

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING**

August 17, 2011

9:00 a.m.

Harris Hall Main Floor

Commissioner Faye Stewart presided with Commissioners Jay Bozievich, Rob Handy, Sid Leiken and Pete Sorenson present. Acting County Administrator Alicia Hays, County Counsel Stephen Vorhes and Recording Secretary Melissa Zimmer were also present.

1. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Under Commissioner Business D, Stewart added potential Board direction for a citizen request for an application for tourism funds for signage up the McKenzie. Handy wanted to add Risk of Litigation to the Executive Session.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Maurice Sanders, Chief of Police, Florence Police Department. He recalled that the Sheriff has recently made reduction in services in anticipation of further across the board cuts resulting in the additional loss of jail beds, staff and transport from Florence to Eugene. He indicated the Florence Police Department has had to hold felony suspects in their local jail that would have otherwise been released from the County Jail due to reductions. He said they are not anticipating the need to use the limited jail beds to handle felony inmates who have committed their crimes in Florence and represent a serious threat to the community. He said it is necessary to prevent the criminal suspects from reoffending while awaiting trial. He recalled the Sheriff recently terminated jail transport from Florence and Eugene. He said it impacts not just the Florence Police Department, but the Oregon State Police, the Lane County Sheriff's Office, Parole and Probation and the Confederated Trial Police. He said without the transport service each agency must perform their own transportation of arrestees. He commented that officer time involved from all agencies is lost. He stated that they need those officers in Western Lane County. He noted that law enforcement must meet the 36 hour statutory arraignment requirement. He said unless the Parole and Probation Officer obtains a caged vehicle to transport sanctioned clients to County Jail, the officer will have to make other arrangements for transportation at the Sheriff's Office since the Sheriff's transport services have been eliminated. He indicated that he has the support of the District Attorney and the Sheriff to initiate video arraignments from Florence to Circuit Court for the warrant arrests to meet the 36 hour statutory arraignment requirement. He said their jail is currently wired and ready. He indicated that all they need is for the County to install a camera and activate the system to eliminate a lot of unnecessary transports. He added it will allow for flexibility in transports by the Sheriff, Oregon State Police and Florence Police Department and at the same time meet their statutory requirements. He noted in his discussions with Sheriff Turner, he was informed that some of the service cuts might be reversed as they were made in anticipation of the latest round of budget cuts under consideration. He said speaking on behalf of the city of Florence with the

knowledge and consent of the mayor and city council, he respectfully requests the Sheriff's Office be given a pass on any further budget reductions to mitigate an already deteriorating public safety situation regarding the loss of jail beds, patrol coverage and jail transports.

Hal Reed, Eugene, talked about public safety. He said it is important to realize what the first priority of local government is. He stated that priority is to be safe from criminals. He recalled when communities were first formed the first thing they would do was hire a Sheriff and build a jail. He said they have a Sheriff and jail but they can't find enough money to properly fund it. He didn't think it was right to have their homes and lives be at the mercy of released criminals. He said it is the Board's duty to find the money to keep the citizens safe. He said the Board must do whatever is necessary to properly fund public safety. He said whatever the Board needs to do to cut they must, but they must properly fund public safety.

Mark Callahan, Eugene, asked the Board not to make any additional cuts to public safety in Lane County. He understands that Lane County is prepared to make another \$1.2 million in cuts to the FY 11/12 budget. He said the budget was prepared by using numbers from January from the U.S. Forest Service and BLM. He said the BLM did a recalculation in March but failed to notify the O & C counties until June 30. He said the recalculation reduced the O & C portion of the last SRS payment by over \$11 million and the Title II and Title III portions going to Lane County were reduced by \$1.2 million. He said the state is now asking the County to contribute \$920,000 for workers compensation insurance reserves. He said they have seen what has happened with budget this year with laid off officers and closed jail beds, less prosecutors and less than 24 hour Sheriff Patrol. He stated that law enforcement is one of the most basic reasons mankind forms government. He stated that protecting life and property should be the highest priority in the budget. He said if the cuts to public safety continue, the residents will be faced with two options in the future. He indicated that people will move out of the County, reducing the tax base and reducing the revenue that Lane County takes in. He added that will lead to more cuts in the future. He said if the County can't provide effective public safety to its citizens, the County citizen's will use their right to bear arms by defending themselves.

Ken Brown, Springfield, recalled that he met with Leiken to see what they can do to help out the County, schools and public parks. He noted in the past three months he has come up with a non-profit group called Project Hope. He reported on August 27 there will be 71 organizations coming together to clean and get 41 Lane County schools ready. He indicated there will be about 1700 volunteers to come together. He added on August 28 at PK Park following the EM's Baseball Game, there will be another 1500 volunteers who will give out 10,000 backpacks and school supplies provided by the community. He indicated they are filling the gap where the finances are lacking.

Margaret Thumel, Eugene, said public safety is paramount. She stated that Sheriff Turner and staff are terrific. She recalled on August 6 there was a first annual life vest exchange. She said it was a fabulous success because there were County employees that saw there

was a need, the public saw there was a need and Bi-Mart gave them two locations to work. She added that the Rotary Clubs also helped. She announced on September 10 between 9 and 1, they will have the Sheriff and Search and Rescue at Cabela's. She indicated that Sheriff Turner and John Miller looked outside the box because they know there isn't money to be had for everything. She stated that as a volunteer, public safety is number one. She asked the Board to keep public safety in the front row and center.

Cindy Land, Eugene, stated that Public Safety is the number one essential service. She indicated that taxpayers pool their money to cost effectively provide law enforcement and safety for the community. She said that everyone knew the Secure Rural Schools were temporary since the 90's. She stated the Board should cut funding for endless meetings and committees that talk about their community's poor, hungry and needy. She said the first priority is to keep the citizens safe. She said the financial security of Lane County needs bold action from the Board. She asked to simplify County government, not tax increases. She said the Board could provide the leadership with a policy directive to the County Administrator to cut spending that does not directly affect County services direct to the public. She said using Section 22 of the Lane County Charter, the County Administrator could consolidate or abolish any administrative functions except for the functions of public safety, criminal prosecution or Assessment and Taxation.

Don Hadley, Oakridge, distributed documents to the Board from the auditor. He also distributed five questions the Board could ask Gordon Zimmerman. He said their city has not been transparent. He said they have not yet received an answer for their financial problem. He hopes the recall will be successful. He thought the Board should look at the audits. He asked what they were going to do if they can't find the money. He said they don't get any answers. He stated he is on the Budget Committee and there are problems.

Joanie Mogstad, Eugene, reported that Secretary Salazar has to work with local jurisdictions to work with wilderness areas on the BLM lands. Her concern is that they have had many years to identify those wilderness areas. She said there have been study areas that have been off limits for many years. She indicated there is a bill that will provide language so they could use the areas if they are not appropriate for wilderness. She said she is for wilderness if it meets the definitions in the 1964 Wilderness Act, but she was not in favor of creating new wilderness. Her concern is if they do identify wilderness in the County that it will become part of an omnibus bill and they will lose the ability to have any influence over what happens at the local level. She reported that over the years the reduction in motorized access to the Oregon Dunes went from 28,000 acres to 6,000 acres.

James Affa, Oakridge, recalled Zimmerman's stated he didn't know what happened until last Tuesday that the money was missing. He added that Zimmerman stated his checkbook said he had more money in it, but the bank says he doesn't. Affa said it is not something that has occurred spontaneously, it is something that has been taking place for the past three years. He thought this was a dangerous precedent. He indicated they have a recall for four city councilors for keeping Zimmerman in his place. He noted that two months later they don't know any more than when they started.

Jeff Lozar, Eugene, asked what is the role of County government and what can the County afford to do. He asked if this was a popularity contest where the squeakiest wheel gets the money. He commented that as a taxpayer, he is happy the Board is forced to balance the budget. He demanded the Board do not make any further cuts to public safety. He said no more closed jail beds and no more reductions in the number of Sheriff's Officers who are on the road. He stated that it is a fundamental obligation of a government to provide protection to the people that it represents. He said the responsibility should be met by cutting or eliminating other lesser priorities. He stated that public safety is not a pet project or something that is funded if they have the money, it is the first priority.

Lela Trope, Springfield, asked why the fund suddenly had a giant shortfall. She knows some of the Board wants to cut timber and wants the Federal Government to comply and to get the County rolling. She added there are others that don't seem to care because bicycle paths and repaving roads that don't need paving seem to be more important. She couldn't find any reason about the shortfall from the BLM. She also did research about workers comp and she couldn't find anything where they are going to need more money. She said the bottom line is the cost to the community. She said the County is supposed to do the core fundamental items: fire, roads, police, protect the citizens and after that is icing on the cake.

Barbara Lozar, Eugene, was in support of keeping law enforcement and protection of the community in place. She thanked people who are helping the community without government intervention. She recalled that churches used to do this. She thought if the Board would allow the community members to help one another, it will happen without the government intervention. She asked the Board to stick to protecting the citizens and let them help each other.

3. **COMMISSIONERS' RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR OTHER ISSUES AND REMONSTRANCE**

Sorenson thought an important aspect of government is being open and accessible. He added that it is important that they fund to keep the building open and the people have the opportunity to come in and give their points of view on important issues. He thanked Cindy Land for her service on the Lane County Budget Committee and Florence Police Chief Maurice Saunders for his service to the people of Florence. He said that Public Safety is one of the most important things they do, but it is not the most important thing. He said they have so many laws and rules including providing for elections, for law enforcement and prosecution functions. He said it is not as easy to say public safety is the most important thing. He said based on his experience as a Lane County Commissioner, the vast majority of the money in their discretionary general fund goes for public safety. He indicated that public safety is a life and death issue for people. He said they need to make people as safe as they can afford to make them.

Leiken thanked Ken Brown for his help. He agreed with Barbara Lozar with people stepping up in the community. He said when they go through the budget process, it is

important to hear what is on people's minds. He said they have to prioritize what it is they want to deal with. He stated that public safety is a top priority of his. He hopes that they can move it in the right direction.

Handy asked Brown for more information on the events. He asked Hadley to give him a note with a top question to ask Zimmerman.

Bozievich said the public system in Lane County is in crisis and has been for years. He said the recent cuts were from a level that was unacceptable to start with. He said in June they released three offenders that were deemed high risk to the community. He added after closing the Jail beds in July, they released 11 offenders. He said they are gambling with the public safety system about whether or not some of the offenders that are being released back into the community will cause harm again. He said they need to prevent that from happening again. He stated that he will do his best to make sure that public safety is a priority and to prevent further deterioration from a system that is not acceptable at this time or was not acceptable before they made the \$8 million in cuts. He did not want to close any more public lands for public use until they can use lands for sustainable forest harvest. He added when they solve that problem, then he will be willing to close additional lands. He recognized Ken Brown and the other volunteer efforts. He stated that is where they have to go. He added that they are going to have to cut services in the next budget that are done by partners who are non-profits and the community will have to step forward to help. He said unfortunately citizens cannot provide law enforcement.

Stewart thanked everyone for coming. He said it is an important process to hear the public's concerns and to hear what the priorities are. He thanked the people for volunteering their time. He said they are trying to do the best they can. With regard to the citizens of Oakridge, he said hears their concerns and he is trying to help Oakridge do the best they can. He doesn't want to see Oakridge get worse before it gets better.

4. **EMERGENCY BUSINESS**

None.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Approval of Minutes

October 21, 2009, Joint BCC/University of Oregon Leadership, 9:30 a.m.

October 21, 1009, Regular Meeting, 1:30 p.m.

October 28, 2009, Regular Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

July 27, 2011, Goal Setting, 8:00 a.m.

July 27, 2011, Regular Meeting, 1:30 a.m.

August 3, 2011, Regular Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

B. Board of Commissioners

- 1) ORDER 11-8-17-1/In the Matter of Appointing Dan Olsen as Interim County Counsel.

C. County Administration

- 1) ORDER 11-8-17-2/In the Matter of Amending Order No. 11-6-22-1 to Amend the FY 2011-2012 Adopted Budget FTE Appropriations.

D. Health and Human Services

- 1) ORDER 11-8-17-3/In the Matter of Approving Award of a Professional Services Contract with EugeniSys in the Amount of \$124,800 for the Period September 1, 2011, through August 31, 2014, for the Provision of Information Support Services for the Environmental Health Program of Lane County Public Health.
- 2) ORDER 11-8-17-4/In the Matter of Delegating Authority to the County Administrator to Execute a Software Contract with NextGen for a Maximum Period of Fifty Years.
- 3) ORDER 11-8-17-5/In the Matter of Adding One Full Time (1.0 FTE) MHO Care Coordination Specialist Effective September 1, 2011 and Appropriating an Additional \$67,144 in Revenues and Expenditures for 2011-2012 in Fund 287 Department of Health & Human Services.

E. Management Services

- 1) ORDER 11-8-17-6/In the Matter of Award of LCP 2011-05 to McKenzie Commercial Contractors, Inc., for Construction Contractor Services in the Amount of \$1,382,512 to Replace the Roof on the Convention Center at the Lane Events Center.

F. Youth Services

- 1) ORDER 11-8-17-7/In the Matter of Submitting Four Applications for Title II Funds to the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for Youth Work Crew in the Department of Youth Services.

MOTION: to approve the Consent Calendar.

Handy MOVED, Leiken SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0.

6. **PUBLIC WORKS**

- a. REPORT BACK/Ordinance No. PA 1257/In the Matter of Adopting the Junction City Highway 99 Refinement Plan as a Refinement to the Lane County Transportation System Plan, Amending the Lane County Transportation System Plan to Incorporate the Refinement Plan by Reference, and Co-Adopting the Plan as a Refinement Plan to the Junction City Transportation System Plan, and Adopting a Severability Clause.

Lydia McKinney, Public Works, explained that the ordinance that will be in front of the Board this year would adopt the Junction City Highway 99 Refinement Plan. She added the purpose of the plan was to preserve the function of Highway 99 through Junction City. She reported that the city of Junction City had adopted the Refinement Plan in March 2009 and it currently applies within the Junction City limits but does not apply to any lands outside until the Board adopts the plan.

McKinney recalled that the Board had a First Reading in January 2010 and a Public Hearing was held and closed in February. She added at the February meeting the Board directed staff to return with options for adopting only a section of the five sections of the Refinement Plan. She said the Board had concerns about improvements shown that were outside the UGB, She added at the Third Reading in April, the Board decided to take no action since it was determined that it wasn't viable to adopt a portion of the Refinement Plan but the Board wanted to show support for the Phase One improvements and adopted a resolution stating that. She stated in October 2010 the Board moved a Fourth Reading and set the Fifth Reading for October 2011 and directed staff to report back. She said with regard to the Junction City Transportation System Plan, it is underway and in the early stages. She noted on August 4 there was a citizen advisory meeting.

McKinney explained options for the Board. She said staff recommends that the Board move ahead to adopt the Junction City Refinement and it could take place at the Fifth Reading in October. She said if the Board wanted to have the Transportation System Plan more aligned with adoption of the Refinement Plan, they could delay adoption of the Refinement Plan until August 2012.

7. **COUNTY ADMINISTRATION**

- a. Announcements

None.

- b. REPORT BACK/Assistance to Oakridge.

Hays reported that Liane Richardson, County Administrator, has been in contact with Gordon Zimmerman, City Administrator and asked him to attend this meeting.

Stewart recalled when Zimmerman last came before the Board, he had to go to his city council to authorize the commitment of the tax funds to pledge the potential loan. He said for today, the Board needs to approve the process and acknowledge they will establish a paying agent agreement. He received copies of different correspondence to audit books to 2008. He asked why it is so hard to supply information to the citizens.

Zimmerman reported that between 07/08 and 08/09 they did a conversion from a DOS based system to a Windows based system. He said making the conversion takes great effort and time and there has been confusion with what the old system did to match up with the new system. He indicated there is a disagreement between their auditor and accountant. He noted they have reached an agreement with their auditor and they are in the midst of finalizing the 08/09 audit. He said the city council is moving forward in completing the audits. He hoped to be on track by the end of the year for the 09/10 audit. He reported the auditors were questioning a \$67,000 credit to the general fund. He said it was an unexplained difference between the old system and the new system. He indicated the auditor told them to put it in as a credit and then they came back to justify that, and he said the auditors told him to do it. He stated he can't move forward with the recommendations if they don't give him the audit with the recommendations. He asked if the Board was going to do a Memorandum of Understanding or agreement as a paying agent. He said he needs some kind of indication that states the Board of Commissioners will be the paying agent so he can take it back to Siuslaw Bank so he can get the money. He indicated that he needed it before the end of the month.

Stewart understood that they can just pass a motion that documents they gave direction to set up a paying account as needed.

Leiken asked Zimmerman if he contacted LCOG for some assistance.

Zimmerman indicated he received assistance from LCOG and other managers across the state.

Leiken recommended Zimmerman rely on support systems so he doesn't get in this position. He didn't believe this was Lane County's responsibility. He stated it was up to Zimmerman and the citizens. He supported moving forward with a vote today. He stated the reality is that Siuslaw Bank is on the hook. He added that Lane County is the paying agent.

Handy asked what went wrong and who is responsible.

Zimmerman said the internal accounting investigation is ongoing and no reports or documents have been brought back. He stated that they have been working to complete the audit since the auditors came in the fall 2009. He added that they keep going back and forth with questions. He said as of Monday, the auditors agreed to move forward and complete the audits for 08/09 and 09/10 with the information they have. He said they are a small city. He has had 23 audits in a row and the last 22 were qualified, meaning they were good audits. He added the previous 20 were unqualified because they are small and they have difficulty with control. He said they try to do as much as they can, but they don't have a lot of staff. He reported that prior to 2008 auditors were able to come in and prepare the financial statements and audit the financial statements. He said from the fallout of Enron, they are not allowed to do that anymore. He said they have to have a separate accountant do the financial statements. He stated that has caused a natural friction point between the opinions of the accountant and the auditors. He added the audit standards have changed over the year. He said he can't have suggestions to do things better until he receives them. He said they will address those issues as the auditors have made them aware.

Bozievich doesn't understand how Zimmerman wasn't reconciling the general ledger with the check book and having a \$400,000 reduction.

Zimmerman explained that he reconciles the bank account every month. He said they haven't reconciled to the general ledger cash accounts and they are having difficulty doing it. He stated they don't understand it either.

Bozievich wants to help the process and help the city move on. He will be supportive of the motion to support a paying agent agreement. He thought the sooner Zimmerman could communicate the information to Oakridge, the better the community would be.

Zimmerman concurred with Bozievich.

Stewart was in support of the County being a paying agent. He wanted to make sure they have involvement by Mike Barnhart, Finance, to review once a month as to what is taking place. He wanted that incorporated as they move forward.

MOTION: to direct staff to establish a paying agent agreement with oversight from Mike Barnhart or the Finance Department at some level to review the finances.

Leiken MOVED, Bozievich SECONDED.

VOTE: 4-1 (Handy dissenting).

c. REPORT BACK/Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.

Alex Cuyler, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, said he has a draft letter in front of the Board that addresses an effort the Siuslaw National Forest initiated with regard to designated routes for off-road vehicles at the Dunes National Recreation Area. He reported the National Forest convened a work group that looked at designated routes across from the north to the south in the Dunes Recreation Area and made a series of recommendations to either close off existing user routes or opening up other larger riding areas and creating a corridor approach over open areas. He indicated the letter he drafted gives detail to those recommendations. He added he did it in consultation with the Sheriff's Department and the Dunes deputies. He said they want to push the vehicles south and to the west to mitigate the noise impacts to the Florence area. He thought the Forest Service should have a frank discussion in writing from the County about the future of the ability to patrol that area in the way they may have been accustomed to. He added there are other National Forest law enforcement officers that have a presence on the Dunes but the County has the majority of the responsibility with regard to patrolling on the Dunes.

Sorenson asked if a County within the area could get a seat on the advisory council and change the paragraph if counties are mentioned. He asked if they could get another draft of the letter. He favored the paragraph in the letter that they are not in favor of designating a route. He asked about leaving discussion of the Secure Rural Schools paragraph off and state the County's ability to provide law enforcement in the Dunes is significantly restricted because of their overall financial picture.

Cuyler was in agreement.

Handy stated that he has concerns about this. He asked about the paragraph that states the Board of Commissioners were in approval of the rezoning proposals. He needed more information about what they are in favor of.

Cuyler said a designated route implies more of an actual trail. He explained that rezoning proposals are large open riding areas.

Handy was in support of the letter but wanted to pull the paragraph about the riding area.

Bozievich indicated that off highway vehicle recreation use is a huge economic driver for Lane County. He stated that it brings in out of state and out of country money. His concern about bringing this forward is that the current plan was heavily balanced on closures in the north riding area. He was concerned about the economic impact to Florence and Dunes City. He recalled the 28,000 acres used

to be open and in 1994 the Plan dropped it down to 6,000 acres. He said the 94 plan was adopted without the Federal Advisory Council's input as it should have been. He commented that they are operating with a current flawed plan. He thinks this action might taint the update of the 2014 Plan by the Forest Service adopting the current notice of intent of designating routes. He added that designating routes means closing routes. He didn't think listing the advisory committee membership would change the content of the letter and he doesn't think they should delay it by finding out how many members Lane County is allowed to appoint. He said they should go back to the original act that states there is an advisory council that is supposed to be involved in drafting the plans. With regard to the pessimism in the last paragraph, he thought they should delete the paragraph but to make sure this gets forwarded into the public record for public comment to put the Forest Service on notice that Lane County is patrolling on a diminishing funding source. He was concerned about the use of the word noise throughout the document and he would put it down as sound or sound control. With regard to zoning, he noted the current 94 plan has 8,000 acres for non motorized undeveloped; 1,000 acres for Snowy Plover habitat; 3,000 acres for plant, fish and wildlife habitat; 2500 acres for wetland emphasis; 1,000 other acres for wild and scenic river and 1,000 acres as a research natural area. He stated this plan has set aside additional areas in closing off some areas being utilized. He supported the current language with the zoning proposals that are supported by the user organizations.

MOTION: to move that the Board of Commissioners approve this letter to Angie Morris with the following changes: that the last paragraph is deleted and a different closing sentence be substituted about limited resources and the ability to control the Dunes. The word noise throughout the document is substituted with the word sound.

Bozievich MOVED, Leiken SECONDED.

Handy said with the unanswered questions in the blue area and the pros and cons, if they can't locate people it will mean additional resources for the Sheriff's Department when someone needs some help.

Leiken commented that they could send this letter but he didn't know if they will be listened to. He supports the letter but does not support the overall policy with the Federal Government.

Stewart supported the motion.

VOTE: 3-2 (Handy, Sorenson dissenting).

BLM Letter

Cuyler said the BLM wants to identify wilderness areas within the County under the lands managed by BLM. He said the Secretary of Agriculture will be identifying lands as “crown jewels” for Congress’ consideration. Cuyler sent a note back to Director Shepard that outlines that the Board has no recommendations for additional lands in Lane County that would benefit from wilderness status and a statement about the O & C Act and if any lands are removed from timber production under the O & C Act that it be replaced by other lands.

Sorenson thought they didn’t give Lane County enough time to respond. He was not in favor of sending this letter.

Bozievich wanted to state that Lane County does not support any further wilderness designations. He said they have seen more of their public lands closed off to the public for economic use and the BLM has failed to fulfill the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan and fail to carry forward the Western Forest Plan Revision. He stated they are currently operating on almost no harvest. He said until the BLM resolves the issues, he is not willing to support any further wilderness designations anywhere at this time. He is willing to let the letter go as is. He said Cuyler did good research and there isn’t anything recommended by the Eugene District in Lane County.

Handy said that they need to understand that federal timber and forest policy is in a stuck place and the more they try to keep pushing the same kind of dynamic, the less things go anywhere. He wanted to see a different letter and he won’t be supporting the letter today. He believed the message they should send to the federal government and other stakeholders is it is time to take advantage of the collaborative processes to get off the stuck spots that continue to push the way they have always done things. He said if they bring all the stakeholders together in good faith in enough time they could resolve these issues that end up in court. He thought this letter wouldn’t get them there.

Leiken supported the letter. He concurred with Bozievich on parts of the letter. He stated to set aside wilderness didn’t make sense, while they continue to import from Canada and other countries. He wanted to support the revenue streams that need to be coming into the County. He noted the Act has been in place since 1937. He thought it was important that the BLM didn’t have a recommendation.

Stewart supported sending the letter.

MOTION: to approve sending a letter as drafted.

Bozievich MOVED, Leiken SECONDED.

VOTE: 3-2 (Handy, Sorenson, dissenting).

Cuyler reported the issue of public comment has come up a couple of times. He said they had one instance where staff had made public comment and another instance where he was supposed to present public comment from the Board. He noted that they don't have any policy around public comment when they are asked by state or federal agencies on making public comment. He thought they could work on this through the Policies and Procedures Committee. He thought when staff found something that should be commented on that it is brought to the Board's attention.

Stewart recommended that this item go to the Policies and Procedures Committee.

d. Board Direction for Signage up the McKenzie

Stewart said he was contacted by citizens up the McKenzie. He reported that they have been working on a project to establish seven new entry signs that are similar to the national forest signs that will signify the different communities along the highway. He added that this project has been in the works for almost a year that was established through a Ford Family Foundation. He said their charge was to bring communities together to establish the significance of each individual community. He worked with Economic Development last year and there used to be a Facilities Permit Community Benefit Fund that could be used to help with the permitting process. He said they found out there was no money and they missed the window of opportunity to apply for grants through the tourism grants the Parks Department operates. He recalled that they only allocated \$100,000 of other \$150,000 available funds. He reported that this group has asked for \$10,000 under the guidelines of the grant process. He added the recommendation from the Tourism Committee had said the reason they didn't allocate the full \$150,000 was that there weren't enough applications that warranted the money. He added the direction to staff was that if there were projects that came in during the year that met the criteria, the Board could consider allocating additional funds up to \$150,000. He asked the Board to have staff process the application and make a recommendation to the Board as to whether or not to fund the proposal if it meets the criteria and allow the Board to make a decision in the near future.

Handy wanted this to go to their committees for vetting.

Sorenson was in favor of rolling this for the Special Tourism Grant Committee. He wanted the committee to be reconvened and to have the committee look at that request or any other ideas countywide where someone had submitted an application but didn't do a good job or they submitted an application and they were told to change it. He said they should establish a second date six months from the last date and have the committee review the applications. He was against the Board making the decision, as there should be a process for it.

Bozievich said staff is asking to take an out of cycle grant fund and not for the Board to make a decision. He didn't think signage seemed as time sensitive. He

didn't hear a convincing argument where they should pull that out of cycle. He asked why they couldn't wait until January.

Stewart stated this is time sensitive. He stated next year is the 2012 Track and Field Trials. He said there will be people touring and with the Blue River Track, they are expecting a number of people using the new all weather track in Blue River. He said there is an opportunity to showcase the communities up and down the McKenzie corridor and take in potential tourism dollars available. He said they are willing to wait or proceed with individual signs. He added there are cost savings to permitting seven signs as opposed to one individual sign at a time because there are surveying requirements. He said the longer they wait, the less of an opportunity they have to take advantage of the next tourism season.

Leiken asked if Travel Lane County has weighed in on this. He thought it would be a good opportunity to showcase what they have in Lane County. He asked to check with Kari Westlund to see what they have available.

Stewart believed Travel Lane County is involved because the money is coming from the overnight stay fund. He said there is \$7,000 of the allotment that went to the McKenzie corridor allocated through the Chamber of Commerce.

Bozievich supported doing an out of cycle process to see if it qualifies for the grant.

Stewart said he heard a desire to this. He thought the recommendation should be to see if there is a way to open up a modified condensed process for receiving additional applications and review by reconvening the committee to review them and make a recommendation for allocating some if not all of the additional \$50,000 set aside in the recent process.

8. **COUNTY COUNSEL**

a. Announcements

None.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION as per ORS 192.660**

Per ORS 192.660 (2)(h) for the purpose of pending litigation.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

There being no further business, Commissioner Stewart recessed the Board into Executive Session at 12:05 p.m.

Melissa Zimmer
Recording Secretary