduction of TRT by \$50,000), while Commissioner Adair was supportive of the first bullet point (increasing fees 6.4% and continuing to allocate TRT at FY 23 level). The Board directed staff to proceed as directed with bullet point three guiding EH's FY 24 budget.

#### **OTHER ITEMS:**

- Commissioner Chang met with the Solid Waste department and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to discuss potential BLM land conveyance opportunities in relation to the new landfill siting. A land exchange would be more feasible from BLM's standpoint. Congressionally-directed land exchanges can occur quickly and no exchange of money is necessary.
- Commissioner Chang spoke at the Wildfire Workshop in Klamath Falls last week. The topic of his presentation was the Skeleton and Awbrey Hall fires, and the community's growing fatigue over topics related to wildfire resiliency and community wildfire protection work.
- Commissioner DeBone testified in front of the Joint Committee on Semiconductors, in support of Redmond's industrial land inside the UGB for this purpose.

- Commissioner DeBone discussed a Capital Outlay Expenditure Authorization Form from Finance which required his signature. Ms. Hale clarified that the funds were budgeted but expenditures required reclassification.
- Commissioner DeBone attended a tour with the Wildfire Leadership Council in Klamath Falls. Inclement weather required the tour to take place virtually.
- Commissioner DeBone remotely attended the Sunriver La Pine Economic Development (SLED) meeting
- Commissioner Adair attended a tour of the Bend Airport.
- Commissioner Adair attended an art event in Sunriver in support of youth behavioral health.
- Whitney Hale discussed the upcoming REDI luncheon.
- Commissioner Chang spoke about legislation relative to a water/drought package, and suggested it may be worth taking a serious look at this bill, and how it impacts Deschutes County. Commissioner DeBone suggested adding this as an agenda item at a future meeting. Ms. Hale will work with Doug Riggs on scheduling this item.

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**ADJOURN:**

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

DATED this 29<sup>th</sup> Day of March 2023 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.



**ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR**

**ATTEST:**



**PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR**



**RECORDING SECRETARY**



**PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER**