

MINUTES FOR THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
STATE OF OREGON, COUNTY OF JACKSON
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
FEBRUARY 3, 2021

The Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting was opened by Commissioner Rick Dyer on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at 9:33 a.m. by videoconference. Those participating were:

Rick Dyer, Chair
Dave Dotterer, Commissioner
Colleen Roberts, Commissioner
Harvey Bragg, Senior Deputy County Administrator
Joel Benton, County Counsel
Alycia Hartley, Recording Secretary
Members of the Public and Press

Commissioner Dotterer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Employee of the Month: Michelle Wickham, Finance Department

Commissioner Dyer welcomed Ms. Wickham to the meeting and asked Commissioner Roberts to present her award. Commissioner Roberts read about the many ways in which Ms. Wickham is a valuable asset to the County, and her actions that made her deserving of this award. Commissioner Dyer said that there are many amazing employees at the County and that some, in particular, stand out. There is one person that all heads turn to when a question is asked, and Ms. Wickham is one of those people; she always has the answer. He congratulated her on this award. Commissioner Dotterer said that he is impressed with Ms. Wickham's initiative and work ethic, and also congratulated her. Ms. Shannon Bell, County Treasurer and Finance Director, stated that Ms. Wickham is a pillar to the team and the Department. Ms. Wickham thanked the Board and Ms. Bell for the kind words, and said that she is honored to receive this recognition. She thanked Ms. Bell for being the supportive boss that she is. She also thanked the Accounting staff and stated that they help her excel in her role. Commissioner Roberts stated that the work they all do makes the Board, and County, look good in return.

Years of Service Award: Marsha Hutcheson, County Administration/Facility Maintenance

Commissioner Dyer welcomed Ms. Hutcheson and Mr. Ryan DeSautel, Jackson County Facility Maintenance Superintendent, to the meeting. He read about the many ways in which Ms. Hutcheson has contributed to the County through her 30 years of service. Commissioner Dotterer said that it does not pass without notice that both awards today revolve around accounting and finance. These are incredibly difficult things to do and it is good to recognize their outstanding effort. Commissioner Roberts congratulated Ms. Hutcheson and said that 30 years is a very long time to remain with one employer. She thanked her for her many years of service. Mr. DeSautel said that he appreciates Ms. Hutcheson and her long-dedicated service; the value is not measurable. She has been essential in the success of their office. Due to technical difficulties, Ms. Hutcheson was not able to provide additional comments.

10.00 Request for and Discussion of Non-Agenda Items (5-Minute Limit)

David Smith, Medford, submitted comments in writing (*Submission No. 1*).

Brad Bennington, Medford, spoke about maintaining investor desirability and praised the County for being so well-managed. He spoke about the struggles being faced by the construction industry in the face of so much need following the recent wildfires.

Christo Hartman, Ashland, stated that he feels the truth is being censored in regard to COVID-19. He said that it is a manmade disease, and people are being lied to. He spoke about Jackson County being a Home Rule County and the Board has the authority and ability to make things how they see fit as long as it is true to the Constitution.

Gregg Marchese, Phoenix, spoke against the COVID-19 vaccines and referenced an email he sent the Board regarding statements made in the January 28, 2021, Board of Commissioners' Staff Meeting.

Guenther Ambron, Cave Junction, referenced information submitted to the Board (*Submission No. 2*) regarding a group of researchers who have come together to provide accurate information about polymerase chain reaction testing. He requested that himself, and others who have spoken, be placed on an agenda to present to the Board.

Ananda Coniff, Ashland, spoke about holding the Constitution in the highest regard and said that there is no law stating that anyone is required to wear a mask. She spoke about the freeness of breathing and said that the vaccines are being used as experimental technology.

Joshua George, Grants Pass, said that the power should be given back to the people. He hopes to see a change occur with regard to stopping the mask mandates.

Judy Hinkel, O'Brien, spoke against how funds have been handled across the United States. She said that pressure has been applied to add COVID-19 as the cause of death to death certificates, as hospitals receive more money if deaths are COVID-related.

Clark Mangelsdorf, Ashland, said that the people are forgetting the power and importance of their voices. He said that counties can be very powerful and that no one attending these meetings has spoken in favor of the mandates.

Jason Shaffer, Ashland, spoke about the State ceasing to report detailed COVID-19 information. He said that deaths are rapidly declining and if that is reported it will interfere with the narrative. He spoke about the eight steps to communism.

Bob Robertson, Medford, said that he was disappointed to not meet in person. He spoke about the County Home Rule Charter, and said that he was approached by numerous people asking for something to be done about the closing of businesses. He would like to see the Board do something to make a difference and take a leadership position. He feels that the County's Home Rule Charter provides the ability to challenge what the Governor is doing.

Bronwen Erickson, Family Nurse Practitioner, spoke about her concerns for the health of this community. She spoke against the lockdowns occurring and their effects.

Jim Wright, Medford, said that he works face-to-face and hands-on with those in the community who are facing a mountain of depression and hopelessness. He said that as businesses continue to close, on top of trauma from the recent fires, the depression and heartache is at a tipping point. He urged the Board to use their authority through the County Home Rule Charter to step forward.

Jerry Evans, Jacksonville, said that, as owner and operator of the Jacksonville Inn for 45 years, he has never experienced this level of trauma for their business. He asked the Board to use their authority to help restaurants get back in business.

Amy Rose, Eagle Point, spoke about running the Art and Bloom Festival in Medford and how it had to be canceled last year, and likely will be again this year. She said it is unlikely it will be brought back if that is the case. She said that the business owners in the community are done waiting and the Board needs to do something through the County Home Rule Charter.

Commissioner Dyer spoke about the ways the Board has addressed the issues spoken of today.

20.00 Consent Calendar

20.01 Minutes of Meetings

BoC Work Session, January 19, 2021

BoC Regular Meeting, January 20, 2021

BoC Staff Meeting, January 21, 2021

Commissioner Dotterrer made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. Those who voted aye: Commissioner Dotterrer, Commissioner Roberts, and Commissioner Dyer. Motion passed.

Following the motion and roll call vote, Commissioner Dotterrer, Commissioner Roberts, and Commissioner Dyer each authorized the use of his/her electronic signature on the minutes presented, pursuant to Order No. 1-21.

30.00 Public Hearings

No public hearings were scheduled.

40.00 Discussion/Deliberation

40.01 *Order Appointing Dennis Smith to Position No. 3 and Tiffany Zeismer to Position No. 5 on the Board of the Charlotte Ann Water District. Order No. 19-21*

Commissioner Dyer read the Order by title. Mr. Bragg explained that the Charlotte Ann Water District (District) is a domestic water supply special district organized pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) Chapter 264. The governing body of the District consists of five members; three of which have resigned, leaving the District Board with a majority of the five positions vacant. ORS 192.320 provides that if the majority of the membership of a governing body of a special district is vacant, the Board of County Commissioners shall promptly fill the vacancies. The District has recommended that Dennis Smith and Tiffany Zeismer be appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The appointed members will serve until the election of new members at the next General Election, which is in May 2021, with their terms expiring on June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Dotterrer asked where the Charlotte Ann Water District was located? Mr. Bragg answered that it is in the area of the Cities of Phoenix and Talent.

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve Order No. 19-21 as read. Commissioner Dotterrer seconded the motion. Those who voted aye: Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Dotterrer, and Commissioner Dyer. Motion passed.

Following the motion and roll call vote, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Dotterrer, and Commissioner Dyer each authorized the use of his/her electronic signature on Order No. 19-21, pursuant to Order No. 1-21.

There being no further business, Commissioner Dyer adjourned the Regular Meeting at 11:21 a.m.

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Rick Dyer
Rick Dyer, Chair

/s/ Dave Dotterrer
Dave Dotterrer, Commissioner

/s/ Colleen Roberts
Colleen Roberts, Commissioner

/s/ Alycia Hartley
Alycia Hartley, Recorder
Approved on: 02/17/2021

Due to the existing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the need to promote physical distancing, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners is conducting meetings through electronic and telephonic means. On January 5, 2021, the Board of Commissioners approved Order No. 1-21 authorizing the use of their electronic signatures on Ordinances, Orders, and other documents. Following the motion and roll call vote, Commissioners Dyer, Dotterrer and Roberts authorized the use of his/her electronic signature on these minutes of February 3, 2021.