Present were Commissioners Anthony DeBone, Patti Adair and Phil Chang. Also present were Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator; Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator; Kim Riley, Assistant County Counsel; and Brenda Fritsvold, BOCC Executive Assistant.

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

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

CITIZEN INPUT: None

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Annual Update from Jericho Road

Don Senecal, consultant to the Jericho Road Board of Directors, presented the organization's annual report from 2022 which described the services offered by Jericho Road and quantified the number of hours volunteered to each component program (including housing assistance, emergency supplies, weekend food for students, and free, hot meals Monday through Friday). Senecal shared information on the outreach program which serves homeless campers in the Redmond area in coordination with local partners and providers.

Responding to questions, Senecal explained the partnership with area churches whereby an average of five campers per day are hosted in church parking lots. He
confirmed that some people have been referred to transitional housing or RV parks once they have secured some stability.

The Board was interested to hear Senecal's personal experiences and observations and invited him to speak as a private citizen at a future meeting of the Board under citizen input.

2. **Work session on proposed revisions to Deschutes County Code sections 2.36 and 2.37 regarding public contracting**

County Counsel Dave Doyle said Senate Bill 1047 provided substantive changes to public contracting requirements, and County staff have recommended similar revisions to the County's contracting code (DCC 2.36 and DCC 2.37). In summary, the changes increase the contract signature authority for department directors from $25,000 to $50,000 and the County Administrator's signing authority threshold from $150,000 to $250,000.

Doyle said if the Board concurs, a public hearing will be scheduled on these changes before an ordinance is brought forward.

3. **Use of Opioid Settlement Funds**

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator, reminded that Deschutes County expects to receive an estimated $6.7 million in opioid settlement funds over the next 18 years as a result of national lawsuits against opioid manufacturers. Staff seeks direction on how to allocate these anticipated revenues.

Stephanie Robinson, Administrative Analyst, said in response to the Board's direction after Health Services initially proposed using these funds for three specific uses, the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council discussed the proposal from Health Services along with the Board's interest in reviewing a wider selection of proposed uses. Robinson presented several options for proceeding at this time.

Commissioner DeBone supported directing some funding towards one or more programs which assist in addiction recovery, noting these might be residential or other treatment facilities.

Commissioner Adair said fentanyl is the leading killer of young adults, and the overdose rate is overwhelming. She agreed it is critical that people have access to recovery programs.
Commissioner Chang said under the terms of the settlement agreement, the funds must be used for specific abatement strategies. He supported proceeding with the proposal submitted by Health Services to allocate the funds to:
1) Prevention activities, including educational programs and community awareness;
2) Collaborative, cross-system coordination and surveillance activities; and
3) Intervention activities through the stabilization center.

Janice Garceau, Health Services Director, said following a large infusion of dollars at the beginning of the payout period, annual payments will scale down dramatically over the years. She said treatment is a costly endeavor and it is important to make these dollars stretch over time.

Deevy Holcomb, Community Justice Director, provided an alternative suggestion for funds relating to peer recovery mentors.

Commissioner DeBone asked if recovery efforts could be funded with one-time dollars or over one, two or three years. He asked about making a one-time investment in a program that would serve persons initially treated at the stabilization center. Commissioner Adair added that some people seek assistance at the stabilization center more than once.

Garceau offered to consult with Holcomb and other key staff and return with a proposal to target recovery efforts more specifically.

Saying that a secure residential treatment facility would cost a great deal both initially and over time, Commissioner Chang did not support exploring this idea.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Garceau estimated that approximately $1.5 million will be received in the first payout year; it's projected that $348,000 will be received in 2027.

Garceau confirmed that many persons who come to the stabilization center experience addiction and mental health issues and are referred to various outside organizations and resources. She clarified that staff will discuss a process to fund one or more peer-led organizations to bolster recovery efforts and return to the Board with a recommendation for a one-time investment paid from opioid settlement funds.

4. Review draft presentation for the upcoming Bend Chamber What’s Brewing event
Stephanie Robinson presented a draft presentation for the Board to share at the upcoming Bend Chamber What’s Brewing event on August 8th. The Commissioners provided feedback and requested minor changes.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Adair shared that she toured Deer Ridge, which offers inmates a program to learn welding in an effort to reduce recidivism.
- Commissioner DeBone referred to an email from NeighborImpact seeking ARPA funds to finish construction of its food warehouse.
- Commissioner DeBone commented on EDCO’s annual meeting and celebration which was held last week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 2:26 p.m., the Board entered Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Real Property Negotiations.

At 2:34 p.m., the Board exited Executive Session to direct staff to proceed as directed.

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

DATED this 16th Day of Aug., 2023 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR

ATTEST:

PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR

RECORDING SECRETARY

PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER