



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, December 3, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

Present: Xanthippe Augerot, Chair; Nancy Wyse, Commissioner; Pat Malone, Commissioner; Vance Croney, County Counsel; Rachel McEneny, County Administrator; Rick Crager, Assistant County Administrator

Staff: Shannon Bush, James Wright, Community Development; Gabrielle Dibble, Greg Munn, Financial Services; April Holland, Leanna Linville, Health Services; Maura Kwiatkowski, BOC Staff; Tracy Martineau, Human Resources; Sean McGuire, Sustainability; Erika Milo, BOC Recorder; Jesse Ott, Natural Areas, Parks, and Events; Joesph Moore, Gary Stockhoff, Public Works; Anne Thwaites, Public Information Officer; Dawn Dale, Sheriff's Office

Guests: John Harris, Horsepower Productions; Christopher Jacobs, Corvallis-Benton County Economic Development Office; Trudy Overlin, Kristi Schrock, Fair Board; Gabe Shepherd, County Commissioner-elect

1. Opening:

1. Call to Order

Chair Augerot called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Introductions

2. Review & Approve Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

3. Announcements

Augerot noted that the Albany School District teachers' strike was settled today.

4. Comments from the Public

No comments were offered.

5. Work Session

5.1 Facilities Update – Gary Stockhoff, Public Works

Stockhoff reported that the Crisis Center is under construction and should be finished in spring 2025. A second site tour will be held next week. The County is still working with

the permitting agencies for the Courthouse, District Attorney's Office, and Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Swick House Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) has been sent to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and ACE for approval, after which ACE can release the permit to the City of Corvallis. The County is completing the final plat process with Corvallis, and the City agreed to combine several infrastructure permitting agreements. Courthouse construction will begin January 6, 2025, with estimated completion by late summer of 2026. The project is still within budget.

McEneny noted that SHPO confirmed approval of the MOA in an email.

Stockhoff clarified that SHPO approves of the project but may not have signed the MOA yet. The main delay is acquiring the ACE signature.

Malone asked if EOC work would occur during pauses in Courthouse construction.

Stockhoff replied that was likely, but the EOC requires a different contractor. EOC plans have not yet been submitted to the County for approval. The EOC and the Courthouse will probably be completed at the same time.

5.2 Behavioral Health Deflection Program (BHDP) Update – Rick Crager, Assistant County Administrator; April Holland, Leanna Linville, Health Services

Holland introduced Benton County's new Deflection Program Coordinator, Leanna Linville.

Holland explained that House Bill (HB) 4002, which passed earlier in 2024, defines Oregon BHDPs. In August 2024, Benton County received a \$258,000 Impacts Grant to begin work on the BHDP. The County's approach is to start small, review progress, and then consider expansion. The program will begin with participants who only have a citation of possession of a controlled substance, among a few other criteria. Participation is voluntary. The goal of the program is to provide an alternative to the Criminal Justice System and help participants move towards self-sufficiency. Program outcomes are to improve treatment readiness, reduce recidivism through wraparound supports, reduce Emergency Department visits, and reduce overdose deaths. Health Services has partnerships with many departments, such as the District Attorney's Office and Law Enforcement, and with community service providers. Staff are learning more about substance abuse treatment, wait time and capacity, and potential partnerships. Staff have discussed how to define program success, focusing on the individualized plan for each participant, maintaining participant engagement, and incorporating treatment goals. Next steps include form creation, release of information requirements, contracts, scope of service definitions, data system activation, community discussions, and training for Law Enforcement.

Crager stated the program's projected soft launch is January 1, 2025. Many County officials and staff have contributed to program planning, including Augerot, District Attorney Ryan Joslin, Sheriff Van Arsdall, and Corvallis Police Department Captain Joel

Goodwin. As of October 2024, about three out of 19 charged individuals would qualify for the program.

Malone noted that HB 4002 provides one-time funding, and asked about future funding sources.

Crager planned to seek legislative funding. The legislature will discuss Measure 110 and the continued need for deflection. The County also has an Oregon Health Authority grant, and additional grants and funding from Measure 110 could be used.

Wyse asked how Benton County's implementation progress compared to that of other counties.

Holland replied Benton County is in the middle of the range. Some counties already had deflection programs, while others are still in planning stages.

Responding to a question from Wyse, Holland confirmed that staff regularly compare information with other counties.

Augerot commented that the deflection session at the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Conference was helpful, and offered to share notes with Holland. It is important to update the Willamette Criminal Justice Council on the BHDP planning process, and staff should involve that body in future discussion and data review.

6. Old Business

6.1 Adoption of Resolution No. R2024-023, Philomath Enterprise Zone School Support Fee – Christopher Jacobs, Corvallis-Benton County Economic Development Office

Jacobs stated this Resolution is similar to the Corvallis Enterprise Zones and has been passed by the Philomath City Council. The Philomath School Board and the City Council set the 15% rate.

MOTION: Malone moved to adopt Resolution #R2024-023 Establishing an Enterprise Zone School Support Fee Rate. Ott Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0**.

6.2 Revisions to Fair Board Bylaws – Jesse Ott, Jennifer Martin, Natural Areas, Parks, and Events; Trudy Overlin, Kristi Schrock, Fair Board

Overlin explained that the Fair Board wanted to update the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and bylaws to correct inconsistencies and have all documents signed at the same time. Revisions include updating the Event Center name and adding the current management structure. County Counsel reviewed and approved the proposed changes.

MOTION: Wyse moved to approve the revised Fair Board Bylaws as presented. Malone seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0**.

6.3 Revisions to the Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Event Center and Fairgrounds Management Between the Benton County Fair Board and Benton County – Jesse Ott, Jennifer Martin, Natural Areas, Parks, and Events; Trudy Overlin, Kristi Schrock, Fair Board

MOTION: Malone moved to approve the proposed revisions to the Memorandum of Agreement regarding Event Center and Fairgrounds Management between the Benton County Fair Board and Benton County, Oregon. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0**.

6.4 Approval of Natural Areas, Parks, and Events (NAPE) Fee Schedules, Order No. D2024-071 – Jesse Ott, Jennifer Martin, Natural Areas, Parks, and Events

Ott stated that the rate schedules for Natural Areas and Parks and the Fairgrounds were approved by each entity's Board. Beazell Memorial Forest and Education Center fees had minimal changes. The Beazell Trust budget is doing well, largely due to facility rental income and recent facility upgrades. Increased rates for shelter rentals at Benton County Parks are mainly due to utility costs, as were the increased fees at Salmonberry Campground. Benton Oaks Recreational Vehicle (RV) Park had minor rate increases. RV storage space fees, which help fund the Benton County Fair, increased 10%. Fairgrounds facility rental rates will stay the same in hopes of increasing rentals.

Responding to a question from Malone, Ott confirmed the rate schedule is updated every two years.

Wyse felt that a \$10 increase for tent camping at Salmonberry was high compared to the \$7 RV increase.

Ott explained that NAPE did not want to fall behind market rates at comparable campgrounds. However, NAPE's goal for the rate increase was to remain equitable.

Wyse recommended reducing the Salmonberry tent camping rate increase from \$10 to \$5.

Ott proposed a total fee of \$30 (rather than \$35), then re-examining the fee a year later.

MOTION: Wyse moved to approve the Natural Areas, Parks, and Events 2025 rate schedule with the change of a \$5 increase for Salmonberry tents, and adopt Order #D2024-071. Malone seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0**.

6.5 Approval of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement – Tracy Martineau, Human Resources

Martineau presented the County's tentative agreement with AFSCME. The County will continue to work on housekeeping items with AFSCME before the contract is finalized and signed. The changes are minor, except that under Article 8, there was a circular reference between agreements. Human Resources is working with AFSCME on how to codify that in contract language.

Wyse highlighted that the total estimated cost of the contract is \$151,283,371, which is an increase of \$12,124,719.

Augerot noted the new agreement will move AFSCME employees into the market study environment in year three, providing more equitable compensation between represented and non-represented employees.

MOTION: Malone moved to approve the 2024–2027 collective bargaining agreement negotiated between AFSCME Council #75 Local 2064 and Benton County. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0**.

7. Other

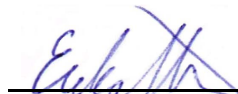
No other business was discussed.

8. Adjournment

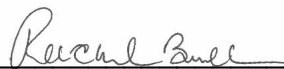
Chair Augerot adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.



Nancy Wyse, 2025 Chair



Erika Milo, Recorder



Rachel Bulder, Transcriptionist

* NOTE: Items denoted with an asterisk do NOT have accompanying written materials in the meeting packet.