

MINUTES FOR THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
STATE OF OREGON, COUNTY OF JACKSON
STAFF MEETING HELD ON
OCTOBER 14, 2021

The Board of Commissioners' Staff Meeting was opened by Commissioner Rick Dyer on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 9:01 a.m. by videoconference. Those participating were:

Rick Dyer, Chair
Dave Dotterer, Commissioner
Colleen Roberts, Commissioner
Danny Jordan, County Administrator
Pete Philbrick, Senior Assistant County Counsel
Kacie Kinney, Recording Secretary
Members of the Public and Press

1. *Input From County Counsel*
Mr. Philbrick had nothing to report.

2. *Input From County Administrator*
 - a. *Review Agenda Items for the October 20, 2021, BoC Regular Meeting*
Mr. Jordan reviewed the agenda (*Submission No. 1*) and there were no changes.

3. *Discussion of Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Issues Including, But Not Limited to, AOC Conference, Bylaws, and Budget*
Mr. Jordan began by explaining that there have been concerns about Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) budget issues. He also said that Commissioner Roberts had spoken to him about the AOC bylaw amendments, which shut down opportunities for smaller counties and rural counties at the 90 percent threshold, to support a legislative action and limit the counties' abilities to have influence. He referenced House Bill (HB) 2341 and how Jackson County discovered, just days before the Bill was scheduled to have a hearing, that there were a lot of issues with the Bill. When he brought the issues to AOC's attention, the County was still pushed to support the Bill and AOC never brought back a quorum that could discuss the issues, which had not been previously addressed. Mr. Jordan discussed the attendance of each Commissioner at the upcoming AOC Annual Conference and how the Board would be able to vote. Commissioner Dotterer confirmed that he would be attending the AOC Annual Conference.

Commissioner Roberts explained that she was not able to attend the Legislative Committee meeting due to a time conflict with the Marijuana Advisory Committee meeting, but she did attend the AOC Board of Directors meeting. She reported that they had discussed the bylaw amendments, specifically about the budget, which did pass. She said that she asked what the trigger was for needing these changes and she feels that it is coming from issues involving Multnomah County. Commissioner Roberts expressed her concern about paying dues to an organization that the Board

is having to fight in order to have a say. Commissioner Dyer said that it is amazing that there was not a lot of opposition to the proposed 90 percent rule, and that it is very transparent that AOC is catering to the larger counties. He added that one of the reasons that Jackson County left AOC in the past was because it did not appear that the County's voice was being heard. Commissioner Roberts provided additional information about the bylaw amendments and details from the AOC Board of Directors meeting. Commissioner Dotterrer said that he did attend the AOC Legislative Committee meeting and the issues around the proposed percent rule or the bylaw amendments were not topics that were mentioned or discussed. Commissioner Dyer said that it seems like the amendments are attempting to be pushed through without people noticing. He believes that each Commissioner can attend the AOC Annual Business Meeting to cast their vote; he is not planning on attending the Annual Conference in-person, but he will participate virtually if that is an option. Mr. Jordan clarified that each Commissioner should be able to vote if they register.

Mr. Jordan explained how Multnomah County makes up over 60 percent of the State's population and that they fund approximately 60 percent of AOC's operating budget. He said that if Multnomah County pulled out of AOC, then AOC would not exist; Multnomah County has an influence that is not necessarily parliamentary or democratic, but it is more about the financial impact. Commissioner Dyer said that he hopes the word will be spread amongst the other counties, and that each county will speak up and vote against the changes that AOC is proposing. He said that this is supposed to be a process where, together, all counties are represented on issues. Commissioner Roberts said that she will reach out to Commissioner Court Boice, AOC District 4 Chair, and urge him that AOC District 4 needs to stand as a district and have everyone's voices heard. Commissioner Dotterrer said that he would like to revisit this topic about a week prior to the AOC Annual Conference to discuss voting, concerns, and additional information relating to the Annual Conference. The Board agreed to continue the discussion about AOC at a future Board meeting. Mr. Jordan spoke about AOC's funding, spending, and his concerns about budgeting. There was additional discussion about the Board's concern regarding AOC's budgeting, and Commissioner Dyer said that he would request a meeting with AOC to get additional information about their budgeting.

4. *Discussion Regarding Fires and Fire Recovery*

Mr. Jordan reported that there are still 404 fire victims being housed in hotels. He also shared the news that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is intending to charge rent at the end of the 18-month direct housing mission. In the FEMA Individual Assistance Program Policy Guide, it says that at the end of the 18-month period of assistance, FEMA may begin charging up to the fair market rent rate. FEMA will consider financial information of the household and rent could be as low as \$50 a month. Mr. Jordan believes that this rental policy could still change and that the State is going to request, mostly at Jackson County's request, a waiver to prevent rent expenses for people living in the FEMA trailers. Mr. Jordan feels that FEMA has been pretty tenable working with Jackson County on issues. He also explained that the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is working with the Housing Authorities of Oregon to put rental assistance and social programs in place, in the event that people cannot afford the potential rental expenses. Mr. Jordan also shared details about earlier discussions with OEM regarding the Sales and Donations Program, where they talked about significantly discounting the trailer units. The General Services Administration (GSA) is the one that manages the Sales and Donations Program and GSA has issues with the management of public funds and just giving the units away; this creates an unfairness for taxpayers.

Commissioner Dotterrer spoke about a newsletter from the Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG) and said that they are up and running, but continue to have issues with finding candidates to hire. The LTRG has planned to hire 24 Zone Captains, but they have only been able to find and hire five. There was additional discussion about housing issues that are still being addressed by multiple organizations.

5. *Discussion Regarding COVID-19*

Mr. Jordan provided an update on new positive COVID-19 cases, reported deaths, and hospitalizations in Jackson County. He said that Asante is going to close down their urgent care clinics at both their Black Oak and White City locations to redirect staff. Asante did not indicate that the closures were due to the vaccination mandate, only that they want to move these employees to higher, critical services. There was a brief discussion about assisted care facilities accommodating the exceptions and exemptions of their staff. Mr. Jordan said that there is concern about the hospitals filling up again because there are still patients that cannot be discharged due to health conditions that require higher levels of care, but they cannot be transferred to a care facility. Commissioner Dyer provided an update on Region 5 and the new positive COVID-19 cases, and he discussed the recent decrease in positive cases. Mr. Jordan further explained that the hospitals could still be inundated with patients while doctors try to catch up on their backlog of treatments and procedures. There are also several transfers that are being requested from smaller hospitals to the local hospitals. There was further discussion about the possibility of a hospital backlog and the continued need for additional staff.

Commissioner Roberts asked if there was any information about the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test not being used past the end of the year. She said that she thought she had read this in a recent report. Mr. Jordan answered that he had not heard of any reports that would indicate that the PCR test would no longer be used at the end of the year.

At 9:58 a.m., the Board discussed Agenda Item No. 6

Mr. Jordan said that on July 21, 2021, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Laboratory Outreach Communication System, a notification was sent out which states that after December 31, 2021, the CDC will withdraw the request of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use authorization (EUA) of the PCR diagnostic test.

At 10:01 a.m., the Board agreed to return to Agenda Item No. 6.

6. *Liaison Committee Reports*

Commissioner Dyer reported on attending a Public Health Advisory Board meeting. He also reported on participating in multiple interviews and a press conference regarding illegal cannabis grows in Jackson County.

At 10:00 a.m., the Board agreed to return to Agenda Item No. 5.

At 10:01 a.m., the Board agreed to resume Agenda Item No. 6.

Commissioner Roberts reported on attending meetings of the AOC Natural Resources Steering Committee, the AOC Board of Directors, the Salvation Army Board, the Eagle Point City Council, and the Marijuana Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Dotterer reported that he would be attending an A Greater Applegate Board meeting on October 25th. He also reported on attending meetings of the AOC Legislative Committee, the Transportation Advocacy Committee, the Logos Public Charter School Board meeting, and the Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc., Board meeting. Commissioner Dotterer shared that he will be out of town next week.

7. *Citizen Committee Nominations – Recording Secretary*
Commissioner Dyer referenced information provided to the Board regarding citizen committee nominations (*Submission No. 2*). The Local Public Safety Coordinating Council recommends the appointment of Mr. Nathan Olson, and the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends the appointment of Ms. Andra Hollenbeck. The Board agreed to the appointments as recommended. The Recording Secretary will prepare the Orders for approval at a future meeting.
8. *Review Calendars – Week of October 18, 2021*
The calendars were reviewed and there were no changes.
9. *Executive Session*
There was nothing for Executive Session.

There being no further business, Commissioner Dyer adjourned the Staff Meeting at 10:15 a.m.

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Rick Dyer
Rick Dyer, Chair

/s/ Dave Dotterer
Dave Dotterer, Commissioner

/s/ Colleen Roberts
Colleen Roberts, Commissioner

/s/ Kacie Kinney
Kacie Kinney, Recorder
Approved on: 10/27/2021

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, Dotterer and Roberts authorized the use of his/her electronic signature on these minutes of October 14, 2021.