

MINUTES & NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION

BOOK 148 PAGE 0014

APPROVED 5-1-91



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.

April 2, 1991
10:00 a.m.

BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Youth Services
Staff Conference Room

Chair Jack Roberts presided with Steve Cornacchia, Marie Frazier and Jerry Rust present. Ellie Dumdi excused. Judy Haldeman, Recording Secretary.

Cornacchia commented that he would like to have a discussion on an emergency item regarding HB3019 relating to voting by mail. Jef Faw, Director of Finance and Management Services, encouraged the Board to support this bill. He stated that turnout at the past three polling place elections has been approximately 21.5 percent, but that voter turnout in the past three vote-by-mail elections has been 35 percent. He stated that in addition to an increase in voter turnout, there is the fiscal impact of the vote-by-mail method with a savings of \$100,000 to \$150,000. He clarified that this savings would be to the taxpayer primarily, though the County would realize a savings in personnel services costs. Cornacchia commented that he was persuaded to support this bill for the cost savings and the opportunity of higher participation by the voters.

Roberts commented that he appreciated the position of the department to look at the savings, but he is not as convinced that there is a benefit in the primary and general elections to a vote-by-mail system. He commented that he would like all voters to have the same information prior to voting. Rust stated that increased participation is a positive factor for him and that he would support the recommendation by Elections staff.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation of support on HB3019. Rust MOVED, Cornacchia SECONDED. VOTE: 2-2, Frazier and Roberts dissenting. Motion fails. Roberts suggested that the department testify on this bill and explain the division on the part of the Board as part of the testimony. Frazier stated that she would not approve this strategy as she felt strongly that voters should go to the polls to vote. MOTION: To include division of the Board on this issue as part of the testimony by the department. Cornacchia MOVED, Roberts SECONDED. VOTE: 3-1, Frazier dissenting.

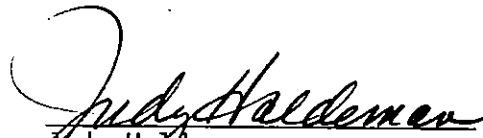
Steve Carmichael, Youth Services Director, reported that the population in detention had been lowered to the number of beds in existence (36) and yet Youth Services is not putting dangerous youngsters on the street. The existing policy states that without committing a crime, a youngster does not get put into detention, but this policy does not allow for youngsters who do not pay restitution to victims or fulfill their community service requirements.

Charles Ryer, Assistant Director, commented that under the policy that was developed a person would be excluded from detention if they were accused or adjudicated on less than a Class A misdemeanor. A risk analysis is done on each person that comes under the jurisdiction of Youth Services to determine the possibility of recidivism and the severity of the offense.

Frank Mills, Juvenile Detention Manager, stated that there have been no serious suicide attempts since the precautions were taken. He stated that a suicide prevention panel was formed, the population had been reduced and the kids have learned some essential coping skills. He stated that the risk of suicide will increase with staff reductions in July.

John Crumbly, Juvenile Counselor, stated that six percent of the teens nationwide have attempted suicide and fifteen percent have considered it. He declared that it was important to monitor the risk of suicide in the detention population differently than in the population as a whole. He stated that the panel had developed a suicide prevention packet which is used to train the entire detention staff.

There being no further business, this meeting recessed at 11:05 a.m. for a tour of the Youth Services facility.


Judy Haldeman
Recording Secretary