



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

9:00 AM

WEDNESDAY September 18, 2024

Barnes Sawyer Rooms
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Patti Adair and Phil Chang. Also present were County Administrator Nick Lelack; Senior Assistant Legal Counsel Kim Riley; and BOCC Executive Assistant Brenda Fritsvold.

This meeting was audio and video recorded and can be accessed at the Deschutes County Meeting Portal webpage www.deschutes.org/meetings.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Adair called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and noted the excused absence of Commissioner DeBone.

CITIZEN INPUT:

- Ron Boozell asked for a discussion of solutions to homeless encampments in the Juniper Ridge area northeast of Bend's Urban Growth Boundary.

CONSENT AGENDA: Before the Board was consideration of the Consent Agenda.

1. Approval of Resolution No. 2024-041, extending 1.50 Limited Duration FTE, adopting a supplemental budget and increasing appropriations in the District Attorney's Office
2. Approval of minutes of the BOCC July 30, 2024 Community Conversation meeting
3. Approval of minutes of the BOCC August 5 and 7, 2024 meetings

CHANG: Move approval of the Consent Agenda as presented
ADAIR: Second

VOTE: CHANG: Yes
ADAIR: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 2 - 0

ACTION ITEMS:

4. Acceptance of a Criminal Justice Commission Organized Retail Theft Grant and consideration of Resolution 2024-042 to add .20 limited duration FTE to the District Attorney's Office

Kathleen Meehan-Coop, Management Analyst, reminded that in 2023, the Oregon Legislature created the Organized Retail Theft Grant Program to support efforts to combat organized retail theft operations. The District Attorney's (DA's) Office has been granted \$17,877 to join forces with the Bend Police Department to establish relationships with local retailers to address organized retail theft in Deschutes County. These funds will be used to support a .20 limited duration FTE at the DA's office, as well as training, travel, and meeting expenses. If the desired relationships with retailers are successfully established, the DA's office will be able to apply for more grant funds to continue these efforts.

CHANG: Move to accept a Criminal Justice Commission Organized Retail Theft Grant and authorize the County Administrator to sign the grant acceptance agreement

ADAIR: Second

VOTE: CHANG: Yes
ADAIR: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 2 - 0

CHANG: Move approval of Resolution No. 2024-042 increasing appropriations and adding FTE within the 2024-25 Deschutes County Budget

ADAIR: Second

VOTE: CHANG: Yes
ADAIR: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 2 - 0

5. Opioid Settlement Fund Programming

Janice Garceau, Director of Health Services, reminded that Deschutes County is expected to receive approximately \$7.1 million over 18 years as its share of the nationwide settlement which resolved all opioid claims brought by states, including Oregon. The Board previously approved the department's proposed plan for how to allocate these funds in the interest of adding capacity and expanding efforts targeted towards prevention, crisis intervention, and other related services.

An additional \$168,000 of opioid settlement funds has become available, which staff advises be used to enhance surveillance and overdose prevention activities. Specifically, the proposal is to use these funds as follows: \$80,000 for access to life-saving Naloxone medication, \$40,000 to increase surveillance support through an overdose dashboard, and \$40,000 to support a more robust public communications "Friends for Life" campaign. Five percent of the \$168,000 would be used for indirect costs.

Discussion ensued regarding prevention and harm reduction efforts, which have had the effect of decreasing the number of reported overdoses locally and across the nation. Jess Neuwirth, Health Services Supervisor, attributed this decrease partly to coming out of the pandemic and also to prevention messaging and the distribution and availability of harm reduction supplies, saying that the use of Narcan by a layperson to reverse an overdose has a 98% success rate.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Neuwirth said the purpose of opioid rescue kits is two-fold: to make Naloxone available in case an overdose is happening in the immediate vicinity, and to allow people to take a kit to carry on their person for use if needed elsewhere.

Neuwirth reported on efforts to increase public communication by placing ads in social media and on billboards and radio.

Commissioner Chang commented that a vast majority of overdose deaths are experienced by housed people, despite the persisting erroneous perception which associates homeless persons with drug overdoses. Garceau added that while overdose deaths nearly doubled a few years ago, these appear to have leveled out since last year.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Garceau said the additional \$168,000 was recently made available to the County as a result of ongoing settlement decisions.

CHANG: Move approval of the recommended use of an additional \$168,000 in opioid settlement funds as presented

ADAIR: Second

VOTE: CHANG: Yes

ADAIR: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 2 - 0

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Chang reported on Monday's meeting of the Regional Housing Council where the policy agenda for the upcoming legislative session was discussed.
- Commissioner Chang announced a field trip scheduled for October 2nd to view results of the West Bend Burn Pilot Project, an expanded prescribed burn intended to create a ring of low-fuel area around Bend.
- Commissioner Adair reported on yesterday's Project Wildfire meeting where Jenna Diebel, OSU Extension Forester, spoke to topics such as tree mortality, wildfire resiliency, and the need to balance fuels reduction with the preservation of habitat for wildlife.
- County Administrator Nick Lelack commented on the Board's meeting earlier this month with the City of Bend, at which time staff was directed to work to establish a temporary safe stay location to facilitate the relocation of encampments in the Juniper Ridge area. He expected that an update on these efforts will be presented at tomorrow's Coordinated Houseless Response Office meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:


At 9:56 am, the Board entered executive session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Real Property Negotiations.

At 10:00 pm, the executive session concluded with no action by the Board, and the public was invited to return to the room.

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 am.

DATED this 23rd day of Oct. 2024 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.


PATTI ADAIR, CHAIR

ATTEST:


RECORDING SECRETARY


ANTHONY DEBONE, VICE CHAIR


PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER