

*Approved March 30, 1994*

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**MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING OF  
VENETA CITY COUNCIL and LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
Monday, February 14, 1994 - 5:30 p.m.  
Veneta Community Center - 25192 East Broadway, Veneta, Oregon

**PRESENT:** LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS - Jerry Rust; Ellie Dumdi, Steve Cornacchia

**COUNTY SUPPORT STAFF:** Theresa Wilson, County Counsel; Bill Vanvactor, County Administrator; John Goodson, Public Works Director; Sheriff Robert McManus, Lt. Dell Hackett and Sgt. Earl McMullen of the Sheriff's Department; and Robert Kiefer, Lane County Parks Director.

**PRESENT:** VENETA CITY COUNCIL - President of the Council Al Starns; Council Members Tim Brooker, Marion Esty, Galen Carpenter

**CITY SUPPORT STAFF:** Les Clark, City Administrator; Marlene Colbath, Finance Officer and Recorder Pro Tem; Frank Wright, Public Works Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Rust for the Lane County Commissioners and by Mr. Starns for the Veneta City Council. Mr. Rust introduced the members of the County Commissioners in attendance at this meeting, and Mr. Starns introduced the members of the Veneta City Council. Mayor Smigley was absent. Mr. Rust expressed his regret that the County Commissioners were not able to meet with the Council last year, but expressed his appreciation for being able to meet at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no public comment.

**HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

Mr. John Goodson, Public Works Director, spoke regarding happenings on Highway 126 between Eugene and Veneta. There are two bridges to the west of Perkins Peninsula scheduled for construction in 1994, and the bridge beyond Fisher Road in 1996. The remainder of the projects are in the State's draft four-year transportation improvement program. In the past there had been a six-year program, but because of less federal revenue than was anticipated and a decline in gas tax revenue it has been changed to the four-year program. ODOT will be holding a public hearing on their draft plan on Wednesday, March 9th at Springfield High School. He described the projects scheduled for the next several years. The intent is to provide for a four-lane section on Highway 126 from Veneta to Fisher Road, but this would be difficult because of the Southern Pacific tracks and Fern Ridge Reservoir. Because

these are in the draft stage it is difficult to provide information to ODOT for their Hearing to keep these projects on track.

Mr. Starns expressed his concern about the number of people using this corridor where there have been many accidents because of the narrow width of the road. It would be helpful from that standpoint to have more traffic lanes here.

Councillor Carpenter inquired about the light rail system between Eugene and Veneta with Southern Willamette Rail, as well as alternative transportation to LTD. Mr. Goodson responded that there is funding in the State's six-year plan for light rail and that it is important that ODOT be advised of the interest of people at the Public Hearing. If there are problems with bus scheduling, cities would have to work with the LTD Board.

### COOPERATIVE TECHNICAL SERVICES

Mr. Starns suggested that small communities, such as Veneta, Junction City, Pleasant Hill, Creswell, etc., might be able to join the county for some technical services, such as having one person as the CPA, or a technical advisor for financial arrangements, thereby reducing the work load of the upper administrative level for the small cities. At a point when entities reach their taxing limits there will have to be some creative ways of working with our needs. This might include using one central computer system to produce reports; one technical advisor with background for budgeting and finance who can give advice and abide by the audit system, etc. Mr. Clark reported that he will be meeting with the local school administration to determine how such a concept might work locally.

Mr. Clark described a situation where the county had been using some large equipment on a project out here. The City of Veneta presently does not have a dump truck for its Public Works Department. He suggested being able to budget time when the County equipment might have been used in conjunction with Veneta needs under a contractual arrangement. Mr. Vanvactor advised that they do have this type of agreement with cities. Mr. Rust advised that the county has a very small budget staff (3 people) who are working at maximum capacity. He suggested that L-COG might be able to help.

Mr. Clark indicated that the Council is considering what to do with the present City Hall. With the Fire District having moved out, the City would like to check out any need there might be in this location for a building inspector or planner on a part-time basis, where the City of Veneta could provide the facility and, as a trade-off for providing that facility, the County could do the City's building inspection (presently contracted out) or the city's planning.

Mr. Vanvactor suggested that City staff prepare a list of suggestions. He would have the appropriate County department people review those suggestions, and then he would get back to Mr. Clark. The County does not have much money for rent payments. Commissioner Cornacchia indicated that the County's general fund is in much the same situation as that of the City. However, the County's present Road Fund still has some opportunities to help. In the

Urban Transition Agreements where the amount of aid to cities has been increased Veneta gets a portion of that. He suggested that the City might consider, rather than taking all of that in money, that some of it be taken in kind.

#### PROJECTED STATUS OF LANE COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Mr. Vanvactor advised that continuing law enforcement services for the County is the highest priority the Board of Commissioners has. He has not seen any policy change from the Board and felt that when they prepare the budget this spring that will be the same top priority. Both the cities of Veneta and Creswell have this contractual arrangement with the county which are reviewed annually, and which are different from arrangements with other cities. He indicated that Ms. Wilson has been considering a Law Enforcement District where there would be a permanent tax structure to provide for law enforcement in rural areas.

Ms. Wilson indicated that an enhanced law enforcement district would be a special district used to provide a certain level of law enforcement services. She felt that the County Commissioners would probably be the Board of Directors of the District, but it would have its own tax base. There is a lot of work to be done at the beginning - consider all the steps to be done; going through the Boundary Commission; then to a vote would make a final result. It would not be a solution to the immediate problem. The areas that would be incorporated in this District would be a political decision.

Sheriff McManus concurred that the Sheriff's Department wishes to continue the contractual agreement with the small cities with whom they presently contract. It has been a good working arrangement to give higher quality law enforcement services for the people inside as well as the people in the area around the city. He has been working with the committee regarding special district funding. If it appears to be a viable idea they would be coming to the Cities to ask them to become participants. There are two counties which are going out for law enforcement districts, so Lane County will be monitoring them to see how they work out.

The Lane County budget is facing a 2.5 million dollar deficit as they enter 1994, being a continuation of three previous years of facing deficits, with elimination of some 50 positions in county government. In 1992 the County had commissioned a look at revenue sources where several options were identified.

The first one was to raise the income tax of county residents. That met with resistance and was not thought to be politically feasible. Other suggestions included a business license tax, similar to that of Multnomah County; and the taxation of sales of real estate. There was a unanimous feeling on the part of the Board that the latter was a good approach. They had been asked not to hold an election on this matter but to enact it under the powers of the Board of Commissioners. Now a petition has been filed to refer this to the electorate. They are looking into having this on the May ballot so they could have the outcome reflected in the next fiscal year's budget. It was felt that the Commissioners have acted in the public interest.

Currently 51% of the County discretionary general fund budget goes to law enforcement services. With a lack of some \$2.5 million dollars law enforcement is affected as a part of that cut. At the same time new companies are being encouraged to come in and present ones to expand, thus changing from a traditional career-oriented area in natural resources to other services. As the area grows people expect to have property protected, a good quality of life, and this can't be done if there is continual erosion of the budget.

The real estate sales tax would go into the general fund. There has been discussion about using this for law enforcement. Mr. Rush explained some of the intricacies of their funding should the real estate sale tax be channeled into law enforcement. There was discussion regarding a cap on sales tax. Mr. Rust pointed out that for some 50 years the people in Lane County have had county government for nothing because the timber extraction. Ms. Esty indicated that in the five states where she has lived there has always been a transfer tax. With more people coming into the State and purchasing homes this would be an ideal time to put this kind of tax in place.

#### ZUMWALT PARK / RICHARDSON PARK

1. Zumwalt Park. Bob Kiefer, Lane County Parks Department, advised that over the past three years there has been a review of the use of Zumwalt Park. It is still closed to vehicle traffic, but has been used by the Boy Scouts, the Society for Creative Anachronism, and family reunions. Last year it was opened to camping, sponsored by the City of Veneta, for the Oregon Country Fair through an inter-governmental agreement with the County. Although that particular event went extremely well, he felt, there were some concerns on the part of the neighboring property owners, and the Corps of Engineers, as to the amount of use that is being made of that park. Mr. Kiefer indicated that this land is on a 50-year lease to the County which and will expire in the year 2026. A Task Force was established to prepare a management plan for Zumwalt Park, presently in draft form. This gives a guide for the next 5-10 years for Zumwalt Park management.

The areas covered include a vision for its use; general management policies; side uses; short-term action steps/management strategies (repair, renovate, use to best advantage); funding long-term management. Depending on the budget, the focus is on the naturalness of the park. General management policies include protecting the present character and habitat and scenic qualities of the site; interpretation of the natural qualities; and working with the community to ensure that future development are good facilities for this area, and that they are compatible with the neighborhood.

Short-term management strategies would include an assessment of the site, and then prepare a master plan. Mr. Kiefer felt that this would be a time when the City Council and residents of the area would work together. The utility system has to be improved, such as the restrooms which had been removed in 1988 because of vandalism. The Corps would expect the County to replace it. Site management would include opening the south end of the park, including limiting vehicle access; and possibly having a resident caretaker. They want to work

with the Neighborhood Watch and Sheriff's Department, and possibly any seasonal security from the rest of the lake, to assist in curtailing illegal camping along the shoreline. They want to work with some groups to adopt portions of the park. There would also be a review of the traffic patterns on Jeans Road with respect to use and safety. There is a proposed facility fee to help offset the Park Department cost.

2. Richardson Park. This 157-acre area was included in a management plan which was developed before he came to the County. Mr. Kiefer referred to a drawing showing Phase I of the new campground, and which should open by mid-May this year. There is a marina area, group picnic shelter, and a transient dock with a grant from the Marine Board. The plan was developed with the Parks Advisory Committee, and The Boat Owners Advisory Team (composed of people who moor their boats at Richardson and Orchard Point). There are some spaces available for longer recreational vehicles; there is 30-50 amp service available at different locations; a washroom/shower complex; and trailer dump station. This summer a University of Oregon intern will be working on a marketing plan for the campground, which will integrate what is being done in Veneta. It might be two years before they have a reservation system, although they would keep about 50% of the space available for people who just show up.

#### TIMBER TAX RECEIPTS TO COUNTY / 20-YEAR AGREEMENT

Commissioner Cornacchia spoke regarding the timber issue and how it is affecting County revenues. Oregon is a "tax-base" state in contrast with other states which are tax rate states, and the transfer tax is needed to pay for the growth in the community since new development is not paying its way. There has been discussion about a constitutional amendment that would change Oregon's tax structure to a tax rate state.

After months of intense negotiation between representatives of counties and the Clinton administration, the counties now have, for the next five-ten years, an 80% guarantee of the amount of timber receipts that come to the counties based upon the public lands that they have in those counties. This year Lane County will receive some \$12 million dollars, similar to what was received last year. The best year of timber receipts was \$17 million dollars. Thereafter that guarantee goes down by 3%, and at the end of ten years the guarantee will be at 50%. In five years the timber receipts to Lane County will be about \$9.5 million dollars. At the end of ten years it would be \$7.5 million dollars.

With negotiation, at the end of the five years the County would get the better figure of either what the actual receipts on the forest floor would be or that guarantee going down by 3%. The Clinton plan expects that O & C lands would have a cut of around 200 million board feet. The historical average on O & C lands has been 1.2 billion board feet. Mr. Cornacchia gave a resume of different amounts of money coming in depending on different selling prices. It costs the County 25 employees for every million dollars that is lost. Next year, with a reduction of some \$400,000, (and each subsequent year it gets larger), this will equate to around 10 employees a year for the next five years, with 5-6 of those employees/year

coming from law enforcement. Mr. Cornacchia felt that there were sufficient funds coming in for the roads program but whether there would be enough to continue for the cities can only be determined in the future on a year-to-year basis, and might continue for up to three years. Mr. Starns explained that this would help the Veneta City Council in considering elimination of gravel streets in the City.

Mr. Rush and Mr. Starns expressed their thanks to the Commissioners, Council, and staff members who came out to this meeting.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS JOINT MEETING, it was duly adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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PRESIDENT OF THE VENETA CITY COUNCIL - AL STARNES

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LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER JERRY RUST

ATTEST:

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MARLENE COLBATH, Recorder Pro Tem