

General Discussion: October 15, 2019

9:00 a.m. – BCC Conference Room

Commissioners Lily N. Morgan, Darin J. Fowler and Daniel E. DeYoung; Trish Paredes, Recorder

Chair Lily N. Morgan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Discuss Resolution No. 2019-008; In the Matter of Referring to Josephine County Voters at the May 21, 2019 Election an advisory Question on a County Lodging Tax

The Board discussed if they will implement the County Lodging Tax in Josephine County outside of Grants Pass City Limits. In May 2019 the question was posed to Josephine County voters if the Commissioners should create a County Lodging Tax and it failed by a slim margin; 50.95% voted No and 49.05% voted Yes. Before this idea is proposed to Josephine County voters again, the Board needs to have more details and research on what the tax would be, what specific lodging would be taxed and where the money will be funneled. Commissioner Fowler would like to research more into this idea, he will work with the Collaborative Economic Development Committee (CEDC), Eve Arce, Treasurer, Julie Schmelzer, Curry County Administrator, and the City of Grants Pass to see how a lodging tax could be designed and the elements that need to be included in order for Josephine County voters to feel confident on supporting this tax.

2. State of the County Event 2020

The Board discussed sending out a poll of when the Department Heads would like to hold the State of the County for 2020, they will look at the results and make a decision with those results.

3. Employee/Volunteer Appreciation Event

The Board discussed the time of year that we could possibly hold an employee/volunteer appreciation event, and whether the events should be combined or keep the events singular. The Board would like Annette Sorensen, Executive Office Manager, to form a committee with employees from different departments so that there will be more participation and attendance. This committee's task will be to plan, research, ask permission, and then execute the process.

4. Liaison Reports

Commissioner DeYoung discussed the Williams intersection and the citizen's response to the design, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the funding for the Grants Pass Airport runway extension, and the lack of support for the regional sales tax from Jackson and Coos Counties. Commissioner Fowler discussed the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) meeting he attended, the Grants Pass High School Career Fair tomorrow, and his attendance at the Williams Town Council. The Board discussed local Community Advisory Committees (CAC) and their functions and jurisdiction in the County. Commissioner Morgan mentioned a Williams Pesticide spray meeting tonight, the Merlin Fire Wise meeting at North Valley High School tonight, Drug Court she attended, and the BLM Land Exchange status update. Commissioner Morgan asked the Boards permission to allow Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger to participate in the Fire Protection Committee, Commissioner Fowler and Commissioner DeYoung both gave their permission to allow her to be included on the committee. Staff was directed to process the resolution for the Fire Protection Committee.

5. Additional Subjects/Matters from Commissioners – ORS 192.640(1)

None heard.

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.