

County Administration Workshop: April 1, 2020

9:00 a.m. – Anne Basker

Attending: Commissioners Daniel E. DeYoung and Lily N. Morgan; (Darin J. Fowler participated via phone); Wendy Watkins, Recorder

Vice-Chair Daniel E. DeYoung called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

A. Forestry

1) Right-of-Way Easement between Josephine County and Pacific Power

Dave Streeter, Forestry Director, explained this easement is for a right-of-way, 20 feet in width and 2,522 feet in length, for the construction, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, enlargement and removal of Pacific Power's electric power transmission, distribution and communication lines. The Board agreed to approve the right-of-way easement. Commissioner Fowler made a motion to approve the Right-of-Way Easement between Josephine County and Pacific Power, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. Upon roll call vote, motion pass 3-0; Commissioner Morgan – yes, Commissioner Fowler – yes and Commissioner DeYoung – yes.

B. Human Resources

1) Transit Hazard Pay Proposal

JJ Scofield, Human Resource Director, explained the nature of the Governor's Executive Order is to restrict public interaction; however, Transit must work in close proximity with the public and Transit has asked for hazard pay to consider paying those drivers for incurring that risk. Scott Chancey, Transit Program Supervisor, mentioned the Covid-19 pandemic has transit organizations paying their employees hazard pay in addition to their regular pay and benefits. This hazard pay is a flat amount, paid per hour, for a specified time period. The Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) is doing this in Oregon and started with RVTD and they are paying an extra \$2 an hour. We are seeing an 18% reduction in ridership on the regular routes and a 70% reduction in the door-to-door service for the elderly and disabled. I am taking the drivers who are not busy with the door-to-door service and putting them into fixed route service, which is increasing service and spreading passengers over more busses. Commissioner Morgan asked what is in place right now to mitigate exposure. Is there potential of putting up a plexiglass? Mr. Chancey said the drivers are using gloves, Lysol wipes and masks. We have instructed drivers to not touch money, not to be in close proximity of passengers and passengers are required to use the backdoor of the bus. Commissioner Fowler said he does agree to the hazardous duty pay. Commissioner Morgan mentioned Seattle and Salem have closed their Transit division and the County needs a policy in place to address the hazard pay. Commissioner DeYoung said we are in damage control mode and anything that is a quick fix needs to be fixed. Mr. Scofield explained in looking at high exposure to the public and inability to mitigate that with PPE there are two other departments that would qualify. Juvenile Justice Group Life Councilors and the Sheriff's Office's Deputies and Booking Clerks. Mr. Scofield said he will draft a policy and have it ready for Board's approval next Wednesday and his recommendation on an end date will be when the Board rescinds the State of Emergency Resolution.

2. FINANCE REPORT and BUSINESS UPDATE

Arthur O'Hare, Finance Director, explained all budgets are due to be adopted by June 30th and we are moving forward with that process. As far as the public hearing and allowing the public to speak, whatever process the Board comes up with, we will go with that. Steven Welch, who is a Budget Committee Member, was scheduled to be out of the country and we had advertised for a new budget committee member, but with Mr. Welch's plans being cancelled, we pulled the advertisement and we will have Mr. Welch on the committee again this year.

3. **OTHER BUSINESS** (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.")
None heard.

4. **BOARD BUSINESS**

A. Letter Supporting the Proposal for the Study and Replacement of the Fish Hatchery

Commissioner Morgan said the Rogue River is a life force that flows approximately 215 miles in the Southwestern region of Oregon, and it flows through five counties, beginning in Klamath County and ending its journey in Curry County where it reaches the Pacific Ocean. These counties rely on the waterway for activities. The goal of this hatchery program is to mitigate the loss of salmon and steelhead habitat that resulted from the construction of dams in the Rogue River Basin by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Commercial and recreational fisherman have reported a decline in fishing outcomes in the last several years. This has had a negative economic impact on communities that are built around this industry. The Board agreed to support the Cole Fish Hatchery Modernization project and believes this will revitalize the habitat on the Rogue River. Commissioner Fowler made a motion to approve the support letter for the Proposal for the Study and Replacement of the Fish Hatchery at Lost Creek Dam, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 3-0; Commissioner Morgan – yes, Commissioner Fowler – yes and Commissioner DeYoung – yes.

B. Matters from Commissioners

Commissioner Fowler said he exhibited some of the symptoms of Covid-19 and called his doctor and his doctor did a temperature check and listened to his lungs. He took the test on Thursday, March 19th and did not get his results back until Thursday, March 26th and the results came back negative. Commissioner Fowler said he continues to have congestion issues and that is why he has been staying away from the Courthouse. He said he is not a fan of Zoom but will continue to phone in and the Commissioners should take their turn conducting the meetings one at a time. Commissioner Morgan said they are continuing to look at options for Zoom and encouraged the public to stay home.

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.