

APPROVED BY ORDER #9-21-310
MINUTES OF THE
LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting held virtually

This meeting was audio and video recorded and a link is available at
co.lincoln.or.us/meetings

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hunt called to order the regular meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners.

ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Present at the meeting were Commissioner Hunt, Commissioner Hall, and Commissioner Jacobson.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Hunt introduced the consent calendar. Commissioner Jacobson made a motion to approve the consent calendar as presented. Commissioner Hall seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Minutes of Board of Commissioners Meeting

Order #4-21-114	BOC Meeting Minutes 7.6.2020
Order #4-21-115	BOC Meeting Minutes 7.13.2020
Order #4-21-116	BOC Meeting Minutes 8.17.2020

Documents and Recording Matters in the Commissioners Journal

Order #4-21-117	Memorandum of Understanding between Lincoln Community Health Center and OCHIN for Comparing Strategies for Social Screening Programs (CRISP)
-----------------	--

Execution of Documents

Amendment #1 to Intergovernmental Agreement #166048 between Oregon Healthy Authority and Lincoln County for the Financing of Mental Health, Addiction Treatment, Recovery & Prevention, and Problem Gambling Services

DECISION/ACTION

1. Order #4-21-118 Appointing Florence Pourtal as Lincoln County Public Health Administrator, ORS Chapter 431 – *Presented by Wayne Belmont, County Counsel*

County Counsel Belmont announced that ORS Chapter 431 requires that the county have a county public health administrator. Although Ms. Pourtal is taking the job on an interim basis, they need to

make the appointment for purposes of OHA to coordinate their activities with the state agencies, especially at this time with the retirement of former director, Rebecca Austin.

Commissioner Hall made the motion to approve the appointment of Florence Pourtal as Lincoln County Public Health Administrator under ORS Chapter 431. Commissioner Jacobson seconded.

Ms. Pourtal made some additional comments thanking the board for the appointment.

Commissioner Hunt made comments of appreciation to Florence.

A vote was taken and was passed unanimously.

2. Resolution #21-19-4A *Denouncing Hate Groups, Hate Speech, and Violence – Presented by Commissioner Hall*

Commissioner Hall presented a resolution, Denouncing Hate Groups, Hate Speech, and Violence Motivated by Hate. The Board of Commissioners, in conjunction with the entire management team of the county, last June, adopted a very strong anti-racism statement, and this resolution is, in part, an outgrowth of continuing growth of hate groups, hate speech, and violence motivated by hate. Most recently, there was a rash of incidents directed at people of Asian descent. Commissioner Hall turned it over to County Counsel Wayne Belmont for information on what Lincoln County is doing to uphold said values.

County Counsel Wayne Belmont referred to the September 11, 2019 resolution that they adopted. They have started to include, in their own grant programs, a reference to and a copy of the 2019 statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and asking for an affirmation from those who apply for the grant program. They've also looked into partnering with certain groups to do training to enhance the understanding and affirmation of those values. Thirdly, they are also looking at the resolution in the context of how they apply their own internal policies and external practices around hiring in the county.

Commissioner Hall made comments hoping that the progress towards these resolutions would continue.

Commissioner Jacobson requested that some staff work on pulling the resolution out of its original format and turning it into a statement to put on their website. She also suggested a road name to be changed, and perhaps others as well, to support the resolution.

Commissioner Hall moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Jacobson seconded. A vote was taken and was passed unanimously.

REPORTS

1. Lincoln County Public Health COVID-19 Update – *Presented by Florence Pourtal, Public Health Deputy Director*

Deputy Director Pourtal presented an update which showed an increase in cases since February.

Lincoln County will only go to the next category up in terms of risk if 300 or more people are hospitalized for COVID-related reasons throughout the state. There are currently 243 as of this morning. This is a trend being seen statewide. They will be in high risk until May 6, at least.

As of April 16, 2021, daily cases of COVID-19 have more than doubled in just a month, from an average of 249 on March 6 to 595 cases. Over the past two days, OHA has reported 1,576 new cases, the highest two-day total since early February.

Many groups are fatigued, and as such fewer precautions are being taken, which caused recent outbreaks. The region has been affected by variant B1429. Deputy Director Pourtal reassured that they will pull through the situation. The keys to doing that are limited high-risk gatherings, getting vaccines, and overall following the COVID-19 precautions. Today is the day that everybody 16 and over is eligible to get a vaccine. Since last week, Lincoln County still has the highest vaccination rate in the state.

2. Echo Mountain Complex Fire – Presented by Wayne Belmont, County Counsel, and Roy Kinion, Public Works Director

County Counsel Wayne Belmont announced that they had a red flag warning in April, which means that despite the current work, they need to be vigilant for a fire next fire season. They were able to acquire a contract, and they will now see money flowing into some of the victims as well as some to cover the costs of activities of recovery. There is another request from the legislature for more funding. He then turned it over to Roy Kinion for updates on the debris cleanup process.

Director Kinion gave an update that the Salmon River Trailer Park has been cleaned up. The 15th was supposedly the last day for ROE submittals, but ODOT will still honor those that come in now, but it is the final call to get properties online to get cleaned up. The cleanup is starting to wind down.

Commissioner Jacobson added onto Counsel Belmont's presentation with more information about the contract from Business Oregon that they are now getting their agreement in place to get dollars coming in. The legislative ask, which ended up at \$724,000, is sitting at the governor's desk awaiting signatures.

Jenny Demaris clarified that the red flag situation was relatively unexpected, but now realizes that it is because the weather conditions are most likely permanently changing, which means the seasons during the summertime will be much different.

Emergency Management is running a test on May 7th of the Lincoln alerts program. They have also finished their transfer over to the State Oregon Alert Program. This will allow them to have greater capacity to be able to alert people.

3. Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Division Auxiliary Communications Service Annual Report – Presented by Jenny Demaris, County Emergency Manager and Daron Wilson

Jenny Demaris presented their third annual report for auxiliary communications. This year, the amateur radio operators played the "jack of all trades" role. When the Echo Mountain fire started and they needed to establish the medical-fragile sheltering operations coinciding with the American Red Cross, although they had medical supplies ready to go, they didn't have a lot of manpower. Michelle Pelkey, an amateur radio operator, put a call out to get more manpower to get the medical-fragile units ready to go. The same thing happened four days later when it was time to demobilize the medical-fragile shelter area. She then turned it over to Daron for what his team accomplished this year.

Daron explained that 2020 was a challenge that gave them interesting opportunities as communicators. They used the online technologies to get their members together and communicating more. They've had an increase in participation due to the convenience of the online system. Members have requested meetings be held virtually even after things return to normal due to the convenience. Daron expressed thanks to the Lincoln County for including them as volunteers in eligibility for the vaccine. This allowed them to participate in other areas they could not before since most of them are older and thus higher-risk individuals.

The ACS (Auxiliary Communications Service) group assisted with situations with the fire, setting up for points of distribution for vaccine, and PPE distribution due to a rise in need.

Demaris highlighted hours volunteered by ACS. They normally give around 711 hours in their typical ACS roles, but for COVID specifically, they donated over 129 hours, 85 hours in the PPE distribution. They have also spent over 160 hours in the Echo Mountain Fire relief. She added that they have a Cascadia Rising Exercise coming up in June of 2022. One of the focuses will be on amateur radio. They are asking for additional funds to outfit their mobile trailer, so it is not attached to the port house. They also have an eventual goal to build a new emergency operations center to be the hub for the critical county communications when a Cascadia event occurs.

4. 2021-22 CAFFA Grant Submission – Presented by Joe Davidson, County Assessor

Joe Davidson gave an update that House Bill 2341, which is the Wildfire Relief Bill, just passed the house unanimously. This bill offers property tax relief more expeditiously, and it does so without application from the property owners. It will also help in future events.

Davidson explained property tax. He then highlighted some changes to FTEs. He then presented the summary of expenses, which the only changes were the FTEs. The program needs to be submitted May 1st prior to any kind of budget resolution. His presentation needs to be resolved by next meeting.

5. STR Update

Wayne Belmont discussed changes in process. They have completed workshops put together to discuss recommendations for changes to the short-term rental licensing program. There were 177 participants that came in on the Zoom meeting, in which more than 50 presented testimony. The second meeting, which was held April 7th, and had 98 participants. Belmont recommended that people listen to the workshops, which is downloadable on their website. They are looking at coming back May 3rd with the next set of revised recommendations.

6. Commissioners

Commissioner Hunt highlighted a letter of support from Jeff Doyle for funding of the Easy County Fire Station. He then proposed a letter to be prepared, reviewed, and signed by the commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public comments were acknowledged since the last meeting of the Board of Commissioners on April 12, 2021.

ADJOURN

The next meeting will be held on April 26, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hall recessed at 4:51 p.m. for executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) to discuss labor negotiations. The board did not return to regular session.

These meeting minutes were read and approved September 29, 2021.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



DOUG HUNT, Chair



KAETY JACOBSON, Commissioner



CLAIRE HALL, Commissioner