

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Tuesday, November 28, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**\*\*Please note: the meeting summary is not the formal meeting record  
and does not replace official Board Meeting minutes. \*\***

- 1. Opening:**
  - 1. Call to Order**
  - 2. Introductions**
  - 3. Announcements**

No announcements were made.

**2. Review and Approve Agenda**

The following item was added to the agenda:

**Executive Session under ORS 192.660[2][e] – Real Estate Transactions**

**3. Comments from the Public – See Meeting Minutes for details**

Phil Ermer, resident, Professional Engineer, expressed concerns that the Benton County media policy could restrict freedom of the press and called on the Board to present two sides of an issue. Ermer also asked the Board to ensure that Benton County abides by recently passed State measures to address embodied carbon in construction.

Wyse noted that the Board did change the Benton County media policy to address concerns about freedom of the press.

Paul Blackburn, resident, expressed concerns about restricting freedom of speech. Blackburn warned of negative consequences from carbon reduction and stated that climate change and carbon are not a real problem.

Keith Lembke, resident, cautioned against eroding public trust in government by manipulating information. Let the public determine if a policy is good or bad based on what they see.

[first name not given] Priest, resident, emphasized that the government is not the arbiter of truth, and the County should present both sides of an issue.

Kevin Kenaga, resident, expressed concerns about the Board's handling of Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) meetings and changes to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Kenaga urged the Board to change its policy on freedom of speech and return to monthly DSAC meetings to provide a platform for public feedback.

**4. Work Session**

**4.1 Monthly Health Update – April Holland, Health Services**

Holland updated the Board on transmission and vaccination for COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus.

**4.2 Special Report: Board Update on Solid Waste Program – Darren Nichols, Community Development**

Nichols reported on challenges in re-structuring solid waste and sustainable materials handling in Benton County. Nichols described the current DSAC as an unsafe atmosphere which has led to threats of physical violence by committee members against staff and other members, disinformation, and failure to make progress on key responsibilities.

**MOTION:** Wyse moved to suspend meetings of DSAC and any activity of DSAC until the Community Development Department can come back to the Board after the first of the year with a plan to move forward with that committee. Augerot seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

**5. Consent Calendar**

**5.1 Approval of Two Appointments to the State Transportation Fund Advisory Committee, Kristen Jocums and Katharine Hunter-Zaworski, Order #D2023-090**

**5.2 Approval of the October 17, 2023 Tuesday Board Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Wyse moved to approve the Consent Calendar of November 28, 2023. Augerot seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

**6. Proclamations**

**6.1 Proclaiming November as Native American Heritage Month, Proclamation #P2023-020 – Nancy Wyse, Benton County Board of Commissioners**

Wyse read the Proclamation aloud.

**MOTION:** Augerot moved to proclaim November as Native American Heritage Month, Proclamation #P2023-020. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

**7. Public Hearing**

**PH 1 In the Matter of a Public Hearing Regarding Solid Waste Collection: Annual Rate Increase Request, Order #D2023-092 – Darren Nichols, Community Development**

Nichols explained that Coffin Butte Landfill (CBL) operator Republic Services (RS) has proposed a 4.8% fee increase to begin January 1, 2024, for an average additional \$1.89 per month per account.

Augerot noted that the Board had not yet seen the required annual report from RS or had an opportunity to query RS before the rate change was presented as an action. Augerot disagreed with the fee structure which provides a discount for larger waste containers, preferring to offer a disincentive.

Public Comment

Marge Popp, resident, noted that the staff recommendation for this rate increase includes a waste reduction incentive, which says that rates per pound will no longer decrease with increased size of containers. This is a good change, but will also augment the annual rate increase and add to

RS profits at the expense of residents. Instead, the annual rate increase should be offset by the amount generated by this change, creating a revenue-neutral increase.

Mark Yeager, resident, stated that the County's 10-year hauling agreement with RS gives the company a monopoly. The current RS rate structure incentivizes waste generation, which increases RS profits. Yeager called for County staff and RS to totally re-vamp the rate structure to reward customers for reducing waste and reduce the flow of garbage to CBL.

In the absence of key staffer Daniel Redick (Community Development) and any RS representative, Chair Malone continued the Public Hearing to December 19, 2023, to ensure that the Board can consider all relevant information.

## 8. New Business

### 8.1 Revision of Fee Schedule for Civil Division Real and Personal Property Sales for the Sheriff's Office, Order #D2023-078 – Dawn Dale, Dean Barnes; Benton County Sheriff's Office

**MOTION:** Wyse moved to approve the revised fee schedule for the sales of real and personal property conducted by the Benton County Sheriff's Office Civil Division, Order #D2023-078. Augerot seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

### 8.2 Policy Revision for Approval - A100 Technology Acceptable Use Policy – Adam Loerts, Information Technology

Loerts described the proposed changes to the Technology Acceptable Use Policy.

Wyse proposed changing the phrase 'may not be performed on County computers, up to and including, "side businesses" or moonlighting are not permitted' (packet page 78) to: 'may not be performed on County computers. "Side businesses" or moonlighting are not permitted.'

**MOTION:** Augerot moved to approve the policy as revised by Commissioner Wyse. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

### 8.3 Revising Fees for Permits, Applications, and Services in Public Works, Community Development, and Planning Division for 2024, Order #D2023-091 – Gary Stockhoff, Public Works

Augerot noted an inconsistency between the second paragraph of the Order and the attachments regarding the calculation of fee increases. Augerot suggested dropping the second paragraph.

Nichols noted that some parameters of the fees for land use applications and appeals at the landfill zone were adjusted to align with the cost of actual staff time. Fees take effect January 1, 2024.

**MOTION:** Augerot moved to approve Order #D2023-091 in the matter of increasing fees for Public Works, Community Development, and Planning departments, with the revision to drop the paragraph that begins 'Be it further ordered.' Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

## 9. Departmental Reports & Requests

**9.1 Board Appointment of Ad Hoc Sustainable Materials Management Planning Committee** – *Darren Nichols, Community Development; Sean McGuire, Sustainability Program*

**MOTION:** Augerot moved to appoint Steven Chase as chair and appoint additional members to the ad hoc committee as recommended by staff with the consideration of including additional committee members to ensure representation of Corvallis community members and any community-based organizations that promote waste reduction, and to direct staff and the committee to begin implementing the Board’s charge to the committee, in cooperation with any selected consultant contractor or contractors, to develop a sustainable materials management plan for Benton County and beyond. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

**10. Other**

**MOTION:** Augerot moved to provide \$300 towards the Corvallis Multi-Cultural Literacy Center for their fundraiser to help defray those fundraising costs. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

**11. Executive Session under ORS 192.660[2][e] – Real Estate Transactions**

Chair Malone entered Executive Session at 12:02 p.m.

Chair Malone exited Executive Session at 12:28 p.m. and immediately reconvened the regular Board Meeting.

**MOTION:** Wyse moved to direct staff to pursue the purchase of real property from the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) with clarifications discussed in Executive Session. Augerot seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

Malone noted that acquiring the building at 4185 Southwest Research Way, Corvallis, would address space and capacity needs for Benton County Behavioral Health programs, particularly the Children & Family Services program.

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