

W.3.D.2.

AGENDA COVER MEMO

AGENDA DATE: January 7, 2009

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services

PRESENTED BY: Rob Rockstroh



AGENDA TITLE: ORDER _____ / IN THE MATTER OF ADDING ONE FULLTIME (1.0 FTE) ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST 2 UNDER POSITION NUMBER 15181 FOR FY 2008-2009 IN FUND 286 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

I. MOTION

In the Matter of Adding One Fulltime (1.0 FTE) Environmental Health Specialist 2 under Position Number 15181 for FY 2008-2009 in Fund 286 Department of Health & Human Services

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The Board is being asked to approve the "transfer" of 1.0 FTE Environmental Health Specialist 2 from the Land Management Division of Public Works to the Environmental Health Program of Public Health. In the near term, the incumbent will work on food/restaurant related issues, funded by the successful on-line food handlers' training/testing program, but the long-term stability of the funding and the long-term work associated with this position lies in Lane County Health & Human Services (H&HS)' negotiations to regain local control of the drinking water safety program, which reverted to State of Oregon, Department of Human Services (DHS) in FY 00. This action will eliminate the need for the reduction of a 1.0 FTE Environmental Health Specialist 2 position. Please note that Public Works already reduced the 1.0 FTE and appropriations in Supplemental 2.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

On February 3, 1999, the Board met to discuss the status of the County's Environmental Health and Drinking Water Programs, based on the placement of that program on "probation" by DHS. On 1 January, 2000; Lane County relinquished local control of the water quality program. Since 2000, DHS has been responsible for drinking water quality in Lane County.

In November, 2008, the H&HS Director reported to the Board (via memorandum) on the success of the on-line food handlers' training/testing

program and the need to utilize the resultant revenue in support of food safety in Lane County, in accordance with ORS 624.510.

Via BO 08-12-3-4, the Board gave the Land Management Division direction regarding budget reductions and reallocations, to be effected in Supplemental 2. Via Supplemental 2 (BO 08-12-17-1) these reductions and reallocations were effected, including the reduction of 1.0 FTE Environmental Health Specialist 2, position number 15181.

B. Policy Issues

Although DHS removed responsibility for the local drinking water safety program from Lane County in 2000, H&HS is confident that the resumption of the provision of this service can be accommodated by the strong management team currently in place in Public Health and at the program level within Environmental Health. The DHS/State Public Health Division has already expressed its support of Lane County reassuming direction of the drinking water safety program.

H&HS supports the maintenance of the local Public Health Authority and local control of public health issues in general, to the extent possible. H&HS supports the retention of local control based on the belief that local control is more cost effective, more responsive to the public being served and better able to respond quickly and appropriately to emergency situations.

C. Board Goals

This project will enhance the County's ability to provide drinking water safety for its residents.

D. Financial and/or Resource Consideration

The new 1.0 FTE Environmental Health (EH) Specialist 2 (Step 4) would initially work on food safety issues, funded by the increased revenue generated via the on-line food handlers' training/testing application. The Environmental Health Program has already allocated an additional \$190,000 in Supplemental 2, for wages and miscellaneous expenses.

Approval of the resumption of local responsibility for the drinking water program, within the Environmental Health Program, by DHS; would permit the transference of duties for the new 1.0 EH Specialist 2 to drinking water responsibilities. DHS funding of the local drinking water program will be based on the allocation of \$4,660/month, for the number of months remaining in the fiscal year, plus payment on a "fee-for-service" basis for the work invoiced to the State. The invoiced services will supply 60% of the program funding, with the base allocation providing the other 40% of required financial support. (Lane County's maximum compensation, both base and invoiced funding, for the period 1 January through 30 June, 2009, is estimated by DHS at \$69,897.)

E. Analysis

Although H&HS has not yet received approval of the return of local control of the drinking water safety program in Lane County's, H&HS is confident that an IGA for these services can be negotiated with DHS, that the resultant revenue will exceed the costs associated with the establishment and maintenance of the program and that Lane County can offer high-quality services.

In order to qualify for the re-establishment of local control, Lane County must establish that it can meet the staffing requirements and qualifications, that the staff hired will participate in two training sessions per year and that the local drinking water safety staff will adhere to all program standards.

F. Alternatives/Options

1. Approve the proposed 1.0 FTE increase in Fund 286, for an Environmental Health Specialist 2, position number 15181.
2. Decline the FTE increase in Lane County Environmental Health, which will retain the reduction of position number 15181, as approved via BO 08-12-17-1.

IV. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

The effective date of the position "transfer" would be close-of-business, January 9, 2009. Fund 286 added \$190,000 in revenue and expenses (salary offset, miscellaneous payments) in Supplemental 2.

V. RECOMMENDATION

H&HS supports the approval of this request.

VI. FOLLOW-UP

The H&HS Director has transmitted a formal request to DHS for consideration of restoration of Lane County's drinking water safety program.

ATTACHMENTS

Board Order
Organizational Chart

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION AND ORDER:) IN THE MATTER OF AND ADDING ONE FULLTIME (1.0 FTE)
) ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST 2 UNDER
) POSITION NUMBER 15181 FOR FY 2008-2009 IN FUND 286
) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Lane County Board of County Commissioners is recognized as the local public health authority; and

WHEREAS, the Board has affirmed its commitment to the benefits of local control of public health issues: and

WHEREAS, the mission of Lane County Health & Human Services is to promote and protect the health and well-being of individuals, families, and our communities; and

WHEREAS, budget considerations forced the reduction of 1.0 FTE Environmental Health Specialist 2 in the Land Management Division of the Public Works Department via BO 08-12-17-1; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Health Program of the Public Health Division can benefit from the addition of 1.0 FTE Environmental Health Specialist 2 to assist with food safety issues in Lane County and, in the near future, the resumption of local control of the drinking water safety program;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Board of County Commissioners add one full time (1.0 FTE) Environmental Health Specialist 2 to Fund 286 under position number 15181.

DATED this _____ day of January, 2009

Faye Stewart, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Date 12/30/08 Lane County
3/1
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

