

MINUTES & NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION

BOOK 156 PAGE 1979

APPROVED

February 22, 1995



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.

December 19, 1994
9:00 a.m.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS
NORTH EUGENE COMMISSIONER SEAT

Commissioners'
Conference Room

Chair Jerry Rust presided with Steve Cornacchia, Ellie Dumdi, Marie Frazier and Jack Roberts present. Also present were Commissioner-Elect Cindy Weeldreyer and Bill Van Vactor, County Administrator. Sharon Giles, Recording Secretary.

There was a brief discussion with regard to process. There was consensus that each candidate would have the opportunity to present a 5-minute statement, after which Commissioners will take turns asking two questions that they feel are appropriate. The candidate will then have two minutes for closing comments.

9:00 - TONIE NATHAN

Nathan stated that she has an intense desire to serve the community. She stressed her wide breadth of experience in business, politics and communications. Nathan listed the reasons that she believes she is the best candidate: 1) She is a resource for fresh new ideas; 2) She has a wealth of broad experience; 3) She knows how to get information and how to analyze it; and 4) She is a communicator who can help sell the ideas, images and services that the public needs to understand. Nathan indicated that she is a 1971 journalism graduate from the University of Oregon and previously worked as Lane County's Community Relations Assistant. She emphasized her ability to cooperate, listen and learn. Nathan stated that she does not see this position as a soap box for espousing individual political philosophies.

Q. FRAZIER: How would you address equity and balance issues as it relates to the North Eugene constituency and the other constituencies, rural/metro as an example?

A. Nathan answered that she would see herself as a commissioner for all of Lane County, while bringing forward concerns from her district. She indicated that she would look for input from others.

Q. ROBERTS: With regard to annexation, specifically, do you have any thoughts about annexation in River Road/Santa Clara and, broadly, do you have thoughts about the process of annexation and how that ought to be dealt with by the Board anywhere in the county?

A. Nathan stated that, generally, annexation should not be done without the consent of the people involved. She encouraged more meetings between the cities and the Board.

Q. DUMDI: Since the River Road area is not annexed, the Board is their representation...How would you deal with issues in that area where the City is deeply involved?

A. Nathan suggested "town meetings," organized by the County, to give the people an opportunity to be heard.

Q. CORNACCHIA: Hypothetically, you're home, you get a phone call alleging a scenario involving a Board colleague wherein there are concerns that the actions taken or the words spoken by that commissioner were either unethical, inappropriate, outside of Board policy, or possibly even illegal...How would you go about resolving your concerns that were raised in that conversation?

A. Nathan remarked that she would first talk to the individual to find out their side of the story. Then, if not satisfied, she indicated she would go to the County Administrator to inquire as to the next step to take. Nathan observed the need to get all of the information and then look at options. She stated that she would let the caller know that she would look into the matter and follow up. Responding to Cornacchia, Nathan indicated that she would not give an answer to a reporter until a proper investigation had been done.

Q. RUST: Are you concerned about the way Lane County elections are managed and, if so, do you have any ideas for improvement? How would you exercise oversight?

A. Nathan stated that she was concerned and had been told problems may be a result of short-staffing due to budget constraints. She remarked that elections seems to be hit by a lot of extra work not paid for by the state. Nathan stressed that she would lobby hard at the state level to get dollars for mandated activities.

Q. FRAZIER: If appointed, what is your top priority?

A. Nathan stated that she didn't feel she could set a priority at this time, observing the need to look and listen. She did, however, indicate that the budget appears to be a high priority.

Q. ROBERTS: With regard to regional transportation issues, 1) Did you support the recent Ferry Street Bridge ballot measure, and 2) What role, if any, do you think the County should play in where we go from here as related to that transportation corridor?

A. Nathan commented that she voted against the ballot measure as she was convinced that the money would still be there and there was a need to look at other alternatives. She stressed the need to do something quickly while the dollars are still there.

Q. **DUMDI:** Do you have any suggestions to help provide the necessary services and balance the budget?

A. Nathan emphasized the need to show that all possible cuts have been made before asking for more dollars. She suggested squeezing some divisions in law enforcement to make sure they are not top-heavy with administration. Nathan also stressed the need to lobby the state for money. She suggested the possibility of putting out some in-house functions for private bid, such as maintenance.

Q. **CORNACCHIA:** Scenario: You have a project that requires a change in policy/ordinance/funding that requires Board action...How would you go about achieving success for that project?

A. Nathan stated that she would first ask if it was appropriate for the County to be involved. She indicated that if it had to do with health or safety, she would investigate the matter. Nathan remarked that if policy were involved, she would involve the entire Board. Responding to Cornacchia's further probe, Nathan stated that she would discuss the matter privately with the other commissioners and departments involved, then bring the matter before the Board via the agenda process.

Q. **RUST:** Scenario: If you received allegations that LRAPA was abusing its regulatory discretion/authority...How would you pursue this complaint?

A. Nathan indicated that she would turn it over to the agency that was responsible for enforcing that kind of thing and also determine why the issue was coming to the Board. She stated that if there were complaints with federal/state/agency laws and regulations, she would put the complainant in touch with the proper people, perhaps interceding on their behalf.

Q. **WEELDREYER** asked Nathan to elaborate with regard to her "fresh ideas on governance."

A. Nathan remarked on the need to get rid of programs that are duplicated in other jurisdictions and to look at consolidation. She indicated that she would not have voted for the recent salary increase as salaries are a major cost and entry level salaries for Lane County are higher than elsewhere. Nathan pointed out to the Board that they had had an opportunity to save \$1 million. Responding to Rust, Nathan stated that examples of programs to drop may be costs involving task forces and commissions/advisory councils.

Nathan summarized that she had not had time to examine the budget thoroughly. She indicated that she could be helpful in raising revenues. Nathan remarked that she is in contact with the grassroots. She stated that she was a workaholic and very cooperative.

10:00- JIM HALE

Hale stressed that he has an even-handed approach to politics, although he might not necessarily be the most politically correct choice. He indicated that the Board can count on him to work hard. Hale remarked that he would keep in contact with the North Eugene constituency and would carry his share of the workload. Hale remarked that he would share disagreements on a one-to-one basis. He indicated his support of the Board's decision with regard to Ballot Measure 8. Hale stated that he would run for this seat at the next election. He commented that he reflects the strong social and fiscal views of the district. Hale remarked that the River Road Community Organization supports him. He indicated that he was an advocate for downtown, the timber industry, the lodging/hospitality industry, economic development and job formation. Hale stressed that he is supportive of building the future itself - the kids and families of Lane County.

Q. FRAZIER: How would you address equity and balance issues as it relates to the North Eugene constituency and the other constituencies, rural/metro as an example?

A. Hale responded that when he voted he would keep in mind what is best for all of Lane County.

Q. ROBERTS: With regard to annexation, specifically, do you have any thoughts about annexation in River Road/Santa Clara and, broadly, do you have thoughts about the process of annexation and how that ought to be dealt with by the Board anywhere in the county?

A. Hale stated that it is important for people to make their own decisions. He stressed that he is opposed to forcing the issue by changing rules at the state level.

Q. DUMDI: Since the River Road area is not annexed, the Board is their representation...How would you deal with issues in that area where the City is deeply involved?

A. Hale asserted that he would deal with the issues honestly and forcefully. He noted indicated that he feels a serious responsibility for advocacy/stewardship for the area. Hale remarked on the necessity for due process.

Q. CORNACCHIA: Noting that Hale had answered his planned first question in his opening statement, Cornacchia asked what Hale meant by the statement that he "may not be the most politically correct candidate."

A. Hale observed that there is a school of thought that says that those who involve themselves in controversial issues should not hold public office. He stated that he did not hold that view. Hale indicated, however, that there are probably people who would draw that conclusion about him and activities that he has been involved in. He remarked that he feels he has an open and even-handed approach.

Q. RUST: Are you concerned about the way Lane County elections are managed and, if so, do you have any ideas for improvement? How would you exercise oversight?

A. Hale indicated that he did not feel the performance of the elections division was acceptable, although he has an open mind about how that has come to be. He stated that he would like to know how these activities are conducted in other counties in Oregon. Hale commented that the department head who supervises elections needs to bring the elections budget to the table after ascertaining comparative information.

Q. FRAZIER: If appointed, what is your top priority?

A. Hale responded that he believes stabilizing revenues is the highest priority.

Q. ROBERTS: With regard to regional transportation issues, 1) Did you support the recent Ferry Street Bridge ballot measure, and 2) What role, if any, do you think the County should play in where we go from here as related to that transportation corridor?

A. Hale stated that he had supported the Ferry Street Bridge measure. He remarked that the most important things about the planning are the design of the approaches and safety.

Q. DUMDI: Do you have any suggestions to help provide the necessary services and balance the budget?

A. Hale remarked that some money might be able to be saved in how personal time is accounted for by employees. With regard to revenue, Hale stated that a differential rate levy for police protection might work.

Q. CORNACCHIA: Scenario: You have a project that requires a change in policy/ordinance/funding that requires Board action...How would you go about achieving success for that project?

A. Hale responded that he would first determine whether the project is a County responsibility and then find out how those affected would feel about it. He stated that he would then talk to Board members individually to see if there was consensus.

Q. RUST: Scenario: If you received allegations that LRAPA was abusing its regulatory discretion/authority...How would you pursue this complaint?

A. Hale indicated that he would first get all of the facts, being careful not to express his thoughts about it until he knew the answers in his own mind. He remarked that he would treat accusations against a member of the Board seriously and would be careful about how inquiries were made. Hale stated, in the end, however, if he felt there had been a problem, he would not be afraid to criticize someone in public about that.

Hale told the Board that if they desired a tireless worker he was available. He stressed that he knows the district, would research county issues and meet with each precinct in the district within 90 days. Hale indicated that he would be a county commissioner, not a city commissioner. He emphasized that he would like to be part of the team that is the logical provider of regional and metropolitan services.

11:00- BOBBY GREEN

Green indicated that his comments would be brief. He noted that he had applied for this position five years ago and that he believes he has learned a lot in the last five years, noting his considerable experience in local government. Green remarked that he has learned a lot about patience.

Q. FRAZIER: How would you address equity and balance issues as it relates to the North Eugene constituency and the other constituencies, rural/metro as an example?

A. Green stressed that he would not have a pro-city bias. He indicated that he would form opinions by gaining knowledge and judge each issue on its own merits.

Q. ROBERTS: With regard to annexation, specifically, do you have any thoughts about annexation in River Road/Santa Clara and, broadly, do you have thoughts about the process of annexation and how that ought to be dealt with by the Board anywhere in the county?

A. Green stated that people should not be annexed against their will. He remarked on the need for an open process, including the opportunity to vote on annexation issues.

Q. DUMDI: Since the River Road area is not annexed, the Board is their representation...How would you deal with issues in that area where the City is deeply involved?

A. Green stressed the need for a fair and open process for each citizen, remarking on the need for citizens' voices to be heard. He stated that he would bring constituents' concerns to the Board and ensure that their best interests are served.

Q. CORNACCHIA: Hypothetically, you're home, you get a phone call alleging a scenario involving a Board colleague wherein there are concerns that the actions taken or the words spoken by that commissioner were either unethical, inappropriate, outside of Board policy, or possibly even illegal...How would you go about resolving your concerns that were raised in that conversation?

A. Green stated that he would defer comment until he had all the facts and had talked to the individuals involved. He indicated that he would not make comments "off the cuff."

Q. RUST: Are you concerned about the way Lane County elections are managed

and, if so, do you have any ideas for improvement? How would you exercise oversight?

A. Green noted that there is always the opportunity for improvement. He commented that he believes the division is doing the best it can with reduced staff. Green observed the opportunity to learn from mistakes, noting, however, that if the same mistakes continue to happen, then the specific problem needs to be focused upon.

Q. FRAZIER: 1) Asking for clarification on Dumdi's question, Frazier asked Green how he would deal with an internal conflict within his district related to metro/UGB constituencies.

A. Green stated that all of the district's constituents are part of the county and he would work to strike a balance in his approach, getting everyone's concerns out on the table.

Q. FRAZIER: 2) If appointed, what is your top priority?

A. Green explained that one of his top priorities would be to ensure that the budget is balanced. He observed the need to get caught up to speed on the issues in a timely manner.

Q. ROBERTS: With regard to regional transportation issues, 1) Did you support the recent Ferry Street Bridge ballot measure, and 2) What role, if any, do you think the County should play in where we go from here as related to that transportation corridor?

A. Green stated that he had supported the Ferry Street Bridge as it is important for the entire region. He commented that he had been part of the United Front that went to Washington, DC to lobby for funding. He observed that the County's role is important as the area is a regional transportation corridor.

Q. DUMDI: Do you have any suggestions to help provide the necessary services and balance the budget?

A. Green noted that deep cuts have already been made. He stated that he is open to long range planning and multiple strategies. Green suggested that taxing districts are a possibility. He indicated that, with regard to Youth Services, he supports a revenue strategy that would support it directly.

Q. CORNACCHIA: Scenario: You have a project that requires a change in policy/ordinance/funding that requires Board action...How would you go about achieving success for that project?

A. Green stated that he would gather the facts and bring forward a bonafide proposal, complete with cost implications. He indicated he would then talk to individual commissioners regarding any concerns they may have.

Q. RUST: Scenario: If you received allegations that LRAPA was abusing its regulatory discretion/authority...How would you pursue this complaint?

A. Green responded that he would find out the process to deal with that type of situation, get all of the facts and then perhaps deliberate with the Board in an open process.

Q. **WEELDREYER:** What do you see as your number one strength and your number one weakness?

A. Green replied that his number one strength is proven governmental experience, combined/balanced with his business experience. He indicated that his weakness, which he stated he views as a challenge, may be that he "cares too much." He used an example of having to say "no" in situations involving IHSC.

Q. **FRAZIER:** With regard to his response in the application regarding natural resources, Frazier asked Green for his approach to prioritizing multiple use.

A. Green responded that he would prioritize based on where the greatest needs/demands are.

Q. **FRAZIER:** Frazier asked for an example of "federally mandated and regulated legislation which demonstrates balance and vision."

A. Green referred to the ozone issue, noting that there is federally mandated legislation that is doing a sufficient job, thus not requiring further enactments at the local level.

Green observed that he has been encouraged by well-wishers in the community. He indicated that he is a "quick study." Green stated that he would do his homework and did not have a hidden agenda. He noted that facts generally give the answers. Green suggested the use of the "United Front" strategy at the state level.

1:30 = EDWARD C. PAPE

Pape stated that he is a lifelong resident of Lane County and a local business owner. He indicated that he would like to have the position and thought he could work well with a group such as this.

Q. **FRAZIER:** How would you address equity and balance issues as it relates to the North Eugene constituency and the other constituencies, rural/metro as an example?

A. Pape indicated that he would work for equitability for all and be just as concerned for other districts as his own.

Q. **ROBERTS:** With regard to annexation, specifically, do you have any thoughts about annexation in River Road/Santa Clara and, broadly, do you have thoughts about the process of annexation and how that ought to be dealt with by the Board anywhere in the county?

A. Pape acknowledged that the River Road situation is "touchy" as people do not want annexation. He stated that at some point in time, the people will have

to be part of the city. Pape suggested gradual implementation of a tax structure to facilitate annexation, as it is needed for fire protection and law enforcement.

Q. DUMDI: Since the River Road area is not annexed, the Board is their representation...How would you deal with issues in that area where the City is deeply involved?

A. Pape stated that issues regarding the City would require contact with them and development of working relationships.

Q. CORNACCHIA: Hypothetically, you're home, you get a phone call alleging a scenario involving a Board colleague wherein there are concerns that the actions taken or the words spoken by that commissioner were either unethical, inappropriate, outside of Board policy, or possibly even illegal...How would you go about resolving your concerns that were raised in that conversation?

A. Pape indicated that he would set up a dialogue with all of the parties involved and that he would not "shoot from the hip." He remarked that he would respond after an investigation.

Q. RUST: Are you concerned about the way Lane County elections are managed and, if so, do you have any ideas for improvement? How would you exercise oversight?

A. Pape stated that people seem to be doing a good job with the situation they have to work with; but, that some investigation should be done in an attempt to solve any specific problems and see whether they are related to software, hardware or personnel problems.

Q. FRAZIER: If appointed, what is your top priority?

A. Pape responded that he would set up a series of approximately four town hall meetings in different areas of the district to find out what is on the minds of his constituents.

Q. ROBERTS: With regard to regional transportation issues, 1) Did you support the recent Ferry Street Bridge ballot measure, and 2) What role, if any, do you think the County should play in where we go from here as related to that transportation corridor?

A. Pape remarked that he did not support the current Ferry Street Bridge proposal, acknowledging that something does need to be done. He indicated that a good alternative is needed to take traffic away from the area, possibly with an alternative bridge proposal. Responding to a question from Cornacchia, Pape stated that the County should be a player.

Q. DUMDI: Do you have any suggestions to help provide the necessary services and balance the budget?

A. Pape observed that services have already been pared thin. He stated that

he does not want to see a "shopping list" ballot. Pape indicated that the voters need to realize the essential services that are provided which will require significant information disbursement to voters. He noted the need for creativity.

Q. RUST: Scenario: If you received allegations that LRAPA was abusing its regulatory discretion/authority...How would you pursue this complaint?

A. Pape stated that he would sit down, separately, with the parties involved to gather information and then see if there was any compromise.

Q. CORNACCHIA: Scenario: You have a project that requires a change in policy/ordinance/funding that requires Board action...How would you go about achieving success for that project?

A. Pape indicated that he would consult with his fellow commissioners first.

Q. WEELDREYER: How would you resolve issues between city and non-city areas of your constituencies?

A. Pape remarked that he would get input from both sides and look for common ground.

Pape stressed that he is a team player and would be seeking opinions and advice from fellow commissioners. He indicated that he has no "baggage" and no agenda. Pape emphasized his business/budgeting background and his desire to expand his horizons. He asked the Board to appoint him to the position, stating that he would work hard.

DELIBERATION

First there was a brief discussion with regard to the planning process with regard to the future of the Ferry Street Bridge. Roberts indicated that the City is interested in an expanded Citizens' Advisory Committee and is seeking both opponents and proponents. With the caveat that a letter be sent to the City indicating that the County's selection of a representative to the group is not intended to portray the majority opinion of the Board, there was consensus that Rust would be designated as the County's representative.

With regard to the commissioner selection process, Teresa Wilson, County Counsel, indicated that the five sitting commissioners can deliberate on a choice for the appointment to the North Eugene Commissioner vacancy and make a tentative decision. She stated that an actual appointment cannot occur while Roberts is still sitting on the Board. Wilson explained that the remaining members can appoint to the vacancy, after it actually occurs. She remarked that if Weeldreyer takes office before Roberts resigns, then she can vote in Frazier's place. Cornacchia expressed concern about making a tentative decision, noting that he would like to make a decision and move forward. He stated, assuming there is a clear choice, he would like to make a decision today and simply formalize it on January 5.

Roberts stated that he plans to resign on January 1. Weeldreyer stated that she would like to see the new person attend an Elected Officials' meeting scheduled for December 21, so would like the decision made now. Frazier remarked that she would like to hear Roberts' assessment.

Roberts ranked his choice as follows: 1) He stated that Green is the best candidate as he has the breadth of experience necessary and has shown growth and maturity over the last five years. Roberts observed that Green answered questions succinctly and to the point; 2) Roberts commented that Hale is intelligent and articulate. He indicated that Hale made sincere representations about wanting to work together as a team, but that that has not always been his strength (using Farmer Hale Road as an example); 3) Roberts observed that while Nathan has a lot of experience in the governmental arena, her ideas do not necessarily relate to county government; and 4) Roberts expressed concern that Pape does not have enough governmental experience.

Dumdi agreed that Green has matured a lot. She noted that he is a team player and stated that she appreciated his desire to do more with regard to intergovernmental relations. Dumdi observed that Green has the best understanding of the issues and that he is her number one choice.

Noting that his questions had reflected his desire to determine how well the candidates would work with fellow commissioners, staff, and the system, Cornacchia remarked that he found Green's dialogue with Frazier to be the most telling and impressive, wherein Green had gone to lengths to make sure he understood what Frazier was asking and responded accordingly. He stressed that Green had come out ahead on his ranking in all categories except perhaps his advocacy for non-city folks.

Frazier remarked that she had eliminated Nathan and Pape due to their lack of experience, noting that Pape could use more public service involvement and Nathan needed more local experience. She stated that Green had ranked near the top after the application process because he had stressed his desire to provide "service to the public" and his interview had brought him to the forefront today. Frazier indicated that she appreciates Green's candor, his interest in Lane County and his demonstrated commitment to his community.

Weeldreyer noted that his elected official experience is a plus for Green, particularly with the budget challenges coming up.

Rust agreed that Green is the most outstanding candidate. He stressed his experience, thoughtfulness, sincerity and even-handed approach. Rust described Green as a "bridge builder," remarking that he deserves the appointment.

There was unanimous consensus that Green would be appointed.

Cornacchia observed that one downside was the loss of Green on the City Council where he served an important role.

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.



Sharon Giles
Recording Secretary