



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
AUGUST 13, 2019**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2019.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: John Huston, BLM Cascades Field Office Manager; Becca Brooke, BLM Upper Willamette Field Office Manager; Brian Carroll, Linn County Parks and Recreation Director; Tristan Davis, Parks Operations Supervisor; Robert Wheeldon, Linn County Planning and Building Director; Alan Kwan; Randy Bentz; Jacob Bentz and Alex Paul, Reporter for the Democrat-Herald.

1, 2, 3. At 9:30 a.m. Vice-Chairman John K. Lindsey called the meeting to order. The flag salute and roll call followed. Commissioner John K. Lindsey, Vice-Chairman and Will Tucker were present, as well as, Ralph Wyatt, Linn County Administrative Officer and Heather Gravelle, Recorder for the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Roger Nyquist attended the meeting via phone.

4. Approval of Agenda.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the August 6, 2019 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve the August 6, 2019 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Bureau of Land Management Update - John Huston, BLM Cascades Field Office Manager and Becca Brooke, BLM Upper Willamette Field Office Manager. Jennifer Velez, BLM Northwest Oregon District Public Affairs Officer, was not present for the update.

John Huston, BLM Cascades Field Office Manager, provided the Board with two handouts: 2019 Timber Sales Cascades Field Office, as well as, BLM Cascades Field Office Activities in Linn County. The handouts are on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File. Mr. Huston proceeded to update the Board on the following items:

1. Quartzville Backcountry Scenic Byway – BLM plans to replace several failing culverts in 2021 and then chip-seal, install Jersey barriers at pull out campsites, as well as, closing several sites along the road that were deemed too dangerous to mitigate.
2. Resource Advisory Update – Five members' terms will be expiring soon and they did not receive any applications during the first call for nominations and would be sending out the second call for nominations soon.
3. 2019 Linn County Timber Sales Cascades Field Office – All offered sales in 2019 were purchased by Freres Lumber Company. There are no planned sales in the Fiscal Year 2020 for Linn County.

Mr. Huston then thanked Commissioner Tucker for his years of contributions and continuing service to the Northwest RAC.

Commissioner Lindsey mentioned that public land was for public use that people were not being allowed to use. The issue was road decommissioning that were easements onto other properties and that the BLM recently gated a couple of roads which denied access to hunting on State lands. Commissioner Lindsey stated that, if we continue to block the public from public land, we would lose their support and he would hate to see them continue down the path of obsessive regulations. He added that he looked forward to the BLM working very closely with each county on how they institute the new Endangered Species Act (ESA) rules.

Mr. Huston responded that, in his area, they had not closed any roads or installed any gates except on Neal Creek Road for high fire season and they had prior Board approval for that. He added that they had actually opened two roads, one at the request of Commissioner Tucker. Commissioner Tucker commented that he agreed with Commissioner Lindsey and that he doesn't like to see those gates up as it blocked public access to State and O & C owned lands and that folks needed access to the forest in order to understand it. Discussion followed.

Next, Becca Brooke, BLM Upper Willamette Field Office Manager, provided the Board with an update regarding the 2019 Linn County Timber Sales in the Upper Willamette Field Office. Commissioner Tucker asked Ms. Brooke how the Board could support her and Ms. Brooke responded that she would appreciate more communication opportunities and, at some point, it would be great to sit down with the Board individually to better understand their interests.

Commissioner Tucker expressed that he would be willing to meet with her anytime and he would travel to her office, or, go out in the field with her. Brief discussion followed. The Board thanked Mr. Huston and Ms. Brooke for attending the meeting and providing the updates.

7. Reports of Staff and Committees:

A. Parks Update – Brian Carroll, Linn County Parks and Recreation Director.

Mr. Carroll introduced Randy Bentz to the Board and explained that Mr. Bentz was donating a piece of property near the Hannah Covered Bridge that the locals call the Bilyeu Den, to the Linn County Parks Department for a Wayside Park. Mr. Bentz stated that this had been about a three year process and that he was very happy it was being finalized. The Bilyeu Den has a long history of public use dating back to the settling of Scio and he believed that at this point, it would be best if a local agency took over the management of the area. Mr. Bentz added that he felt it would be a great asset to the County and that they would be great neighbors.

Commissioner Tucker stated his great appreciation for the gift to Linn County and that he and Mr. Bentz had shared their fire concerns and he would ensure that the area would be properly signed, provide safe alternatives, note the seasons and formalize the parking. He added that they would work with the Scouts to assist building the structures and to make it become a reality. Discussion followed. The Board thanked the Bentz Family for their generous donation.

1. Resolution & Order 2019-253 accepting and recording certain real property granted to Linn County.

Mr. Carroll provided the Board with an overview of Resolution & Order 2019-253.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2019-253. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Planning Update – Robert Wheeldon, Linn County Planning and Building Director.

Mr. Wheeldon provided the Board with a Planning Update for the month of July, 2019. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Mr. Wheeldon stated that permit activity and revenue for the first month of the fiscal year was below the previous year in volume, revenue and overall valuation. However, the number of rural single family dwelling permits issued in July, 2019 was double the number and, overall, the number of rural construction permits was up 12 percent.

Next, Mr. Wheeldon explained that commercial and industrial permits were down this year compared to July, 2018. The result of that, was those revenues were down and a third of what they were last year. He added that he believed there would be some industrial development in the future, at least in the Halsey area, and it would self-correct over time.

Lastly, Mr. Wheeldon shared that the Planning Commission did not have any land use hearings scheduled for the month of August, 2019 nor did the Board. He added that staff was working on Land Development Code updates, most of which were driven by Legislative action and that the Board should start seeing those in September, 2019. The Board thanked Mr. Wheeldon for his work and the update.

8. Correspondence: There was no correspondence to come before the Board.

9. Special Orders:

A. Personnel Action Forms were read into the record for: Shannon Bremner (Developmental Disabilities); Kristopher Barnes and Ledru Hochstetler (Fair/ Expo); Layla Bushee, Kiersten Glaeser, Casey Hough, Jeffrey Nordtvedt and Christopher Schwarz (Mental Health); Miranda Justus and Wade Neal (Parks & Recreation).

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to accept the Personnel Action Forms as read into the record. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution & Order 2019-262 Authorizing the publication and distribution of the Request for Proposals for Special Transportation Fund Program Management.

Mr. Wyatt provided the Board with details regarding Resolution & Order 2019-262.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2019-262. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution & Order 2019-254 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and A & W Restaurant.

Action Taken Below.

D. Resolution & Order 2019-255 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Bodlovic Insurance Financial Services, Inc.

Action Taken Below.

E. Resolution & Order 2019-257 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Malpass Farms, LLC.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Orders 2019-254, 255 and 257. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars.

11. New Business: There was no new business to come before the Board.

12. Announcements: There were no announcements.

13. Business from the Public (3 minute limit per speaker): There was no one present from the public wishing to use this forum.

14. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2019.

, Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Heather Gravelle

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT

Roger Nyquist, Chairman


John K. Lindsey, Commissioner


William C. Tucker, Commissioner

Date 8-20-2019