

General Discussion: June 13, 2017

9:00 a.m. – BCC Conference Room

Commissioners Lily N. Morgan and Daniel E. DeYoung (Simon G. Hare was attending another meeting);
Rikki Perrin, Recorder

Chair Lily N. Morgan called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

1. Pre Fire Season Meeting w/ ODF and Fire Defense Board Chief

Jenny Hall, Emergency Services Manager, reviewed process and paperwork for the coming fire season. Grants Pass Fire Chief Lang Johnson and Assistant District Forester Tyler McCarty opened general discussion regarding risk factors and fighting fire within our region. There are more structures and forest growth to burn but the resources are not increasing with that growth. He discussed standard administrative date to start fire season, impact on firefighting due to budget; staffed at about 90%; cannot staff for large events. RVFCA (Rogue Valley Fire Chief Association) meets monthly to discuss coordinated response during emergency situations and strives for uniformity between associations. Chief Johnson also explained the general procedure for both structural and wildland agencies responding to fires during fire season. Commissioner DeYoung asked for elaboration on determining jurisdiction and how that's decided without delaying initial attack. Chief Johnson explained of Conflagration and Delegation of Authority. A fire occurring in an unprotected area requires state resources; that fire is being fought on the county's behalf. The benefit of the formation of the fire district was addressed so that when one agency pulls out, even though the fire is not extinguished, there remains a collaborative involvement and availability. There is an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Jackson and Josephine Counties that allows the EMs to work together in either county. Commissioner Morgan conveyed concern over the push back from the community regarding paying for services that are not protecting homes; property owners not paying for fire coverage. Chief Johnson suggested it is a concern for the health and welfare of the community. Fire Boards over fire districts, and establishment of ordinances suggested to keep the community involved without raising taxes. Commissioner Morgan would like to establish defensible standards for fire management and involvement by private entities.

2. Other (*ORS 192.640(1) “. . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects”.*)

Commissioner DeYoung discussed an ADA ramp up to Anne Basker, retention wall, flower beds, shrubs. Commissioner Morgan brought up Rebekah Robinson, Senior Administrative Supervisor, Public Health resigned yesterday. Commissioner Morgan suggested someone attend the PNWER and OCCES (Pacific Northwest Economic Region and the Oregon Coastal Caucus Economic Summit) in Portland on June 23-27, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.