



Board of Commissioners' Administrative Meeting
September 8, and September 9, 2020 ~ 1:00 pm ~ Room 214

9/8/2020 - Minutes

1. To Watch A Live Stream Of This Meeting, Click The Link Below Or Go To www.klamathcounty.org

2. Call To Order & Those Present

Commissioner Morris, Commissioner DeGroot, Brandon Fowler/Emergency Manager (Via Phone), Vickie Noel/Finance, Amanda VanRiper/Human Resources, Jessica Chastain/I.T.

3. Approve Minutes From Last Meeting

Commissioner Morris approves minutes from September 1, 2020 Admin Meeting

4. Brandon Fowler - Emergency Manager

Fowler provides update on Chiloquin Fire, evacuation status and road closures.

Commissioner Morris asks how is the County going to be keeping the citizens updated?

Fowler responds that fire agencies are taking care of that so mixed messages are not sent out.

Commissioner Morris asks Fowler to connect the other agencies with our IT

Dept. to get the information pushed out on County social media, Fowler will get that taken care of.

Commissioner Morris would also like to know what the business community can do to assist.

Commissioner DeGroot indicated that Gino's and Dutch Bro's are headed up there right now, additionally dinner for tonight, breakfast and other meals are being arranged for delivery tomorrow through the Chamber.

Fowler further elaborates that the Red Cross is arranging for lodging for evacuees.

Fowler does not believe that weather conditions are going to improve much today need to be prepared.

Commissioner Morris would like Fowler to keep the BOCC updated daily if not more.

Commissioner DeGroot asks if the County needs to set up an EOC? Fowler indicates not at this point.

Commissioner DeGroot indicates that the Fairgrounds does have room for livestock, however they are filling up fast, also says would have room for people but need to connect with Public Health regarding COVID measures.

5. Vickie Noel - Finance

Noel addresses the BOCC regarding the optional Federal allowance of deferring Social Security tax, Noel thinks the County should opt out. Commissioner Morris motions to opt out, Commissioner DeGroot seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved

6. Amanda Van Riper - Human Resources

1. Clarification Regarding Non-Represented Employee Opt Out

Contribution

Amanda VanRiper addresses the Board regarding clarification on the increased amount for the County's Opt Out contribution for Non-Represented employees from 50% to 75%. Board indicates that's yes the Board decided in a previous meeting to increase that amount to 75% of the cap.

Vickie also inquires about the policy revision document that Sue, Mika and Lisa were working on last year? The BOCC would like to get this back in front of the BOCC and get that document adopted.

7. BOCC

1. Telecommuting As Schools Reopen

Commissioner Morris would like to BOCC to make a decision regarding telecommuting since the schools are not fully opening up as of right now. VanRiper indicates that the Federal Government is allowing 12 weeks of paid leave at 2/3 pay through December 31, 2020, this is continuation from the first allowed 80 hours earlier this year (not additional time) and the employee must have leave available. Commissioner DeGroot would like the BOCC to give latitude to Department Heads so long as we are providing the public with the same level of service. Jessica Chastain indicates that the majority of lap tops that were issued in the Spring have not been returned. Commissioner DeGroot would like to see the County have enough lap tops available on hand to handle issues like this. Commissioner Morris asks if there is an allowance cut off/age limit that we can allow? Van Riper indicates that it states 18 and younger in school. Henderson indicates leave and teleworking are two different things. Commissioner Morris asks if we need to clarify our policy, as different departments may interpret things differently. Chastain indicates she would like things clarified if people need lap tops temporarily or permanently. Discussion about an updated temporary policy created through the end of the year. VanRiper indicates in the Temp Policy we created in March deals with this issue and is good through the end of the year, the policy gives Dept. Heads authority over leave and teleworking. BOCC consensus is the Chair will send, as a reminder, the temporary policy that was previously adopted out to Dept. Heads. Commissioner DeGroot doesn't have a problem with people working from home, Commissioner Morris comments that there are a lot of factors to consider if we are going to permanently allow people, who do not have school age children at home to work from home. As it stands now with COVID, if you have a child/children at home and said child/children require an employee to stay home then they need to provide documentation of school closure/child care issues etc. Board consensus is to keep policy as is right now and if need be then reevaluate at end of year.

2. Klamath And Lake Counties Shared Stewardship MOU

Commissioner Morris motions to allow Commissioner Boyd to sign agreement, Commissioner DeGroot seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.

8. Other County Business

Commissioner DeGroot suggests recessing today's meeting rather than adjourning, as there is no meeting scheduled for tomorrow in the event there is a need for any decisions regarding the fire. Meeting recessed until tomorrow at 10:00am

9/9/20 10:00am meeting reconvened - Commissioner Morris, Commissioner DeGroot, Commissioner Boyd, Marcus Henderson/County Counsel, Brandon Fowler/Emergency Manager present, Jeremy Morris/Public Works, Vickie Noel/Finance, Chris Kaber/Sheriff

Coalition of the Willing: Commissioner DeGroot presents an ask from the group for each County to contribute funding for the facilitator. **Commissioner Morris motions to contribute up to \$5,000 from General Fund Non-Departmental, Commissioner DeGroot seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved**

Childcare Project: Commissioner Morris had a meeting with staff and insurance agent this morning regarding the childcare project, there may be some pieces that insurance may not cover, but overall we can proceed. Commissioner DeGroot would like to instruct the Fairgrounds staff to open registration and move forward. Commissioner Morris/Henderson indicate we would need to work on the contracts with vendors simultaneously. **Commissioner Morris recesses this meeting to reconvene at 1:00pm at the Fairgrounds to discuss the childcare project.**

Brandon Fowler: Addresses the BOCC with Two Four Two fire update: Weather conditions were not as bad as predicted last night, is expecting press release/update very soon. Evacuations are now up to 600 homes/1000 people, looking at FEMA resources for residents. Was asked to bring up the impacts of property taxes and what relief may be offered. No update on when residents will be allowed to return, will be looking at giving daily update, but as of right now no one is permitted to return. Hwy 97 is open by pilot car. Fowler/Boyd further indicate the the Red Cross is needing help organizing hotel rooms, they don't anticipate any more large evacuations, but there are stragglers that they need to get rooms for. Commissioner DeGroot indicates there is still room at the Fairgrounds for livestock. Noel indicates there are Title III Federal Funds available to help. Jeremy Morris indicates that Public Works can help fence off areas for livestock etc. Commissioner DeGroot will compile a list of individuals available to help haul livestock if needed. Jeremy Morris further elaborates that the County has property up in that area which might be better than transporting livestock to town. Fowler indicates they need dumpsters and porta pottys, Waste Management has indicated they cant do anything till next week, Commissioner DeGroot will get in touch with Solid Waste and see what the County can do. Commissioner DeGroot indicates we have a County employee that volunteers for the Red Cross, would like to support him and not require him to take vacation time, BOCC is good with that. Commissioner Morris/Fowler present draft Declaration of Emergency, Fowler explains purpose. **Commissioner Morris motions to sign Emergency Declaration, Commissioner Boyd seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.** Commissioner Boyd indicates he spoke to Tribal Council Chair Gentry this morning and they are asking that we please remember them, explains that tribal money is restricted for tribal members only. Fowler further explains that he is in contact with the tribes. Commissioner Morris indicates she has spoken to Fire Management people and although they appreciate the donations for the firefighters, please start directing people to donate for the evacuees. Sheriff Kaber addresses the BOCC, not much to add, his department/deputies are doing what they can to help out where needed. Commissioner Morris says she reached out to Jackson County and offered help. Sheriff indicated he has offered an individual that can fly their helicopter

to help transport things if needed. Fowler states they are encouraging individuals to communicate with loved ones via social media as the phone lines are becoming jammed. Fowler further states weather predictions look better in the coming days, hopefully we get some relief. Commissioner Morris asks if we need to put out cautionary instruction to the citizens regarding camping and fires. Fowler was thinking about asking the BOCC to issue a Countywide burn ban. Commissioner Boyd says on the agricultural side of things they should be fine right now, they don't typically burn fields until October. **Commissioner Morris motions to institute a Countywide burn ban for the next 14 days.** Sheriff says that he thinks that there is already a burn ban from Forest Service not sure what this county restriction would do. **Commissioner DeGroot seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.** Commissioner Boyd states while speaking with Chairman Gentry this morning, they are at capacity at the Klamoya hotel, sanitation due to COVID restrictions has been challenging. They will be bringing in porta potty's/hand washing stations for the parking lot. Sheriff further elaborates that City PD, State Police, Merrill and Malin PD's have really stepped up offering to help out where ever needed. Jeremy Morris states that he will be updating Tripcheck on County Road statuses, so we don't have a bunch of people trying to take alternate routes.

Tourism Grant Agreement Klamath Community Sports Complex. Noel presents tourism grant agreement for approval for Klamath Community Sports Complex agreement, **Commissioner DeGroot motions, Commisisoner Boyd seconds. Commissioner's Boyd and DeGroot vote in favor, Commissioner Morris recuses herself. Approved**

9/9/20 1:00PM Reconvened at Fairgrounds: Commissioner Morris, Commissioner Boyd, Sandy Cox/Admin Staff, Derrick Rowley and Tarah Noble/Fairgrounds, Marcus Henderson/County Counsel, Monica Shaw OCDC, Rhonda Udaily/Klamath Kid Center

Childcare project: Commissioner Morris reviews outcome of meeting this morning with staff and insurance agent, is concerned about the timing of this project, perhaps there wont be a demand at this point. Is also concerned about the liability piece for the County and if we can get everything pulled together ASAP. Commissioner Boyd asks for a brief description regarding what this project would be as he hasn't been involved in these meetings? Commissioner Morris elaborates on the proposed purpose of the project. Commissioner Boyd would like to see the County put put our efforts into figuring out how to get our children back to school ASAP. Commissioner Morris says she wishes the school boards would instruct the Superintendents to open the schools. Commissioner Boyd doesn't feel that anyone has approached the school boards and offered financial assistance, thinks the County could offer financial assistance through CARES funding to make the necessary changes to get schools open. Discussion about opening Fairview to accommodate more space for kids, Commissioner Boyd thinks we need to give the State the finger and push back. Commissioner Morris indicates that school districts, daycares etc have been approached and asked for ideas. Udaily indicates she can't change her rules, they have to abide by State mandates. Discussion about the insurance liability and the risk to the County and the citizens. Commissioner Morris says the City School District has been pushing back about opening due to the liability. Udaily says the goal was to bridge the gap for a safe place for children to go and get help since the schools aren't opening. Commissioner Boyd again reiterates the concern with a risk to the County citizens. Henderson elaborates on the insurance liability. Commissioner Morris says she doesn't want the County to be at risk, they were just looking at options. Udaily understands if we are at a stopping point at least we tried, we want to be able to send a positive message to the community. Commissioner Boyd again reiterates we should be using our

Federal CARES funding to help get our schools open. Shaw understands there is liability surrounding all options, maybe funding could be funneled to child care centers as they are at capacity in the community, perhaps opening other facilities to help, suggests widening the committee and seeing what else can be done. Henderson suggests that at a facilities level the Fairgrounds is available. Noble indicates that there would be a licensing issue by using the Fairgrounds. Udaily indicates they would be looking at 60 days out to get the Fairgrounds approved and licensed by ODE. The reason it came up for the County to take it over is because the County would not be required to meet the same requirements as the childcare facilities. Shaw suggests if you could get the Superintendents on board then they could help out by opening up a class room or two in each school to take in kids then offer substitute teachers to help, there is still potential to help the community. Further discussion about how schools and child care facilities receive State funding and cant really give the State the finger and do their own thing. Commissioner Boyd believes that the two school districts need to come together during this crisis and help out the entire community, this shouldn't be a political issue. Commissioner Boyd asks if CARES money can be used for transportation because that will be an issue? Commissioner Morris says the County Treasurer did research and does believe that yes it can be used. Udaily indicated that County Schools was willing to transport kids to the Fairgrounds in the afternoons. Commissioner Morris says they spoke to a temp agency and the agency wasn't confident on how many people they could get approved to actually be providers. Commissioner Boyd would like to meet with Dr. Hillyer and see what the problem is from the City School District then and report back to this group on Friday. Commissioner Boyd says he spoke to Dr. Hillyer earlier today and he indicated he really hadn't been included in this project. Commissioner Morris says she tried to include the City School District and basically got a ton of push back. Further discussion about contacting the YMCA and using the Fairview School facility. Commissioner Boyd questions if Triad is using their facility since they and Hosana combined? **Board consensus is to adjourn this meeting, digest today's information, try and gather more information then notice another meeting for Friday 9/11/20 @1:30 at the Government Center**

9. Adjournment

9/8/20 Recessed to 9/9/20 @10:00am

9/9/20 Recessed to 9/9/20 @1:00pm @Fairgrounds

9/9/20 Adjourned 1:45pm

Audio recordings of all proceedings are available at the County Commissioners' office. The meeting facility is handicap accessible. Persons needing materials in alternate format or communication access, should telephone this office at 541-883-5100  (voice/TDD) or the ADA Coordinator at 541-883-4296  at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Klamath County Commissioners' Weekly Calendar is subject to change without notice.

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