

MINUTES & NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION

BOOK 151 PAGE 2360

APPROVED 11-25-92



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.

November 4, 1992
Following HACSA

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Harris Hall
Main Floor

Chair Ellie Dumdi presided with Steve Cornacchia, Jack Roberts and Jerry Rust present. Marie Frazier absent. Jane Burgess, Recording Secretary.

1. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

#2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rick Yecny, 06088 Mercer Lake Road, Florence spoke against the room tax ordinance. He pointed out several deficiencies in the ordinance and suggested the Cities of Eugene and Springfield raise their city taxes by two percent and put that revenue into the tourism fund, leaving the rural areas with the present room tax rate.

Wilbur Ternyik, Mayor of Florence, 921 Rhododendron, requested that Florence be exempted from this new room tax increase, as there would be serious economic repercussions for the city if this was not done.

Bill Morrisette, Mayor of Springfield said that while he approved the increase in room tax, he believed that in the interest of equity Florence should not be included in this increase until other coastal cities raise their room taxes. A triggering device should be included to kick in this increase in the event the other coastal cities increase their room tax.

John Erickson, 524 North 56th, Springfield and Bob Zagorin, representing the Oregon Guides and Packers and the Lane County Convention and Visitors Bureau, spoke in favor of the increase in the room tax.

Dot Crha, Cottage Grove, spoke in support of this room tax increase as long as the revenue remains dedicated to tourism.

Paul Kemp, 77073 Westridge Avenue, Westfir agreed with this room tax increase but said that the small rural communities should have a voice to speak for them.

Tom Jordan, Co-Meet Director of next year's USA Track and Field Championships spoke in favor of the room tax increase.

Ken Hobson, City Manager, Florence said that an increase in the room tax would hurt that area as it would make them less competitive with other coastal cities.

Duane Bishoff, 90205 Greenwood, Leaburg, President of the Friends of the Lane County Historical Museum spoke in favor of the room tax increase and asked that the Lane County Historical Museum be included in the distribution of revenues.

Carson Antrim, Manager, Belknap Lodge Hot Springs, McKenzie River commented that he supported the room tax increase and would like to see the Lane County Convention and Visitors Bureau coordinate marketing efforts on behalf of all of Lane County.

### 3. COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

To be held later in the meeting.

### 4. COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

- a. DISCUSSION AND ORDER 92-11-4-1/In the Matter of Directing County Counsel to Prepare a First Reading of an Ordinance to Increase the Transient Room Tax Rate Consistent with Board Direction.

Jim Johnson, County Administrator, presented this item to the Board. Roberts inquired regarding the various tax rates in all areas of the County and the effect this increase would have on various areas. There was general discussion regarding how this tax was distributed and the proposal for the County to assume full marketing responsibility for the entire County through the Convention and Visitors Bureau, with the Cities of Eugene and Springfield no longer participating on a separate basis.

Rust said he supports this increase, as well as a differential for West Lane County because of the competitiveness factor on the coast, and suggested that Mayor Morrisette's idea of a trigger device be considered. Rust would like the Tourism Council to continue until the transition period is completed and expressed support for including funding for the Lane County Historical Museum from the new revenues produced by this increase. He also said he would like to see rural representation on the board of the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Dumdi commented that she agreed with some of the ideas expressed today, especially rural representation on the board of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and a trigger device for Western Lane County. She also proposed a different distribution formula of the 80 percent, that 10 percent be returned to the unincorporated areas which generated the revenue. Roberts asked who in the unincorporated areas would receive these funds. Dumdi replied that perhaps the various Chambers of Commerce could be utilized. Upon questioning from Cornacchia, Dumdi stated that her proposal would not include cities in the unincorporated areas.

Rust said that his interpretation of Dumdi's suggestion was that another category be created reserved for rural areas, and that perhaps the Lane County Tourism Council could be the mechanism that distributes the fund which could go to private non-profits, small cities, or other entities which are promoting tourism.

Dumdi clarified her proposal, saying she was trying to find a mechanism for returning some of the monies to the areas from which they originated as there was no provision for that in the draft ordinance. The funds go to cities but not to unincorporated areas and she would like to make the distribution more equitable.

Johnson suggested that Dumdi's idea, if adopted, could channel the monies through the Chambers of Commerce, keeping the funds under County control through requests for proposal.

Cornacchia said he was not yet ready to support this ordinance as no proposals have been submitted as to how the funds generated will be spent and this lack of specificity was a cause of concern. He commented that raising taxes and creating a pot of money without specific proposals for spending, is not responsible governing. He wants to see goals and projects identified and then decisions made as to how much money is needed to fulfill the goals. While some needs are evident such as funding for the Historical Museum, the needs of businesses and others supported by tourism have not been specified nor has any proposal been made to meet those needs. He said before he could support the ordinance to raise the room tax he would need to know exactly where the money will go, who it is going to go to, how it is going to go to them, and what it is going to be spent on.

Cornacchia commented that he understands West Lane County to be saying that they do not want any increase in their room tax and he supported their objection. He would support the increase for all the County with the exception of West Lane County, but specifics of what is going to be done with this revenue should be outlined before any ordinance can be proposed.

Marie Frazier entered the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Dumdi suggested that a committee with varied representation be appointed, together with the Tourism Council, to address the issues raised by Cornacchia.

Rust commented that Cornacchia had raised these points previously and a meeting with the rural commissioners and small cities had been held. He said the ideas generated there are presented in the memo before the Board. Rust remarked that the primary focus of this proposal is to increase visitors to Lane County and he thinks that there is enough input from all the parties for the Board to direct County Counsel to prepare an ordinance to implement this tax increase. Several versions of the ordinance could be prepared so people can speak for or against them. Rust was prepared to move forward on this.

Cornacchia again reiterated his desire to know exactly how much and on what projects the money raised by this tax will be spent, and how it will be distributed among the various areas.

Dumdi commented that that was the purpose of the committee proposed by her earlier.

Roberts voiced his opposition to any new committees to further discuss this proposal.

Rust agreed that revenue collected from an area should benefit that area. He said if the Board was in agreement with that principle, then Dumdi could convene her committee to discuss how the revenues should be spent and bring those decisions back to the Board for discussion.

Rust moved to direct County Counsel to prepare an ordinance raising the room tax in Lane County, with a differential and trigger for Western Lane County when and if the market rises above the two percent; that there be two options on the money split, 80/10/10 and 70/10/10; and that as a general principle any marketing dollars received from geographic areas in the County be generally redirected in benefit back to the area from which it came.

Dumdi suggested the inclusion of RV parks in the ordinance, but Teresa Wilson, Assistant County Counsel recommended that this issue be treated in a separate ordinance due to the amount of research necessary.

Wilson enquired as to the date the Board would like the ordinance to be adopted. Cornacchia suggested a date of January 1, 1993 and after general discussion, the Board concurred. Johnson requested permission from the Board to meet with Commissioners Frazier and Cornacchia, as well as the Chair of the Tourism Council to decide what information the Board needs from the Tourism Council. Wilson will prepare an ordinance to be presented at the November 10 meeting.

Order 92-11-4-1 was pulled.

b. UPDATE/Fairgrounds Master Plan.

To be held later in the meeting.  
Marie Frazier was excused at 10:36 a.m.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION as per ORS 192.660

None.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

SAVE Committee

- a. ORDER 92-11-4-2/In the Matter of Approval of SAVE Awards for Carl Debaldo (\$3,000); Richard Warkentin (\$1,000); Claudia Wilcox (\$3,000); and David Wobbe (\$3,000).

MOTION: Approval of SAVE Awards for Carl Debaldo (\$3,000); Richard Warkentin (\$1,000); Claudia Wilcox (\$3,000); and David Wobbe (\$3,000). Cornacchia MOVED, Roberts SECONDED. VOTE: 4-0.

7. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

a. Announcements

None.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Minutes: October 21, 1992, Regular Meeting, 1:30 p.m.

B. Assessment and Taxation

- 1) ORDER 92-11-4-3/In the Matter of Refunds to Michael Caruso and Francis Realty.

C. Health and Human Services

- 1) RESOLUTION AND ORDER 92-11-4-4/In the Matter of Accepting a Grant not to Exceed \$15,000 from Sacred Heart Hospital for the Provision of Guardianship Services for Select Mental Health Clients in Lane County; Appropriating \$7,500 in Revenues and Expenditures in the Department of Health and Human Services; and Delegating Authority to the County Administrator to Sign a Letter of Agreement.

D. Public Works

- 1) ORDER 92-11-4-5/In the Matter of Extending the Lease with Bohemia, Inc., Covering the Sharps Creek Solid Waste Transfer Site.
- 2) ORDER 92-11-4-6/In the Matter of Accepting a Deed of Land to be Used as a Public Road Easement in 18-04-27 (Chezem Road).
- 3) ORDER 92-11-4-7/In the Matter of Awarding a Contract to Pape Bros. Inc., in the Amount of \$38,750 with Trade-In for the Purchase of One (1), New Self-Propelled Pneumatic Tire Roller, Contract No. FY 92/93 FS-06.

D. Public Works

- 4) ORDER 92-11-4-8/In the Matter of Awarding a Contract to WhiteGMC Trucks of Portland Inc., dba: Willamette Valley WhiteGMC Trucks in the Amount of \$88,127 for the Purchase of One (1), New, Solid Waste Box Rail Truck with Roll-Off Hoist, Contract No. FY 92/93 FS-07.
- 5) SUBDIVISION PLAT
  - a. Cone Plat  
City of Eugene  
17-03-16

MOTION: Approval. Rust MOVED, Roberts SECONDED. VOTE: 4-0.

This meeting recessed at 10:40 a.m. to reconvene at 10:50 a.m. Marie Frazier present.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- a. ORDER 92-11-4-9/In the Matter of Amending and Adopting the Classification and Compensation Plan as a Result of the Reorganization and Consolidation of the Departments of County Administration, Human Resources and Finance and Management Services

George Russell, Director, Human Resources and Management Services presented this item to the Board and gave an explanation of the various amendments suggested to the Classification and Compensation plan.

Roberts questioned the title of Assistant Director of Human Resources and Management Services and Russell responded that this is an interim organization which will be looked at further in the months ahead when budget constraints are more clearly defined.

MOTION: Approval. Roberts MOVED, Rust SECONDED. VOTE: 5-0

Roberts asked to be excused at 10:58 p.m.

4. COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

b. UPDATE/Fairgrounds Master Plan.

Rich Maris, representing the Fair Board presented this report to the Board and explained the change in the future schedule of the Consortium meetings as well as the more immediate issues to be discussed. John Amundsen then gave a report on the major issues of the Master Plan which is being developed. He said it was hoped that a final plan for public hearings would be ready by March 1993.

After general discussion, the Board thanked the Fair Board staff for this report.

This meeting recessed to go into the Board of Health Meeting and reconvene after that meeting at 1:30 p.m. Rust asked to be excused.

The meeting reconvened at 1:36 p.m., in the Commissioners' Conference Room.

3. COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Roberts commented that in light of the passage of Measure 20-01, restricting the use of Alton Baker Park, he suggested that the park be deeded to the City of Eugene, because it would be an urban park without any County significance. Cornacchia suggested that if any indemnification is required, this should be responsibility for mitigating any problems in the park, not any reimbursement.


MOTION: That Alton Baker Park be deeded to the City of Eugene. Roberts MOVED and Cornacchia SECONDED, VOTE: 4-0. The Board directed Jim Johnson, County Administrator, to communicate this decision to the City of Eugene and enter into negotiations for the transfer. Dumdi announced that Commissioners Frazier and Rust will be jointly sponsoring the Folkcrafting Revival Cottage Industry Development in Lane County on November 6. She also reminded the Board that the Red Ribbon Campaign for drivers will kick off on November 17, at 11:30 a.m., outside the Hult Center.

She read a letter dated October 21, from Governor Roberts which stated that on December 4, the Governor's Office in conjunction with US West Communications will host a conference called "The Summit - Building a Hate Free Oregon," and requesting that names of nominees be submitted for each of the eight focus groups of the conference.

Dumdi reminded the Board of testimony before LCDC tomorrow, November 5, and the hearing starts at 9:00 a.m. In connection with this, Roy Burns, Manager, Land Management Division, announced that LCDC should have a draft 3 of the goals available for the County's perusal by 8:00 a.m., tomorrow morning, unless something changes in the meantime.

Jim Johnson said regarding the room tax increase discussed earlier, he needed direction from the Board to prepare a RFP for the contract, and present it to the Tourism Council for review. The Board so directed Johnson.

There being no further business this meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 1:59 p.m. as per ORS 192.660.

  
Jane Burgess  
Recording Secretary