

JOINT MEETING

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/DUNES CITY COUNCIL

September 3, 1992

I. INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m. by Mayor R. Petersdorf. He announced that Commissioner Dumdi would chair the meeting.

The following commissioners and staff were present: J. Rust, Chair of the Board E. Dumdi, J. Roberts, S. Cornnachi, County Administrator J. Johnson, Attorney Bill Van Vactor, Head of the Land Management Dept. Roy Burns, and a visitor from East Berlin doing an internship with the county staff. The following council members and staff were present: M. Miller, R. Petersdorf, E. Passenger, H. Hodson, City Recorder Kathie Hilborn, Secretary Lisa Goodfellow. There were 6 people present in the audience.

II. DISCUSSION/Room Tax

There was a meeting in Harris Hall last night concerning the room tax. All but three communities in Lane County were represented. J. Rust wrote the proposal for the 2% increase which will be used mainly to promote tourism in the county. He invited the council to attend and give input at the meetings September 15 and 16. That is when the ordinance will be shaped.

J. Rust also stated that according to "The Oregonian" there has been a boom of tourism in Portland with 80% or higher occupancy in their motels this summer. The Eugene area has been in the low 60% range. There is a need to market Lane County as a whole for tourism. For each percentage point the tax will raise \$75,000.

The commissioners realize that much of the tax money from this area has stayed in Eugene. This is one of the reasons they are willing to support the All Events Center for Florence. They plan to contribute \$1.8 million to the project if it goes forward.

E. Dumdi explained that the tax seems to be favored by all areas of the county, but in Florence the timing is bad. There are contracts with bus tour companies that are written two years in advance. Perhaps something

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\$1.2 million from room tax to spend on marketing.

R. Petersdorf stated that Dunes City budgets all of their room tax directly to tourism. He felt that other cities put theirs into a general fund. S. Cornnachi explained that the tax is used for items related to tourism; Even a softball tournament would bring people into the area who would use rooms and other tourist related businesses. He feels this is why the commissioners are willing to support the All Events Center. There will be many events that impact the whole area for tourism, not just the City of Florence.

III. Discussion/Jurisdiction of County Shorelands Around Siltcoos Lake

Mayor Petersdorf explained the need for a working program in obtaining permits for this shoreland area. It is a hassle for the property owners. A walkway and dock can lie in city, county and state land. S. Cornnachi wondered if there were differing standards which caused the problems. R. Micklewright of the Dunes City Planning Commission explained that it caused a problem in administering Dunes City ordinances. Only people that are living in Dunes City are affected by the multi-jurisdiction. There are probably not proper permits because it. J. Rust wondered if the urban growth boundary could include that shoreland area. The county could then give jurisdiction to the city as it has done with other cities. E. Passenger stated that the urban growth boundary can be extended only when services are provided such as water and sewer. Attorney Van Vactor felt that there was no need to extend the urban growth boundary. According to ORS 190 the county could transfer that authority. Mayor Petersdorf will direct city staff to start the process to have the authority transferred.

IV. DISCUSSION/Road Funds

Mayor Petersdorf wondered why Dunes City only gets 50% of the urban transition money. S. Cornnachi explained that there are two unrelated funds. The gravel roads fund, which converts gravel roads to urban roads, only allots 50% to Dunes City roads. All the other cities in the county have roads that are twice as wide as Dunes City. The Urban Transition Money is based on road mileage. With this fund Dunes City receives the same amount per mile as the other cities.

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can be worked to raise the tax incrementally in Florence. The rate for Florence is currently 6%. If raised, it would be higher than Newport.

E. Dumdi believes the All Events Center will contribute to tourism in Dunes City through conferences. There are also three new motels planned for Florence in the next couple of years.

R. Petersdorf felt that Dunes City would probably not support the All Events Center if taxed for it. He stated that Zone 5 contributed 72% of their tax money to the Fair Grounds. Those bonds will be paid in 1994. The commissioners realize that the formula for these taxes needs to be reworked after the bonds are paid. J. Rust expressed the difficulty the commissioners have in being fair with these special projects. He feels that the various projects balance out over the years in benefit to the rural areas of the county.

Nancy Johnson expressed the concern that in a countywide vote Zone 5 can easily be overridden. E. Dumdi felt that might be true, but many times their voice does come through.

M. Miller asked how the new 2% tax would be spent. 50% will be for marketing, 30% for the Lane County Museum and 20% for special projects, such as the Bach Festival and the Eugene Festival of Music.

J. Rust wondered if Dunes City felt more aligned with the Coast, as opposed to Lane County, in tourism. Mayor Petersdorf felt that not many people in the Eugene area have even heard of Dunes City. It is not mentioned in many of the tourism pamphlets. J. Rust stated that one of the biggest sources of room tax revenue had 1/2 of their clientele from the Eugene area. He feels that the county should pull together for a greater benefit to all areas. One of the elements of the proposal is to change the name of the "Eugene-Springfield Visitors and Convention" to "Lane County Visitors and Convention" and to give people in the outer areas representation.

R. Petersdorf wondered what the commissioners would do if the All Events Center were voted down. The financial commitment to the center is conditional. Support of other projects on the coast would be a priority. E. Dumdi explained the competition for Florence: Newport has \$750,000 and Lincoln City about

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Ken Hayes agrees with the concept of marketing Lane County as a whole. This area is growing rapidly. The P.U.D. meters in Florence are twice as much as in Newport and six times as much as in Reedsport because of the growth.

V. DISCUSSION/Water Study--Tax Base for Water System

Mayor Petersdorf reported that the city's water feasibility study is almost complete. There will be another townhall meeting. A city water system will probably be on the March ballot if grant money is found. J. Rust answered the question about support from the county. The county does not run water systems. He wondered if the study looked into the idea of connecting with Heceta Water District. That idea was considered in the study, but the costs were prohibitive. J. Rust stated that the county was willing to consider playing a role in working out the problem. Mayor Petersdorf expressed frustration with the workshops that are given concerning grant money. The ideas usually do not work out. There is a workshop planned by the state on October 9, 1992.

IV. QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Nancy Johnson asked why \$500.00 of county money was spent on Olive Street in Eugene. This road fund money is shared with every city in the county. It was a normal request. J. Roberts pointed out that the state constitution permits road funds to be used strictly for roads. The media makes it look like money is being spent unwisely when there are other important social problems to deal with. These funds just can't be used for those concerns.

J. Rust explained that the county would consider a road fund request from western Lane County a priority. He appreciated hearing the concerns because it shows a need to continue educating the public. Ken Hayes also expressed the need for better public relations between the commission and western Lane County. S. Cornnachi stated that the county has resisted hiring a public relations person in order to keep the costs down and because most of the tax money comes from timber. Five cents of every property tax dollar goes to Lane County. That money is subsidized by timber receipts. H. Hodson felt it helps public relations a lot to have these

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meetings on the coast.

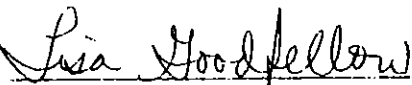
Martha Jakobs is concerned about all the traffic on what is considered the "scenic route" of Highway 101. The main problem is that there is little room between the ocean and the mountains for another route. The state is considering the problem in its long-term goals.

Commissioner Dumdi closed the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

CHAIR E. DUMDI



MAYOR R. PETERSDORF



SECRETARY L. GOODFELLOW