



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

# BOCC MEETING MINUTES

9:00 AM

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

BARNES & SAWYER ROOMS  
VIRTUAL MEETING PLATFORM

Present were Commissioners Patti Adair, Anthony DeBone, and Phil Chang. Also present were Nick Lelack, County Administrator; David Doyle, County Counsel; and Sharon Keith, Board Executive Assistant (via Zoom conference call).

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 9:00 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**CITIZEN INPUT:**

Michele Hoffman, President of La Pine Chapter of Band of Brothers, was present to thank the Commissioners for their assistance in bringing the Wall that Heals to La Pine, especially expressing gratitude to Commissioner DeBone. She presented a gift (framed flag) to Commissioner DeBone for his support.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Before the Board was Consideration of Approval of the Consent Agenda.

ADAIR: Move approval of Consent Agenda, minus Item 4 for discussion  
CHANG: Second with the addition of pulling Item 1 for discussion

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes  
CHANG: Yes  
DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried

1. Consideration of Board Signature for Order No. 2021-049, authorizing the Deschutes County Property Manager to execute the documents associated with the sale of County-owned property located at the northeast corner of NE 27<sup>th</sup> Street and NE Conners Avenue, Bend.
2. Consideration of Board Signature for Order No. 2021-050, authorizing the Deschutes County Property Manager to execute the documents associated with the sale of County-owned property located in the La Pine Industrial area, La Pine
3. Consideration of Order No. 2021-052, Rescinding Orders Nos/ 98-065, --- 060, and 99-081, Regarding Designated Speeds on Portions of Lakeview Drive, Shoshone Road, and Choctaw Road
4. Consideration of Board Approval of Deschutes County Employee Benefits Plan
5. Consideration of Board Signature to Appoint Neil Baunsgard to the Deschutes County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
6. Approval of Minutes of the September 27, 2021 BOCC Meeting
7. Approval of Minutes of the September 29, 2021 BOCC Meeting

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**ACTION ITEMS:**

***Consent Agenda Item 1 as pulled for discussion: Consideration of Board Signature for Order No. 2021-049, authorizing the Deschutes County Property Manager to execute the documents associated with the sale of County-owned property located at the northeast corner of NE 27<sup>th</sup> Street and NE Conners Avenue, Bend.***

Commissioner Chang would prefer that the County sell the land for less or donate the land and noted the critical need of affordable housing. If selling, would like to commit the proceeds to affordable housing projects.

Commissioner Adair prefers to not make revisions to the Order due to the major expansion expenses within the County and need for funding to provide better services to the community. Commissioner Chang feels we can take on the courthouse expansion with additional debt. Commissioner Adair reviewed the expenses of the proposed capital improvement projects and expressed the need to look at the entire picture of the County's responsibilities. Commissioner DeBone supports the choice made through the Order and the investment opportunity to help manage the growth of the County. The transaction was offered by Housing Works.

ADAIR: Move approval of Order No. 2021-049  
DEBONE: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes  
CHANG: No  
DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried

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***Consent Agenda Item 4 as pulled for discussion: Consideration of Board Approval of Deschutes County Employee Benefits Plan***

Commissioner Adair noted that Human Resources annually reviews the proposed changes to the Deschutes County Employee Benefits Plan with the BOCC during the Monday work session. She questioned why this was on Consent this year? HR Director Kathleen Hinman reported on the plan presented and reviewed by the Employee Benefits Advisory Committee (EBAC). Commissioner Adair feels this item does not belong on the Consent Agenda and requires a full vetting before the Board. Human Resources has made recommendations as well as recommendations made by the EBAC. Open enrollment begins in November. Commissioner Chang would like to understand the components of the plan that would require deliberation and feels the County Administrator could review this instead of the Commissioners. Commissioner DeBone recommends bringing the item back next week.

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**8. PRESENTATION: Report of the Housing Shortage Study**

Katy Brooks, Bend Chamber of Commerce was present via Zoom to provide the results of the housing shortage study. Presentation is attached to the record.

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**9. COVID19 Update**

Health Services staff present via Zoom for the update were Dr. George Conway, Dr. Michael Johnson, Nahad Sadr-Azodi, Crystal Sully, and Emily Freeland. Presentation is attached to the record.

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**RECESS:** At the time of 11:01 a.m. the Board went into recess and reconvened the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

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**10. Administration Staffing Request**

Deputy County Administrator Whitney Hale reported on this request to add a public information officer position that was discussed during the Budget Committee Hearings this year. County Administrator Nick Lelack commented on the needed capacity and recognized the department hasn't increased capacity over the past 13 years. The Board expressed support.

CHANG: Move approval of the request to proceed to add a public information officer position to the Administrative Services department

ADAIR: Second

VOTE:      CHANG:      Yes  
             ADAIR:      Yes  
             DEBONE:      Chair votes yes. Motion Carried

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## **11. American Rescue Plan Funding Update**

Chief Financial Officer Greg Munn presented the update. Members of the Deschutes County Childcare Coalition with representatives from East Cascades Works, Oregon State University-Cascades, Central Oregon Community College, Early Learning Hub of Central Oregon, Mountain Star, NeighborImpact, ReVillage Community Co-op Childcare Center, St. Charles Health System, Bend Chamber and the Boys and Girls Club of Bend spoke on the childcare crisis. Presentation is attached to the record.

Commissioner Chang offered support of all four proposed options presented for workforce programs. The total requested Deschutes County investment for Workforce and Center Infrastructure totaled \$7,875,000. Discussion held on ARPA funding. Commissioner Chang is comfortable in obligating an additional \$6 million. Commissioner DeBone would prefer additional time for review as there is a time certain public hearing at 1:00 p.m. today and doesn't want to make a rushed decision. Commissioner Adair requested the item come back on the Monday October 18 BOCC meeting agenda. Commissioner Chang noted he was hoping the meeting on Monday can adjourn at 2:45 p.m. This item will be further discussed on Wednesday October 20.

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**RECESS:** At the time of 12:42 p.m., the Board went into recess and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

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## **12. PUBLIC HEARING: and Consideration of Cascade Medical Transport as a Proposed Subcontractor to Provide Certain Ambulance Services for the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District**

Chris Bell, Sr. Assistant Legal Counsel presented the background on this item. Commissioner DeBone explained the history on this process. County Counsel Dave Doyle reviewed the hearing procedures. Tom Kuhn, ASA Administrator was present via Zoom.

Commissioner DeBone called for testimony for a representative of the La Pine Fire District.

*Mike Supkis*, La Pine Fire Chief presented the background on the need for more service to the community and explained the process involved in the proposed contract with Cascade Medical Transport (CMT) for ambulance service. Chief Supkis commented on services through the public/private partnership. This situation is urgent and needs additional services for the community.

*Dick Swailes*, presented testimony on behalf of the La Pine Rural Fire District and commented on the staffing requirements of the district and the solutions to partner with CMT and noted the urgency of a decision from the Commissioners.

*Jerry Hubbarb*, resident of Sunriver, provided testimony on the critical process of finding funding to hire firefighter/paramedics to expand emergency services to South County and by adding the resource by CMT would be beneficial.

*Jim Landles*, Director of La Pine Rural Fire Department, provided testimony and stated without the contract more people will be without services.

*Robin Adams*, presented testimony on behalf of the Board and stressed the need is now for services to the community.

*Vern Walter*, spoke on the proposed contract and stated La Pine Fire ambulance is a fee based system and not tax based. Mr. Walter stated that is not true today because the three ambulances were purchased through tax payer money. Mr. Walters stated we are not here based on growth but because La Pine Ambulance has failed to provide ambulance services to address the growth expressing his opinion of poor spending decisions of the district.

*Charla DeHate* of La Pine Community Health Center, provided history on the issues and concerns with the La Pine Fire District and growing needs of La Pine emergency transport. Ms. DeHate feels the current version of the contract with CMT needs to be revised.

*Courtney Ignazzitto*, La Pine Community Health Center and La Pine City Councilor, presented testimony in the hopes of finding a solution. The public/private partnership would be a great step forward but feels there is a need for a more effective response opportunity included in the CMT contract.

*Mike Richards*, VP of Operations St. Charles Health System, thanked the fire district for the good work they do. Mr. Richards spoke on medical emergencies and the appropriate response time needed.

*Rex LaSeur*, citizen, presented testimony regarding the underserved community with the La Pine Fire District. Mr. LaSeur believes the contract could help but should not only be focused on the community clinics. Mr. LaSeur commented on the lack of resources at the fire district. Mr. LaSeur also commented on his view of the ASA Agreement and its lack of definition for metrics measuring quality of service.

*Love Pearson*, Prairie Memory Care, presented testimony via Zoom conference call on behalf of the memory care facility and the need for expanded services.

*Ken Kehmna*, Redmond Fire & Rescue Chief, presented testimony via Zoom conference call and offered to share input from the Central Oregon's Fire Chiefs Organization (following its meeting on 10/21).

*Jared Jeffcott*, Captain of Sunriver Fire Department, presented via Zoom conference call stated the proposed response time of 43 minutes is not acceptable for an emergency response.

*Drew Norris*, City of Bend Fire Department Deputy Chief of EMS, presented via Zoom conference call and commented on ambulance funding possibly through a levy and also commented on the inappropriate response time of 43 minutes. Chief Norris reported on calls dispatched through 911.

*Jared Earnest*, Black Butte Ranch Fire Captain, presented via Zoom conference call and commented on concerns with the proposed CMT contract.

Mr. Bell pointed out the need of clarification of definition of Fire Med listed in the proposed contract.

*Jeremy Ast*, Sisters Fire, presented via Zoom conference call and gave comment on the concerns expressed through the ASA Committee.

Chief Supkis responded on his concerns of not being included or invited in the ASA Committee meetings where questions could have been answered. Chief Supkis clarified the term Fire Med in the proposed contract. Chief Supkis commented on response times of a rural fire district ambulance service and the need to add more resources. Chief Supkis spoke on tax fee services and the paramedic services provided.

*Tom Kuhn*, via Zoom conference call, spoke on behalf of the ASA Committee and their agreement of the need for additional ambulance services and helping La Pine Fire District achieve the resources they need.

Commissioner DeBone noted there is a proposed agreement between CMT and the La Pine Fire District and not necessarily in partnership with Deschutes County Commissioners.

Based on the health care needs of Central Oregon, Commissioner Adair recommended a possible solution for the community may be an addition of an emergency department in La Pine. Mike Richards of St. Charles reported they have looked at that option in the past and feel they should revisit.

Deliberations on this item will be held during the BOCC meeting of October 27. Written testimony may be submitted until that meeting.

Chief Kehnma offered any additional feedback if needed and response from the Central Oregon Fire Chiefs Association.



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**OTHER ITEMS:**

- Commissioner DeBone acknowledged an email received through citizen input on homeless camps and the need to manage the homeless situation.
  - Commissioner Chang acknowledged the many emails received regarding the Conner's property sale which was an item on today's posted meeting agenda.
  - Commissioner DeBone attended the BH365 session on black history yesterday.
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**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At the time of 2:37 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (d) Labor Negotiations. The Board came out of Executive Session at 2:43 p.m. for the following motion:

**CONVENED AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF 911 SERVICE DISTRICT**

ADAIR: Move approval of Document No. 2021-828  
CHANG: Second

VOTE:           ADAIR:       Yes  
                  CHANG:       Yes  
                  DEBONE:     Chair votes yes. Motion Carried

**RECONVENED AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF DESCHUTES COUNTY**

Commissioner Adair excused herself at this time for another scheduled meeting.

At the time of 2:44 p.m., the Board went into Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (d) Labor Negotiations. The Board came out of Executive Session at 3:11 p.m.

At the time of 3:11 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (h) Litigation. The Board came out of Executive Session at 3:20 p.m.

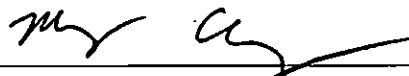
**ADJOURN**

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

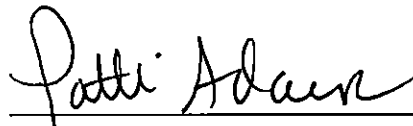
DATED this 20 Day of October 2021 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.



**ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR**

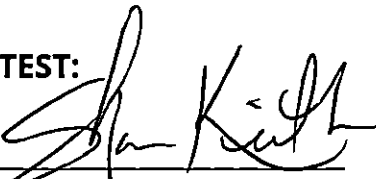


**PHIL CHANG, VICE CHAIR**



**PATTI ADAIR, COMMISSIONER**

**ATTEST:**



**RECORDING SECRETARY**