

MINUTES & NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION

APPROVED April 2, 1996

LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

This document, upon approval in a public meeting by the Board of County Commissioners, serves as official minutes of such meetings as required under the Open Meetings Law, ORS 192.650.

Pursuant to notice made by mailing agendas to news media, a selected list of jurisdictions and individuals in Lane County, a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held.

Questions should be directed to The Board Office Specialist 3, ext. 4203.

January 16, 1996
9:00 a.m.

WORK SESSION
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners'
Conference Room

Chair Bobby Green, Sr. presided with Steve Cornacchia, Ellie Dumdi, Jerry Rust, and Cindy Weeldreyer present. Zoanne Gilstrap, Recording Secretary.

1. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

3. **COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Moved to later this morning.

4. **COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS**

- a. DISCUSSION/City Club Report. (Commissioner Dumdi; and Kappy Eaton, City Club Rep)

Eaton gave an overview of the City Club's report on Lane County government. She explained that they had recommendations: some as amendments to the charter; some as policy changes; and some were just suggestions to look at in the future. The main issues that Eaton wanted to discuss were long-range planning, the Chief Administrator

position, a change in the tax assessor's position from elected to appointed, and a possible division of the corrections and law enforcement departments.

Eaton began by reporting that long-range planning was an area in which they had concern. She stated that they were suggesting an ordinance be established with regard to long-range planning. Eaton spoke about the Washington County 2000 Plan and suggested that the Board read it as a possible reference.

Cornacchia agreed with the concept of long-range planning. However, he was concerned about where to get the additional resources needed for such a project if it were mandated. Cornacchia stated that the County currently does not have an adequate level of service in its service delivery systems and for this reason, he would be hesitant to be an advocate for a diversion of resources from an already beleaguered service delivery system.

Rust was agreeable with the idea of an ordinance regarding long-term planning. He stated that he would like to see the County get credit for the long-range goals that have been achieved such as the Parks 2000 Plan, a financial plan with a ten-year projection, a solid waste plan, a criminal justice work plan with the Public Safety Coordinating Council, Lane County's Mission in Economic Development and road fund planning. He stated that he welcomed the idea of long-range planning because Lane County has been working hard to accomplish that goal.

Eaton then spoke about their thoughts on the position of Chief Administrative Officer. She said they felt that progress had been made with regard to the delegation of responsibilities and duties but they felt it would improve the county's overall management if the position was actually established as part of the charter. Eaton stated that the City Club was suggesting an amendment.

Rust asked, if outside of the name itself, was there a difference between the ordinance on the books and the charter amendment that they proposed.

Charles Henry, City Club Rep, responded that the charter amendment basically incorporated the current ordinance and job specifications of the position. He explained that it enforced what the County already had on the books.

Rust stated he would be happy to see this in the charter and explained that the name is less important to him than it seemed to be to them. Rust stated that the powers given to the CA position have been in force with the ordinance for ten years now and he had no problem with adding it to the charter.

Henry commented that they had encountered in their interviews a sense of ambiguity between what the responsibilities of the administrator was versus those of the county

commissioners and they felt they could not escape looking into this in some depth. Henry stated they did not remove any responsibilities or authorities but simply took what was already existing. He said they felt it would add stability and dignity to the position if it were a charter arrangement.

Dumdi said that for stability's sake, she agreed with the City Club's recommendations.

Eaton then spoke about changing the position of tax assessor to an appointed department head instead of an elected official. She explained that they felt there was a lack of understanding among citizens that the assessor's responsibilities were mandated by state law and they believed the qualifications for the position needed to be stipulated.

Rust explained that he was part of past commissions that have placed this on the ballot and had advocated for it but said he would not do it again. He believed that people want to elect the top tax collector as well as the chief law enforcer in the County.

Eaton then brought up the subject of a division between corrections and law enforcement. She stated that by virtue of the state's budget, there are more responsibilities being considered for the counties and felt perhaps it was time to separate those two functions.

Cornacchia noted that county residents have little control over that matter. He said he believed the state legislature had determined that the sheriffs are responsible for county jails. Cornacchia asked whether it was mandated for the sheriff to run the jail.

John Clague, Sheriff's Office, stated it was his understanding that that was the default arrangement but that the sheriff could agree to turn corrections over to the Board of Commissioners to govern. Clague said he believed that was the situation in Marion County since the jail and corrections are not under the sheriff.

Rust expressed an interest in this because he said corrections has become the largest function of county government outside the road department and felt perhaps it did need civilian-centered management. However, he stressed that he thought this issue should be looked at very carefully.

Cornacchia agreed and stated there is the opportunity to look at this in the state-mandated Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) which he endorsed and supported. He commented that for the first time ever there were judges, police chiefs, district attorneys, sheriffs, commissioners, city council members all working together at the same table with a requirement to implement a long-range plan for justice services, corrections and police services. Cornacchia strongly recommended that this issue be discussed through the PSCC.

Eaton also spoke about team-building and the need for more work in this area. She stated that they talked with department heads and leaders about the concept of team-building and how it could affect the total operations of the county. She believed that there have been some efforts in this direction but felt efforts could be greater such as orientation for new commissioners.

Green stressed that he was in total agreement and said enhancement of team-building skills was one of his platforms and strongest goals in Lane County. He believed Lane County has a solid team with the present commissioners and recognized their vast experience. Green observed that the Board was working much closer with both the management and leadership teams and was trying to extend this idea of team-building throughout the county with local governmental partners as well as the entire community.

Eaton also talked about the inequities between urban and rural law enforcement and acknowledged that Lane County was trying to dealing with that in the upcoming levy.

Dumdi added that the Board was moving forward with the proposed special service district as it pertains to public safety and was something they definitely wanted to continue to pursue in the future.

Eaton expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to come and talk to Lane County and said they would like to continue this dialog in the hopes of moving forward.

b. **RECOGNITION/Employees.**

RESOLUTION AND ORDER 96-1-16-2/In the Matter of Recognizing Bruce Hawks for his Quick Response to a Fire in the Lane County Extension Building

RESOLUTION AND ORDER 96-1-16-3/In the Matter of Recognizing Kirk Johnson for his Quick Response to a Fire in the Lane County Extension Building

Green commended Hawks and Johnson for their quick responses.

MOTION: Approval of the Order.

Cornacchia **MOVED**, Dumdi **SECONDED**. **VOTE: 5-0.**

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION as per ORS 192.660**

None.

6. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

a. Announcements

Van Vactor stated that Mike Gleason has officially begun as the new Fair Board Director and is now a member of the management team.

b. ORDER 96-1-16-1/In the Matter of Awarding a Contract for Project Management Services for the Lane County Juvenile Justice Center Project.

Suchart gave a brief summary of the status of this project and credited Heaton for her help in pulling this item together. He stated that the architects are on board and that the Operations Team was recommending that the firm of CRSS Contractors be hired with Bill Proctor as the Project Director and Manager. Suchart believed that both sets of the interviewers were pleased with CRSS and particularly with Bill Proctor. He stated that he was enthused to be working with him not only for his technical expertise but because of his philosophy with regard to working with youth and his excitement with the campus idea.

Cornacchia commented that he had attended some of the meetings and was very impressed by the Operations Team. He added that their level of scrutiny and the energy put into making the right decisions was very obvious to him. He commended them on their ability to weave the policies and recommendations of the Board into these exercises. He stated that the Board should have confidence in the decisions and findings that come out of this group. Cornacchia noted they were dedicated to get the campus built effectively and efficiently.

Suchart added that the "not to exceed figure" was \$475,000 and it was within his budgetary range projections for the three years.

MOTION: Approval of the Order. Weeldreyer MOVED, Dumdi SECONDED.
VOTE: 5-0.

7. PUBLIC WORKS

a. DISCUSSION/Public Information Concept in the Department of Public Works.

John Goodson stated that the department of Public Works has identified the area of public information delivery as a priority work item and that a Public Information Task Team was formed last year to develop a work plan regarding that issue.

Wilson explained that the Public Work's department has a vast variety of services and a key portion of this position would be to organize that information in such a matter that the public could understand what the department does, what products are available and also to establish better ways to communicate with the public.

Cornacchia said he supported the concept but thought it may be premature. He stated that at this time the County was going through a review of the resources of the road fund as well as the resources of the solid waste fund. He continued by saying that the Board was waiting to complete a full year of land management funds being off the General Fund and fully supported by fees. Cornacchia said it appeared to him that the concept of public information needed to be enveloped into all three of those exercises with a recommendation coming back for not only how the road fund was to be spent but how public education fits within those resources before taking money out of those funds to create a new position.

Rust agreed with Cornacchia and thought public education and information is a great idea but is reluctant to have each department with a funding mechanism have their own special public information system. He stated he would like to see the general administrator, through the leadership team, talk about this again and convene a body that could plan a little further and see how it can utilize this idea into a county-wide approach.

Dumdi questioned how Public Works would create a public information coordinator position without an increase in an FTE.

Goodson said his goal would be to create this position with no increase in staff. He explained they presently have some vacant positions and more would be created by people retiring. Goodson reported that he thought there would be room to consolidate some of the current activities and be able to reclassify an existing position.

Dumdi also felt that it would be beneficial to integrate the entire public information effort throughout the county and did not want to see it fragmented in various departments. Dumdi agreed that it should be reviewed by the leadership team.

Van Vactor agreed that it would be ideal to have this position for county government as a whole but find a funding mechanism that was as solid as this one would be significantly more difficult. Van Vactor said that there had been discussions at the management team level and he believed it would be fair to say that, in general, there is support for Lane County significantly improving its ability to get its message out. Van Vactor said that if this proved successful in the Public Work's department, there would be nothing to prevent expanding it to county government as a whole if funding mechanisms become more stable. He felt that there would be much for the organization

to learn about how this program would function and how it would operate and this would be an opportunity to do so.

Weeldreyer stated that she agreed with Van Vactor. She stated that she felt very strongly about telling the County's story and did not want to wait with this concept.

Green supported this idea but stated he would like to see this position be of benefit to all of Lane County as well.

Van Vactor said he would work with the management team to see if there is an interest in this product on a more county-wide basis, that he will attempt to find out who is interested and how it could be structured. He stated it will be taken up with the leadership team also, and a model could be developed to have county-wide significance and benefit.

3. COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weeldreyer gave an update on the Pleasant Hill levee situation and of the financial obligation of the County. She stated that, as far as determining the eligibility to use road funds, she needed to ascertain the elevations that exist behind the levee, the water releases and the flow. Weeldreyer indicated that she was requesting Board approval to ask the land management and road departments to generate that information. She believed some elevation charts existed but realized it would take staff time to put that analysis together to determine the eligibility, if any, of road funds in covering some of those costs. She further stated that she was working with the residents to establish a new levee district.

Rust remarked that he believed that was a fair request and would like to get an assessment of what the exercise would entail.

Cornacchia stated that someone would need to look at a map and decide where the river would run and whether or not it would have reached the road and either washed it out or covered it permanently. Cornacchia said that without the analysis, there could be no assistance. He emphasized the need to be very careful with the message expressed to people as to why the road fund was being considered and to what extent it was being considered.

Van Vactor stated that with the concurrence of the Board, he would ask the Public Works' engineering division as well as the Land Management division to provide an estimate of their review and what costs it would entail.

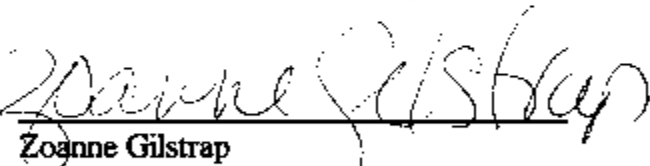
Van Vactor wanted to follow up on the City Club report and said he believed the assignments were to review the Washington County Plan with a report back in 45 days; consider a potential amendment to the charter regarding the Chief Administrator position, report back

by June 1996; speak to the PSCC and John Bail regarding their work plan and thoughts of a division of corrections and law enforcement.

8. EMERGENCY BUSINESS

None.

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.


Zoanne Gilstrap
Recording Secretary