



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Kris Latimer, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Santiam and Laurie Dunmire, Executive Director, Community Before and After School Program (CAP).

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

4. Approval of Agenda.

Commissioner Tucker stated that they were adding an item under New Business: Resolution & Order 2020-282 declaring an Emergency Declaration for Beachie Creek Fire.

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

5. Approval of the September 1, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve the September 1, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Reports of Staff and Committees: There was no reports of staff or committees.

7. Sheriff's Office – Todd Vian, Captain Program Division, Linn County Sheriff's Office.

Captain Vian was not in attendance.

A. Resolution & Order 2020-253 approving a Personal Services Contract between Mid-Valley Dental Associates, Geoffrey A. Berg, DMD and Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2020-253. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion of Emergency Licensed Childcare Provider Operational Issues – Kris Latimer, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Santiam and Laurie Dunmire, Executive Director, Community Before and After School Program (CAP).

Commissioner Nyquist noted that he had a recent conversation with Ms. Latimer and Ms. Dunmire regarding the challenges and difficulties they have been facing in providing childcare due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that there were regulatory and operational issues and that they were coming before the Board today to determine what the Board could do to help.

Ms. Latimer provided the Board with written testimony and it is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File. Ms. Latimer stated that since March 23, 2020, the Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Santiam had been providing ongoing emergency licensed childcare and they were essentially running small schools. Ms. Latimer explained that they were the only option for childcare in east Linn County and that the unnecessary State regulations were severely limiting their options, driving up costs and impeding their impact.

Ms. Latimer stated that forcing organizations that have been operating for decades and are under the leadership of educated and highly experienced professionals made no sense. She explained that the current regulations, coupled with ongoing fear mongering, may result in a forced closure of their services. Ms. Latimer added that their current costs were running nearly twice the traditional cost of operations and they could not find the necessary staff to operate the program.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that they needed to identify the rules or policies that were causing the issues and recommend, in writing, a solution. He asked Ms. Latimer if she would correlate the operational issues she was experiencing to written policy or administrative rules make any revisions she deemed appropriate and the Board would send it to the Governor to give her the opportunity to review it and respond. Ms. Latimer replied that she would work on a draft and email it to the Board.

Ms. Dunmire explained that CAP was a licensed childcare program. On March 12, 2020, the Governor suspended their license to operate and on March 13, 2020 she had to lay off 29 employees. She added that the rules had been governed by the Office of Childcare and the Governor took the authority away from them and placed it on the shoulders of the Early Learning Division; they don't know what they are doing. Ms.

Dunmire stated that the only way to operate under the Governor's edict was through an emergency childcare application but the CAP Board of Directors determined that applying for emergency childcare would be too costly.

Ms. Dunmire stated that she found out, by accident, about the CARES Act funding that was available and it was her hope it would allow her to open. She applied for it and had the emergency childcare status activated; the caveat was they had to be up and running by September 1, 2020. The State of Oregon, again, changed the rules on August 14, 2020 and that only gave her two weeks to write an emergency childcare handbook for parents. It was impossible to align the rules and regulations so they became in default of the agreement and lost the funding. She added that Commissioner Nyquist had been a major support trying to advocate ways to navigate that and attempted to get an extension but that request was denied.

Ms. Dunmire explained that the barriers to her being able to open included funding assistance, staffing and consistency; the State's rulebook says one thing and their website says another and, in their Zoom meetings, they say something else. She stated that there was complete inconsistency and she believed that, as a childcare provider, she should not have to work so hard to navigate the rules and regulations. Ms. Dunmire stated that the State was placing the burden on the childcare provider to traverse their conflicting rules and bridge the impact of no in-person instruction.

Commissioner Nyquist commented that it sounded like one of the things the County should request was that organizations like CAP who were licensed under the Office of Childcare prior to March 12, 2020, be restored to that status and Ms. Dunmire agreed. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Nyquist asked Ms. Latimer and Ms. Dunmire to look at the rules and regulations that were causing them the most problems, make the desired changes and send it to the Board by the end of the day. He stated that the Board would get a letter sent to the Governor outlining the issues and the recommended changes. Ms. Latimer and Ms. Dunmire agreed and the Board thanked them both for attending the meeting and sharing their concerns.

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

10. Special Orders:

A. Personnel Action Forms were read into the record for: Dina Dysinger (General Admin); Jaime Dickey (Juvenile Detention); Lara Friederick (Mental Health); Rusty Gray, Alexandria Keys, Jenna Leichner, Jenna Mayhak, Christopher Smith, Ivan Thompson and Carson Trimble (Parks & Recreation); Suzanne Larson (Planning & Building); Katrica Bosworth (Public Health); Bailey Backer and Sara Olson (Road Department).

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey 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 2020-257 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **Ophelia's Place**.

Action Taken Below.

C. Resolution & Order 2020-258 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **Every Child Linn Benton (ECLB)**.

Action Taken Below.

D. Resolution & Order 2020-259 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **Albany Futbol Club dba Oregon Valley Futbol Alliance**.

Action Taken Below.

E. Resolution & Order 2020-260 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **Albany Aquatics Association, Inc.**

Action Taken Below.

F. Resolution & Order 2020-261 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **Legacy Ballet**.

Action Taken Below.

G. Resolution & Order 2020-263 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **Albany Public Schools Foundation**.

Action Taken Below.

H. Resolution & Order 2020-264 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **Sweet Home Public Library**.

Action Taken Below.

I. Resolution & Order 2020-265 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **City of Albany Parks and Recreation**.

Action Taken Below.

J. Resolution & Order 2020-266 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **City of Albany Parks and Recreation**.

Action Taken Below.

K. Resolution & Order 2020-268 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **The Boys and Girls Club of Albany.**

Action Taken Below.

L. Resolution & Order 2020-269 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **City of Albany Parks and Recreation.**

Action Taken Below.

M. Resolution & Order 2020-270 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **The Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Santiam.**

Action Taken Below.

N. Resolution & Order 2020-272 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **The Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Santiam.**

Action Taken Below.

O. Resolution & Order 2020-273 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **The Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Santiam.**

Action Taken Below.

P. Resolution & Order 2020-274 approving a Youth Activity Grant Agreement between Linn County and **The Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Santiam.**

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Orders 2020-257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 263, 264, 265, 266, 268, 269, 270, 272, 273 and 274. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Q. Resolution & Order 2020-262 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the State of Oregon Department of Administrative Services and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals.

Mr. Lane provided the Board with an overview of Resolution & Order 2020-262.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2020-262. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

R. Resolution & Order 2020-275 approving an Amendment to a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Lebanon and Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2020-275. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

S. Resolution 2020-267 noting a vacancy on the Linn County Planning Commission.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2020-267. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

T. Resolution 2020-271 appointing an Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member to the Linn County Law Library Committee.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2020-271. 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:

A. Resolution & Order 2020-282 declaring an Emergency Declaration for Beachie Creek Fire. *(This item was added during the Board meeting).*

Mr. Lane distributed two maps of the wildfires in Linn County. The maps are on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners Staff File.

He stated that he recommended approval of Resolution & Order 2020-282 and explained that there had been a significant amount of fire activity in Linn County and surrounding the areas: there was a Level 3 evacuation order in Gates, Mill City and Lyons, which means "go now"; a Level 2 in the area between Mehama and Stayton, on the Linn County side, which means "get ready to go"; and, Sweet Home was at a Level 1, which means "get prepared".

Mr. Lane added that, out of an abundance of caution, River Bend Park and Clear Lake were being evacuated because ODOT was closing several highways and people may not be able to get out if they need to.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2020-282. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Tucker shared that the Linn County Fair and Expo Center was being set up to accommodate evacuees as a Red Cross Emergency Center. He stated that reader boards had been set up and Neva Anderson, Linn County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, had been greeting and directing folks as they came in.

Commissioner Tucker added that staff would be bringing in everything they needed to accommodate people, their pets and livestock. Discussion followed.

13. Announcements: There were no announcements.

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

15. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

 Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Heather Gravelle

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Roger Nyquist, Chairman


John K. Lindsey, Commissioner


William C. Tucker, Commissioner

Date 9-15-2020