



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
JULY 26, 2022**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2022.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Ryan Vogt, Executive Director, Cascades West Council of Governments; Jenny Glass, Community Economic Development Director, Cascades West Council of Governments; Meg Walker, Communications Officer, Cascades West Council of Governments; Torri Lynn, Linn County Juvenile Department Director; Michelle Duncan, Linn County Sheriff; Ric Lentz, Emergency Manager, Linn County Sheriff's Office; Emerson Marsh, Emergency Management Recovery Coordinator, Linn County Sheriff's Office; Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County; Michelle Hawkins, Linn County Treasurer; Todd Noble, Linn County Health Services Administrator; Shane Sanderson, Linn County Public Health Program Manager; Diana Denham, Fiscal Services/Health Administrative Manager, Linn County Health Department; Terri McQueen, Contracts and Recruitment Manager, Linn County Health Department; Ani Yardumian, Deputy District Attorney, Linn County District Attorney's Office; Alysia Rodgers, Economic Development Catalyst, City of Lebanon; Ron Edwards; members from the sanitation companies; other audience members; Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer and Joanna Mann, Reporter for Democrat-Herald.

1, 2, 3. At 9:30 a.m. Chair Nyquist called the meeting to order. The flag salute and roll call followed. Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Chair; William C. Tucker, Vice-Chair and Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger were present, as well as, Darrin L. Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer and Marsha Meyer, Recorder for the Board of Commissioners.

4. Approval of Agenda.

Commissioner Tucker asked that the agenda be amended to add two items under Agenda Item No. 14 – "New Business". He indicated 14-A would be in regard to the renewal of the dues for the Oregon Timber Counties Coalition (OTCC); and, 14-B would be in regard to the Douglas Fir National Monument.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the July 19, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the July 19, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

6. COG Update – Ryan Vogt, Executive Director, Cascades West Council of Governments.

Mr. Vogt provided the Board with a COG Quarterly Update. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Mr. Vogt introduced Meg Walker, COG's new Communications Officer and stated they were excited to have her on board. He then recognized Jenny Glass, COG's Community Economic Development Director, to have her talk about the current status of the wetlands, as well as, a study that she and her team has done in regard to child care issues. Mr. Vogt provided the Board with a copy of COG's annual report for their review. A copy of the report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File. He then referred the Board to his written report and asked the Board if they had any questions.

Commissioner Nyquist asked about the level of funding as related to the one-time COVID funds and how it affected COG's budget now that the funds are disappearing. Mr. Vogt stated that the COVID funds were not a part of their normal operation and ARPA funds did not come through COG; however, they did receive \$900,000 for one-time CARES funding for small business lending. He stated that their regular budget was sound without any reliance on CARES funding.

Mr. Vogt then referred to Jenny Glass, COG'S Community Economic Development Director to give a wetlands update.

Ms. Glass indicated that consultants were working with the supply and demand across the region and that the study would end at the end of September, 2022. Discussion followed regarding assessing existing banks and credits available, as well as, the demand for future developments of urban growth boundaries across the region. Commissioner Sprenger asked if Ms. Glass knew how many credits were available in our region and Ms. Glass stated that there was supposed to be an update at the end of this week regarding the credit demand and that she would be available to give an update at the next scheduled COG Update or she could be available any time to attend the Board meeting with a presentation. Ms. Glass invited the Board to attend the final presentation by the consultants to hear directly from them on this matter. Commissioner Sprenger asked to receive a calendar invite to that presentation.

Ms. Glass then discussed with the Board the child care shortfall within Linn County and referred to a map indicating where there was a lack of access to child care in Linn County and the surrounding regions. The map was included in the Ryan Vogt's COG Quarterly Report. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Tucker thanked Mr. Vogt and his staff in Senior Protective Services for their help with a senior who was financially being taken advantage of. The team investigated and he appreciated their interaction in that situation.

Lastly, Mr. Vogt noted that Commissioner Sprenger would be serving as Vice-Chair on the COG's Executive Committee replacing Millersburg Mayor, Jim Lepin.

7. Reports of Staff and Committees:

A. Juvenile Update – Torri Lynn, Linn County Juvenile Department Director.

Mr. Lynn provided the Board with a Juvenile Update for the month of June, 2022. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File. He also discussed a few matters that would be coming up in the 2023 Legislative Session that would be important to Linn County.

8. Sheriff's Office – Ric Lentz, Emergency Manager, Linn County Sheriff's Office.

A. Resolution & Order 2022-283 approving a Grant Agreement between the Oregon Military Department Office of Emergency Management Emergency Management Performance Grant American Rescue Plan Act and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals.

Mr. Ric Lentz introduced Emerson Marsh who was joining the Emergency Management team as the Recovery Coordinator.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2022-283. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

9. County Attorney's Office – Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County.

A. 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-253 approving an Ordinance adopting the Linn County Psilocybin Product Manufacturers and Service Center Operator's Code.

Mr. Karandy presented Ordinance No. 2022-253 for a 2nd reading. He stated this would outlaw the operation and manufacturing and service centers of psilocybin products within the unincorporated areas of Linn County. The Ordinance would not go into effect unless approved by the voters of Linn County at the next General Election on November 8, 2022. The Board agreed for Mr. Karandy to read the Ordinance by title only.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-253.

Commissioner Nyquist asked if the ballot language had already been crafted. Mr. Karandy stated that the Board had before them a proposed Resolution & Order 2022-254. He stated that he had provided a copy of the proposed ballot title to the Board a few weeks ago. Commissioner Tucker stated that he had reviewed it. Commissioner Nyquist asked if, given the timeline, to wait a week before the Board approved the ballot title. Mr. Karandy stated that the last date by which the ballot title could be filed with the Clerk was Friday, August 19, 2022.

The Board agreed to wait a week to be able to think it through and be sure that it was fair and balanced.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution & Order 2022-254 approving an election on the issue of prohibiting Psilocybin Product Manufactures and Psilocybin Service Center Operators in the unincorporated area of Linn County.

After the discussion above, the Board continued this matter to next Tuesday, August 2, 2022.

10. Treasurer's Office – Michelle Hawkins, Linn County Treasurer.

A. Order 2022-287 acceptance of an expenditure of a certain grant within the Health Fund, \$302,000.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Order 2022-287. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Correspondence: There was no correspondence to come before the Board.

12. Special Orders:

A. Personnel Action Forms.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to accept the Personnel Action Forms list as Exhibit 1. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Personnel Action Forms – Cost of Living Adjustment for SEIU and Juvenile Detention Association.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to accept the Personnel Action Forms list as Exhibits 2 and 3 as a result

of a Cost of Living Adjustment of 5 percent per their contracts. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Order 2022-291 adopting the Linn County Pay Plans for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Order 2022-291. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars.

B. Discussion regarding rates from providers in Linn County for sanitation services *(Continued from Tuesday, July 19, 2022).*

The Board called upon Shane Sanderson, Linn County Public Health Program Manager, to summarize the previous discussion.

Extensive discussion followed and the Board heard from Julie Jackson, Municipal Manager, Republic Services and Joe Wonderlick, Pricing Manager, Sweet Home Sanitation.

Commissioner Tucker discussed the closure of the Lebanon Transfer Station stating that as a result of any rate increase he would want to see the transfer station reopened. Additional discussion followed and Ms. Jackson provided the Board with a letter dated February 11, 2022 to Ron Whitlatch, City of Lebanon Interim City Manager, which notified him of the closure of the Lebanon Transfer Station effective April 1, 2020. A copy of her letter is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Following a lengthy discussion and review of the possible rates increase as recommended by the review from Merina & Company, LLP and the Linn County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Commissioner Nyquist stated that he would be inclined to do an 8 percent increase instead of a 10 percent but that, frankly, he did not want to do any rate increase. He stated that, on a consumer basis and month-to-month, it wasn't a huge number but they needed to be careful of the symbolism in increasing prices for people who are struggling. Commissioner Nyquist stated that he was, however, concerned about the workforce and the labor needed to do the work. He stated that he would support an 8 percent increase and anything above that would be a reach. Commissioner Sprenger stated that she had two areas of focus: labor shortages and that employers are needing to offer higher employment packages for recruitment. She stated that she was willing to support a rate increase but wanted there to be future conversations in regard to the abandoned RV issues.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to adjust the rates at 8 percent return on investment as calculated by Merina & Company, LLP.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that this was one of the options that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee reviewed.

The vote was called. The motion passed.

Commissioner Nyquist recessed the regular Board meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Commissioner Nyquist reconvened the regular Board meeting at 11:02 a.m.

14. New Business: The following items were added to the agenda:

A. Commissioner Tucker asked the Board to consider approving an invoice from the Oregon Timber Counties Coalition (OTCC) for annual membership dues and to have someone authorized to sign saying that Linn County would stay active and be engaged in the meetings for the remainder of 2022. By consensus the Board agreed to approve the annual membership dues and for Commissioner Tucker to remain the County's representative. Commissioner Nyquist stated that he hoped the group was looking at the recent Supreme Court decision in regard to agency overreach.

B. Commissioner Tucker presented a draft letter that he had prepared in regard to the Douglas Fir National Monument for the Board's review and consideration. A copy of the draft letter is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File. Commissioner Nyquist stated that the letter looked good to him but he would want to include that this action changes or restricts the rules in the way of fighting fires and would increase public safety and risk to both critters and people. Commissioner Tucker stated he would add those comments to his letter. Commissioner Sprenger stated she was in support of the letter and would further encourage the delegation that this would add an additional layer of government regulation where 1-3 layers of protection already exists. This designation would hamper an area that has already sustained wildfire damage.

15. Announcements: There were no announcements.

16. Business from the Public (3-minute limit per speaker): There was no one present from the public wishing to use this forum neither in person or telephonically.

Commissioner Nyquist recessed the regular Board meeting at 11:12 a.m.


17. Executive Session – Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e).

Commissioner Nyquist reconvened the regular Board meeting at 11:47 a.m.


Commissioner Nyquist stated that no action was required as a result of the Executive Session.

18. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m. by unanimous consent.

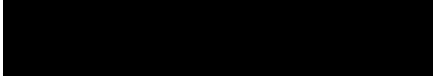
The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 2, 2022.

, Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Marsha Meyer

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Roger Nyquist, Chair


William C. Tucker, Vice-Chair


Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date 8-2-2022