

MINUTES & NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION

BOOK 146 PAGE 2197

APPROVED 4-3-91



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.

March 5, 1991
9:00 a.m.

WORK SESSION
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners'
Conference Room

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

1. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There will be one item of Emergency Business.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3. COMMISSIONER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To be held at 10:40 a.m.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION as per ORS 192.660

To be held on Wednesday, March 6, 1991.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Standing Committee

Rust commented that Senator Mae Yih had asked him to give testimony on SB 273. He stated that this bill will continue monies from the State Transportation Department and the lottery to assist counties in restoring and maintaining their covered bridges. He would like the Board to go on record in favor of this bill which has been modified to include county representation on an advisory committee and to allow for hardship cases for privately owned bridges. Rust stated that this bill does not require that these bridges be put back into circulation; the issue is access. Cornacchia commented that it was reasonable to support this bill with the understanding that there be county representation and that no obligation

is placed on counties and further, that this is an opportunity for counties. Cornacchia also commented that this should come back to the Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Committee. Roberts suggested that Rust send a letter to Senator Yih in support of this bill.

MOTION: To have Rust prepare a letter for the signature of the Chair to be sent to Senator Yih and the President of the Association of Oregon Counties for inclusion on its agenda. Cornacchia MOVED, Dumdi SECONDED.
VOTE: 4-0.

Dumdi commented that she was interested in bringing local jurisdictions together to discuss the economic impact of the proposed cuts in higher education. She commented that there were long-range issues and comprehensive planning issues that needed to be addressed as well as the immediate issue of a replacement tax. Cornacchia commented that he was concerned that the Board approach this issue in a comprehensive fashion and that substantive support was needed for the argument that this would impact the economy by \$20 million, as stated by Mayor Miller. Dumdi commented that a comprehensive look at higher education was needed to reduce duplication and the burden on the tax payer. Roberts commented that he was concerned about advising the Board of Higher Education on restructuring or on fiscal issues. Rust commented that a united front could be in place so that the jurisdictions could be a player over the next two years and that caution was in order about how this is developed. Roberts commented that this gets Lane County out in front and in support of the University of Oregon and allows the County to be part of a long-term process in a modest role.

RESOLUTION 91-3-5-1/In the Matter of Taking a Position on Legislative Bills Introduced During the 1991 Legislative Session

Cornacchia stated that SB 287 adds language to provide for the County Clerk to rely on United States Postal Service data to register to vote individuals who change residence within the County. He stated that the expense involved would far exceed the benefit to the individuals who have not taken the responsibility to take care of their voting status. He stated that the Legislative Committee had taken a position of opposition at a priority 2.

Cornacchia stated that HB 2691 authorizes electors to vote first, second and additional choice votes for candidates where there are more than two candidates for nomination or election to single office. The Legislative Committee position was to oppose this at a priority 2.

Cornacchia stated that HB 2463 was related to public contracts and the Legislative Committee position was opposition at a priority 2.

Cornacchia stated that SB 0519 was related to pesticides and modifies the requirements for commencing action based on use or application of pesticide. The Legislative Committee position is to oppose at a priority 2 because 60 days to file a claim is generous. Rust commented that he

would like some information from the Public Works Department on this issue.

MOTION: To approve the Committee's recommendation on SB 0287, HB 2691 and HB 2463. Cornacchia MOVED, Dumdi SECONDED. VOTE: 4-0.

Frazier entered the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

MOTION: To approve the Committee's recommendation on SB 0519. Rust MOVED, Cornacchia SECONDED. VOTE: 3-1, Rust dissenting and Frazier abstaining.

RESOLUTION 91-3-5-2/Resolution Expressing Support of HB 3264 Allowing Counties to Collect Franchise Fees from Utilities Operating in the County Right-of-Way

RESOLUTION 91-3-5-3/Resolution Expressing Support of HB 2963 Authorizing Counties to Charge Utility Permit Fees for Actual Administrative and Inspection Costs of Utility Work in the County Right-of-Way

RESOLUTION 91-3-5-4/Resolution Expressing Support of HB 2964 Allowing Counties and Cities to Establish Damage Fees to be Paid by Excavators who Damage Roads or Road Related Structures

Cornacchia commented that the Board had taken a position on these bills previously. MOTION: Approval of these Resolutions. Cornacchia MOVED, Rust SECONDED. VOTE: 5-0.

6. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

a. Announcements

Margo Drivas, Assistant County Administrator, commented that Jim Johnson, County Administrator, would be at the City of Eugene today.

b. DISCUSSION/Retiree Insurance Benefits, Non-Represented Employees

Ruth Larson, Employee Relations Coordinator, stated that the County was currently providing health insurance benefits to eligible retired employees. She suggested that, due to increasing health insurance costs, decreases in County revenue and the increasing liability of this benefit, the Board may wish to reconsider earlier policy direction on this issue. She stated that the Board could memorialize the action taken in 1983 and amend the Lane Manual accordingly or could eliminate medical benefits for all future retired County employees. She commented that the employee has options under PERS and Medicare for health insurance. She stated that the Financial Accounting Standards Board will be requiring employers to account for postretirement benefits other than pensions and it was anticipated that the Government Accounting Standards Board will adopt this requirement as well. She recommended that a consultant be hired to

analyze alternatives for future and present retiree benefits because staff did not have expertise in this area.

Cornacchia asked if the costs of this study, if approved, could be borne by the Benefits Fund. Drivas commented that a certain level could be sustained by the Fund. Bill Van Vactor, County Counsel, commented that the avenue of an equivalent benefit could be explored which would substitute existing programs for what the County has had. Cornacchia commented that he would not be willing to put out money for a study prior to a cost-benefit analysis being done. Drivas stated that staff was recommending that the Board proceed with developing a scope of work to solicit quotations, not to award a contract. Van Vactor commented that there were two items for consideration: 1) the existing benefits for employees and 2) the scope of work, RFP and the cost estimate for the study. Roberts commented that the current benefit for retirees was put in place prior to PERS and possibly prior to Medicaid. He stated that there was no reason to continue to offer this coverage for new employees. Roberts added that he would like to see existing employees treated fairly, but the County has effectively been paying twice for the same benefit.

Van Vactor commented that he could prepare an order that would stop the effectiveness of the Lane Manual, but he would like to have timelines in the Lane Manual so that there would be a Legislative history for employees.

MOTION: To direct County Counsel to prepare an order and a Lane Manual change to stop the retirement benefits discussed and further, to report back on the cost of a further study to adjust the benefits. Rust MOVED, Dumdi SECONDED. Roberts clarified that this would apply to employees hired after Wednesday, March 6. Rust commented that he appreciated the comment by Roberts that employees should be treated fairly and equitably. He stated that Lane County cares about its employees and this study is not intended to cut people off, but to provide the best possible combination of benefits for the General Fund and the employees. VOTE: 5-0.

- c. DISCUSSION/Risk Management Update: Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Program

Drivas stated that the County has been self-insured for workers' compensation since 1986. Katherine Mehlenbeck, Risk Manager, stated that costs were being contained through the self-insurance program and through the expertise of the Claims Specialist, Donna Morgan. The loss prevention program has had an impact on the containment of costs, as well. She stated that a new safety policy was being drafted and revised, safety committees were being established, an early return to work program has helped control costs and more training has been provided. Cornacchia noted that the cost of stress claims has been reduced significantly. Morgan commented that there

had been some help from the new laws that had been passed and through aggressive investigation of claims by the County. Mehlenbeck stated that the Human Resources Department had been proactive with training for stress management through the Employee Assistance Coordinator, Norma Ragsdale. Drivas commented that the employee assistance program has been helpful in resolving potential claims and that claims were rigorously managed since the County had become self-insured.

7. PUBLIC WORKS

a. REPORT BACK/Overnight and Long-Term Parking in County Park Parking Lots

Bob Keefer, Parks Manager, presented this item to the Board. He presented three options to the Board: 1) to observe and evaluate; 2) to establish a parking permit system; and 3) to establish a grace period. The Division recommended option 1 and Keefer stated that a letter would be sent to all the moorage holders requesting that they not use the parking lot for long-term storage of their boats or vehicles.

MOTION: To adopt the staff recommendation, option 1. Rust MOVED, Dumdi SECONDED. VOTE: 5-0. Rust commented that he appreciated the way that this was handled by Keefer. Cornacchia stated that the County was service-oriented rather than regulatory-oriented in this example, but he stated that he would support regulation if this option did not work. Roberts commented that he had been made aware of a problem, the Public Hearing system worked and that everyone had learned from this process.

This meeting recessed at 10:32 a.m. to reconvene at 10:45 a.m.

3. COMMISSIONER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dumdi announced that there will be a symposium on growth management and livable communities held on March 26, 1991, sponsored by Governor Roberts' office.

Dumdi announced that the National Rural Development Workshop will be held in Spokane March 26-28 and she suggested that a staff member attend. Peter Thurston, Community and Economic Development Coordinator, made a request to attend the workshop and Cornacchia suggested that he prepare a report for the Board if he attends the workshop. Roberts commented that the Board consensus was that Lane County should have a representative at the workshop and suggested that County Administration make the determination about who would attend.

Cornacchia announced that there was a sign missing on Harvest Lane and requested that Public Works replace it.

Cornacchia announced that he was interested in organizing a parade for service people returning from the Persian Gulf. The Board agreed that Cornacchia should begin the process.

Cornacchia announced that he would be writing letters with regard to the POW/MIA issue in Southeast Asia.

Roberts announced that he had attended a quarterly meeting of the Advisory Committee Chairs with Frazier on Monday, March 4.

7. PUBLIC WORKS

b. DISCUSSION/Clear Lake Road (Lakeview Drive to Kirk Road) Improvement Project

Ollie Snowden, County Engineer, presented this item to the Board. He stated that the project is 4.25 miles long and is estimated to cost \$2.6 million. He commented that the issues which prompted this project are safety, inadequate road base and failure to meet current design standards. Snowden stated that the Roads Advisory Committee has recommended that the County proceed with this project with a 40 foot wide top surface; turn lanes at Barker Drive, Alvadore Road and Orchard Point Park; proceed with a realignment option; shift the center line where the project is close to abutting properties; use curbing to minimize impact to these properties; realign curve B and improve site distance at Fir Butte Road. He stated that the main issues of objection from property owners are the realignment, the speed of curve A and the use of a traffic signal at the intersection of Alvadore, Snyder and Clear Lake as an alternative to curve A.

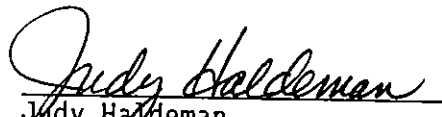
The Board discussed the realignment, a traffic signal at the intersection, truck traffic and the scope of the project.

8. EMERGENCY BUSINESS

ORDER 91-3-5-5/In the Matter of Award of BID CP 90/91-07R for Construction Purchase of Forest Work Camp - Alma, Oregon, BID Package #2R

MOTION: Approval. Cornacchia MOVED, Dumdi SECONDED. VOTE: 5-0.

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.


 Judy Haldeman
 Recording Secretary