



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
AUGUST 18, 2020**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Todd Noble, Linn County Health Services Administrator; Dr. William Muth, Linn County Health Officer; Randy Porter, Linn County Fair and Expo Center Director; Wayne Mink, Linn County Roadmaster; Janet Steele, President, Albany Chamber of Commerce and Sherrie Sprenger, Oregon State Representative, House District 17.

1, 2, 3. At 9:00 a.m. Vice-Chairman Lindsey called the meeting to order. The flag salute and roll call followed. Commissioners John K. Lindsey, Vice-Chairman and Will Tucker were present, as well as, Darrin L. Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer and Marsha Meyer, Recorder for the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Roger Nyquist participated via telephone.

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 11 and 12, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve the August 11 and 12, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Board of Health – Todd Noble, Linn County Health Services Administrator.

A. Communicable Disease and Vital Statistics Reports – Dr. William Muth, Linn County Health Officer.

Dr. Muth provided the Board with a Communicable Disease and Vital Statistics Reports for July, 2020. Copies of his reports are on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Dr. Muth stated that, in the month of July, 2020, there were 92 cases and four outbreaks of COVID-19 in Linn County. He stated that he had looked at the State's website today, Tuesday, August 18, 2020, and, cumulatively, there had been 267 positive cases per 100,000 people in Linn County since the beginning of the pandemic. Dr. Muth stated that, when he looked at the number of cases in the last four weeks, Linn County had 139 cases which was about 40 percent of the cases to date; this was a substantial increase. The rate of positive testing for the week of August 9th through August 15th was 5.3 percent. Dr. Muth stated that Linn County has done reasonably well but that the positive COVID-19 cases were going up.

He then reviewed the Vital Statistic Report and noted that there were three suicides in the month of July, 2020. Commissioner Tucker mentioned that two of the three were people in their 30's and one was a 67 year old. Mr. Noble noted that there had been four suicides in Linn County just this last week. Commissioner Tucker stated that he worried about people being stuck at home and they were worrying and suffering economically; he hoped that the efforts the County was working on to get kids back to regular activities and other efforts would make a difference.

Commissioner Lindsey asked Dr. Muth if he had any numbers relating to serology testing and Dr. Muth stated that he did not have any numbers relating to that and asked why Commissioner Lindsey was asking. Commissioner Lindsey stated that he knew several people who had taken the serology test and they had all had COVID-19 at some point. Dr. Muth stated that the serology testing was not perfect and that there is uncertainty with the validity of some of the pandemic testing.

B. Environmental Health Monthly Activity Report – Shane Sanderson, Linn County Environmental Health Program Manager.

Mr. Noble presented the Monthly Activity Report for July, 2020 in place of Mr. Sanderson who was unable to attend. He stated that comparing with last year's activities, everything remained stable. A copy of the report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

C. Resolution & Order 2020-235 approving an Amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement for Environmental Health Services (Agreement No. 154734) FY 2017-2023 between the Oregon Health Authority and Linn County and delegating authority to chairperson.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2020-235. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Tucker stated that there had been some pretty large numbers with COVID-19 and that the numbers had doubled in the last few weeks. Mr. Noble stated that last Friday, August 14, 2020, was the biggest day the County has had with COVID-19 but, since then, the County's numbers were back down. Commissioner Lindsey stated that he believed serology testing was important and he had talked to the State of Oregon and read statements from the University of Washington regarding this matter. He stated that unless we start doing this type of testing there was no idea who has actually had COVID-19. Mr. Noble agreed that there was a lag in knowing who has had it.

7. Reports of Staff and Committees:

A. Fair/Expo Update – Randy Porter, Linn County Fair and Expo Center Director.

Mr. Porter provided the Board with a Fair/Expo Update for the month of July, 2020. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Mr. Porter stated that his department was in the same place as they were four to five months ago. He stated that the Courts were using space at the center to hold jury trials and that there were a few small meetings being held in conference rooms. Mr. Porter also stated that there was a one-day horse show held at the center and there was a big horse show scheduled for September, 2020. He stated right now he was just trying to hold down their expenses and hoped for the best.

Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, asked Mr. Porter what percentage of the scheduled Court jury trials were actually being held and Mr. Porter stated that only about 50 percent. He indicated that it was becoming a little frustrating in that he has had a few requests and he has had to turn them away; even though it doesn't amount to a huge amount of revenue, it is still revenue.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that the Fair and Expo Center was the public's facility and there was nothing more important to the public in the way of priority than the judicial system working and keeping the community safe. He asked that Mr. Porter how much money was being turned away. Mr. Porter indicated that it was about \$2,000 to \$3,000. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Nyquist asked that Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, meet with the Court Administrator and, possibly with Judge McHill, once a week to see what cases they expected would go forward to determine if they are going to need the facility that week. Commissioner Nyquist stated that he was happy that they have been able to work together and meet the needs of the Courts during the time the facility was not being fully utilized. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lindsey asked if some of the COVID-19 monies could help go towards revenue that had been lost at the center. Commissioner Tucker recommended talking with Joe Larsen, Emergency Manager, Linn County Sheriff's Office and Neva Anderson,

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Linn County Health Services. Commissioner Nyquist recommended that we refer to the County's contract and talk with Associated Oregon Counties (AOC) about what other Counties were doing. He stated that the Board had substantial flexibility in that regard and, it may likely meet the criteria, but it needed to be viewed in the context of cost to the community and damage to the citizens of Linn County, as well as, what was the best use would be of those funds. Commissioner Nyquist stated that they could have the conversation internally and do what they needed to do.

8. Road Department – Wayne Mink, Linn County Roadmaster.

A. Resolution & Order 2020-230 approving a Construction Contract for the 2020 Overlays Project between Wildish Construction Co. and Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2020-230. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Tucker thanked Mr. Mink and his crew for helping to move the damaged log at McKercher Park to improve the safety of the play area. Mr. Mink stated that they had the right people available with the right skill set.

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

10. Special Orders:

A. Personnel Action Forms were read into the record for: Jennifer Brown and Courtney Rosenthal (Mental Health); Lance Neihardt, Tyler White and Alexander Wilson (Parks & Recreation); James Alexander (Planning & Building); Kyla Neskahi (Public Health) and Richard Belcastro and Wyatt Means (Road Department).

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 2020-244 approving a Grant Agreement between the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce, the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce and Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve the Resolution & Order 2020-244. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars.

12. New Business: Commissioner Nyquist discussed with the Board a piece of correspondence received from a Linn County resident stating the problems they've had with the shutdown and the impact it caused to their income. They asked if there was a program the County had to provide relief or deferral of their property taxes but the County does not have such a program nor does the Board have the authority to waive penalties or provide deferment. Commissioner Nyquist suggested that the Board attempt, through the September legislative session, to ask for the authority to do that as it is impeding property or the opportunity to do business through consequences of a State government. He stated that some type of hardship application would give the Board some ability to acknowledge that or waive late fees and it was something the legislature ought to be considering, as well as, the Board should consider having it as a tool if they see fit to do so.

Commissioner Nyquist proposed that the Board reach out to Public Affairs Counsel (PAC) and ask them about the possibility of this being a legislative agenda item and reach out to the County's legislatures. The County will get the requests which will be well-founded and, even though we don't have the authority to do anything to help the people who have been impacted, it doesn't mean we shouldn't try. Commissioner Lindsey agreed 100 percent and said "let's do it". Commissioner Tucker also stated that he was all for it and agreed to reach out to PAC, as well as, AOC and the County's Legislatures to get them on board. It was the Board's consensus to have Commissioner Nyquist move forward with this matter today.

13. Announcements: There were no announcements.

14. Business from the Public (3 minute limit per speaker): Representative Sprenger asked the Board if they would like for her to give a brief snapshot of the upcoming legislative special session. She stated that she heard the Board reference the Governor's office as being where legislative decisions had come from lately and that was not necessarily accurate.

Representative Sprenger then stated that, in the last special session, bill drafts could only be requested by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House. Commissioner Tucker again stated that she was correct but they were all the Governor's drafts and Representative Sprenger responded that that was correct to some degree but there were less agreement by the Presiding Officers (Senate President, Speaker of the House and often the Governor) than has been in the past. She indicated that Linn County's Senator Girod was the Minority Leader and, as of Friday morning August 21, 2020, he would be talking to the Governor. Commissioner Tucker added that the Governor was the source of most legislation and Representative Sprenger respectfully disagreed. Commissioner Tucker then, respectfully, disagreed and stated that in the last special session he saw the Governor play a stronger role than he would have liked to have seen.

15. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2020.

Marsha Meyer, Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Marsha Meyer

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Roger Nyquist
Roger Nyquist, Chairman

John K. Lindsey
John K. Lindsey, Commissioner

William C. Tucker
William C. Tucker, Commissioner

Date 8-25-2020