

RECORDED

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**Clatsop County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes
Wednesday, July 26, 2023**

REGULAR MEETING: 6:00 PM

FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Commissioner Lianne Thompson

Commissioner Pam Wev

Vice Chair Courtney Bangs

EXCUSED

Commissioner John Toyooka

Chair Mark Kujala

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion made by Commissioner Thompson, Seconded by Commissioner Wev to approve the agenda as presented.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Wev, Vice Chair Bangs

PROCLAMATION

1. United States Coast Guard Month Proclamation {Page 18}

Captain Jackson, USCCG Commanding Officer, spoke about how welcoming the community was to Coast Guard families and gave a brief overview of the work done by the Coast Guard.

Motion made by Commissioner Wev, Seconded by Commissioner Thompson.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Wev, Vice Chair Bangs

Vice Chair Bangs read the proclamation.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

Meredith Wadlington, 2746 SE 47th Ave, Portland, Policy Coordinator, Unite Oregon, said Unite Oregon was a statewide non-profit led by black, indigenous, people of color, migrants, and refugees in rural communities and people experiencing poverty. The organization partnered with Health Justice Recovery Network to ensure that Measure 110 is implemented in the way voters intended. She noted that new data has shown a

1 dramatic increase in the number of people receiving addiction services funded by
2 Measure 110. Tens of millions of dollars are going to direct services instead of the
3 expensive and ineffective criminal justice system. Lives are being saved and families
4 are becoming more stable. House Bill 2513, the Hope and Recovery Act, was passed in
5 June. The new law increased the State's commitment to increase the availability of free
6 local services for people struggling with substance abuse through increased oversight
7 and accountability, more timely funding, and the reimplementation of public health
8 approaches to addiction services and treatments, making Measure 110 more
9 transparent and accountable. The Oregon Health Authority's 2nd Quarter Report showed
10 that the number of people seeking substance use treatment through Measure 110
11 increased by 44 percent, people in recovery who were provided housing services
12 increased by 125 percent, and employment services increased by 136 percent. The
13 State's tools get to the root cause of addiction and ends the revolving jail door that
14 keeps people trapped in addiction.

16 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

17 *Motion made by Commissioner Thompson, Seconded by Commissioner Wev to*
18 *approve the Consent Calendar.*

19 *Voting Yea: Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Wev, Vice Chair Bangs*

- 21 2. Contract for cleaning pipes, tanks and vaults at the Westport Sewer Treatment
22 Plant {Page 21}
- 23 3. Contract with CBH for drug counseling services in the jail {Page 29}
- 24 4. IGA with City of Gearhart for the Sheriff's Office to provide augmented law
25 enforcement services {Page 33}
- 26 5. Inland Electric, Inc. On-Call Contract {Page 46}

28 **COMMISSIONER'S LIAISON REPORTS**

29 Commissioner Wev reported that the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Legislative
30 Summary had been published and she recommended the Commissioners read through
31 it. She also reported receiving several comments about the Department of Human
32 Services (DHS) building in Astoria, which has air quality issues that resulted in the
33 building being evacuated. The building is privately owned, but she believed the State
34 did not handle the situation well. The department's workforce services are currently
35 being housed in trailers in front of the building, but some of their services are not
36 available until they can be relocated. She hoped to get more communication out about
37 where people can go for services. She reported on Oregon Employment Department's
38 (OED's) monthly employment reports, noting that unemployment continued to fall and
39 about 20 jobs were created in Clatsop County in the past month. Additionally, Northwest
40 Oregon Works has received a grant-funded program that will include employers from
41 each county who will focus on future employment needs. The Oregon Coast Visitors
42 Association was working to create better access to the beach and trails for people with

1 disabilities and promoting working vacations in the county. The trails had become
2 dangerous after adverse winter weather and Coast Guard rescues on trails had
3 increased.

4 Commissioner Thompson reported that she believed some of the trail rescues were due
5 to human behavior, so more education was needed. She also reported that Senator
6 Weber funded a study of Highway 6 with monies from another jurisdiction's
7 Transportation Improvement Plan update. While the Oregon Department of
8 Transportation (ODOT) wanted to do good work, it was underfunded. The Area
9 Commission on Transportation (ACT) would be working on ensuring ODOT had
10 adequate funds for operations, maintenance, engineering, education, and enforcement.

11 Sherriff Philips confirmed for Commissioner Thompson that the State Police presence in
12 Clatsop County was down by several road patrol positions. He believed they were at
13 about half-staff.

14 Commissioner Thompson said half of the enforcement on highways was daunting
15 because some people do things that put themselves and others at risk. She hoped the
16 County could have a traffic safety committee. She reported that North West ACT was
17 talking about how to support the transit district and that Columbia Pacific Economic
18 Development (COL-PAC) had a new executive director. The region needs more
19 sustainable economic development as a result of the Habitat Conservation Plan and the
20 Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Buy-Out and transportation
21 was an integral part of that. She announced that John Audley was trying to get the
22 County an accessory dwelling unit (ADU). The legislature authorized up to \$140,000 for
23 an ADU on property owned by a medium-income homeowner to be made available to a
24 previously homeless person or a person about to become homeless. She also stated
25 that she hoped for more childcare so that the ODOT staffer could remain in town.

26 Vice Chair Bangs reported that she turned down an offer to chair the board of the North
27 West Senior and Disability Services because the board deserves a chair who could
28 serve in person. She would remain vice chair of the board. She also reported on her
29 daughter's participation in the Miss Oregon competition, which she found inspiring. She
30 received an email from Pac West stating that over 400 mental health bills went through
31 the legislature in the previous session, many of which were not applicable to the
32 County. Her goal was to get funding to deal with the drug and alcohol crisis. She would
33 continue to work on childcare as well. Next week, the Childcare Strategic Taskforce
34 would develop its grant plan, which would focus on continual micro-grants for the
35 upcoming session. After the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) childcare funds are
36 exhausted, she would focus on the County because the County needed to begin
37 donating to the cause on a regular basis and lead by example.

38 Commissioner Thompson noted that she wanted the County to ask housing developers
39 if there was room for childcare facilities in their developments.

40 Commissioner Wev added that it was extremely difficult for developers to include
41 childcare facilities in housing developments due to tax credit issues.

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1 **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

2 County Manager Bohn reported that Staff had identified County-owned properties that
3 might be available for housing, childcare, and social services. Suitability criteria were
4 now being developed to determine which sites would be most appropriate. He also
5 reported that he continued to speak to Charter about filling in the gaps in the
6 investments they are making. He noted that Elissa Gertler, Housing Manager, would be
7 updating the Commission on Staff's work on housing at the next work session. He
8 announced the draft Habitat Conservation Plan had been published and would be
9 presented to the Commission at the August 22nd meeting.

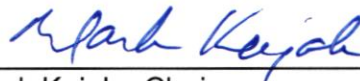
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11 **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

12 There was nothing for the good of the order.

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14 **ADJOURNMENT**

15 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.

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17 Approved by,

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21 Mark Kujala, Chair