



Board of Commissioners' Administrative Meeting  
September 15, 2020 ~ 1:00pm ~ Room 214

9/15/2020 - 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 Boyd, Commissioner Morris, Commissioner DeGroot; Haley Huffman / Admin Staff; Rick Vaughn / Tax Collector; Vickie Noel / Finance; Jessica Chastain / Information Technology; Jennifer Little, Valeree Lane / Public Health; Brandon Fowler / Emergency Management (phone).

**3. Approve Minutes From Last Meeting**

Approved.

**4. Brandon Fowler - Emergency Manager**

Brandon Fowler addresses the Board. The Two Four Two fire is at 14,584 acres with 15% containment. The expected wind events the last couple days were not as significant as forecasted so crews have gotten a lot of good work done. The Deschutes Task Force went back yesterday as they were assigned to another fire in the State. The Klamath Task Force will be released this afternoon, those two are our structure groups that are here for structure protection and we are mostly past that, just working on wildland mop up. We lifted evacuation orders at 9am this morning and the rest at 12pm. All evacuation orders have been lifted. There are some road closures still but those will be changing later today and tomorrow.

The Thielsen Fire in Douglas County is at 7800 acres and is 1% contained. The incident management team is in Chemult and they are just starting to get resources on it. None of the wind events have pushed it too far to the east. There is concern, if we get wind from the west, Chemult is in the path so we are keeping a close eye on it and keeping in touch with the incident management team. Commissioner Morris asks, where should the Chemult residents go for information? Mr. Fowler said, that is on the top of my list for my meeting with the incident management team this afternoon.

**5. Vickie Noel - Finance**

**1. Finance Employees 4-10s**

Vickie Noel addresses the Board. She wishes to have three two person teams working four days a week, ten hours a day. The Finance office would remain open 5 days a week from 8am-5pm. Michelle Carpenter would remain

at 5 days a week, 8 hours a day. The rest of the staff would be separated into three two person teams. Ms. Noel said there will always be coverage in each section, if there are issues or if other departments aren't getting what they need from us then we would go back to how it was. The Board was in agreement that they have no issues with Ms. Noel proceeding with this.

## **6. Rick Vaughn - Tax Collector**

### **1. Crest Street Property Use Agreement**

Rick Vaughn addresses the Board. Commissioner DeGroot motions to sign the property use agreement with the County School District to use the property at 3547 Crest Street property for parking. Commissioner Morris seconds. Commissioner Boyd had concerns about "all written notices be addressed too", he would like Mr. Vaughn added. Mr. Vaughn said, he will fill it in that way. Unanimous vote. Approved.

## **7. BOCC**

### **1. BP Media Solutions Proposal**

Commissioner Morris said, I'd like to give BP Media a chance to make a pitch on this and wanted to give the Board a chance to review the proposal first. Commissioner DeGroot said, in the back of mind, I wonder if with the money we're spending, I'd like to do a pro/con with hiring someone in house versus the contract. Commissioner Morris agreed. She said, part of this discussion a year ago was to do the contract, see how it goes and determine if we need a PIO. I think a skilled PIO that also has some technical skills, would be great to have. Commissioner DeGroot discusses that we've done good with notification through the last several issues but he feels we could do a better job. Commissioner Morris said, it would be good for all of us to think about. We already have staff who have some speciality but it would be nice to have someone that could just be the communication person. Commissioner DeGroot said, it would be important to have a consistent voice. Commissioner Boyd said, I think that is great, I went through their presentation, I think there are alot of things they are taking credit for that we did in house but we can discuss that at another time. Commissioner Morris will invite BP Media to present their proposal to the Board at a future Work Session.

### **2. Spanish Facebook Page - KMM**

Valeree Lane addresses the Board. She would like the Board to consider also having a Public Health Spanish Facebook page in Spanish. She said the majority of the Spanish information would be from the Oregon Health Authority. She would like to be an editor on the page. Commissioner Morris said, I agree, it doesn't sound that complicated to do. Commissioner DeGroot said, I don't have any heartburn over it. Ms. Lane explained, we'd have two pages, the Klamath County page and the Spanish Klamath County page. She said, we have three Spanish speakers on staff at Public Health and we are contracted with a translator. Jessica Chastain said, I'm fine with it as long as we have the content translated. Our webpage has Google Translate on it, but

that is not available on Facebook. Commissioner DeGroot confirmed, we're only talking about our Facebook page and nothing else. Ms. Chastain, agreed and said, my concern is that if someone makes a comment, there would be someone to translate the comments to make sure they are appropriate. Commissioner DeGroot said, the concern lies in that the content on the Spanish page will be a percentage of what the content is on our regular page. If this turns into something that ends up having to be every post translated, I have a concern because that is labor intensive. Jennifer Little said, many departments have Spanish speakers that could help or the Board could consider contracting with a translator. She said, from an equity standpoint, now is the time to make these changes. Commissioner Boyd said, I'm not sure it's an equity standpoint. I've been around Spanish people my entire life, there's a very few percentage that speak nothing but Spanish, most speak English, most of them have kids that speak English, most can communicate in English. I don't have any problem with this on a limited basis, but let's be honest they are in America and we speak English. I'm thankful they are here, but we need to start teaching them how to speak English. He said, to make an equity issue out of it, that's going too far. Ms. Lane said, if we get to where we need to have more translated, we could use Google Translate. She said, from my perspective, we are seeing, throughout the State, a cry for equity and this is a simple way for us to do something that is helpful. Commissioner Boyd said, with emergency and health things, I'm 100% on board, people need to understand the information clearly. The last thing I want is for anyone to be in jeopardy because they can't communicate. Commissioner Morris said, as a starting point, using the stuff that's already translated is a no-brainer and the stuff out of Public Health directly, since you have translators, that is easy too so why don't we start there. Commissioner DeGroot said, anything that's given to IT should not be expected to be translated but anything given to them in Spanish they put on the page. The Board was in agreement.

### **3. Leadership Klamath - KMM**

Commissioner Morris said, there is an opportunity for staff to do Leadership Klamath and I would like to put an inquiry out to Department Heads to see if they want to do it. Commissioner DeGroot said, I think we restrict it to Department Heads and Assistant Manager level staff and if we get requests, look at them on a case by case basis. Commissioner Boyd said, Leadership Klamath is very beneficial and I encourage people to do it. Commissioner Morris will send out a notice to Department Heads.

### **4. Waving Of Landfill Fees For Destroyed Homes - KMM**

Commissioner Morris said, I received a message saying it would be cool if the County opened up the transfer station for clean up. Commissioner DeGroot said, I believe insurance will take care of most people that have insurance. He said he has a meeting with Tom Crist, The Tribal Council and The Chiloquin City Council next week to discuss this and look for funding that is not County funding. Commissioner Boyd said, there's 8-10 homes and 99 structures that have been destroyed. My concern is the separation of what's in there, we want to recycle metal and how many contaminants might be in there. We want to be careful of what we expose our people too. Commissioner Morris asks, could we somehow fund Klamath Works to help? Commissioner Boyd said, they'd probably do it for \$15.00 an hour and there might be a transportation fee.

Commissioner DeGroot suggested Community Corrections. Commissioner Boyd said, it might be more cost effective to take the metal out, dig holes for people, and push it right into the hole. A couple of the Assessor's Office staff are going up tomorrow, we could ask them to take pictures so Commissioner DeGroot could use them at his meeting next week. Commissioner DeGroot said, the conversation next week will be this but also a larger conversation about access. Commissioner Morris said, I want a couple things we can point to so when someone says, hey what'd the County do to help these people, I want a few things we can point to.

#### **5. Child Care Co-Op Project Follow-Up**

Commissioner Morris said, I received a message from Rhonda, but I have not listened to it yet. Commissioner DeGroot said, their Board said yes and I think at this point we need to tell them to run with it. Commissioner Morris said, I have a meeting scheduled tomorrow at 1:30pm and will report back to the Board. Commissioner DeGroot said, everything has fallen into place and from my perspective, it's a go. Ms. Noel said, Tarah called me this morning and she was concerned that the Kid Center wouldn't be able to buy the things we need up front so we will need to. Ms. Noel said that's what she would assume but we need a contract first. Commissioner Morris will work with Marc to get a contract.

#### **6. ESA Bill Hearing On Sept 23 - Support Letter**

Commissioner Morris said, we received an email wanting a letter of support and it looks like we signed a letter previously. Commissioner DeGroot said, we did and it was for something they worked on previously, I think this is just another swipe at the apple. He said, I'm good with doing something similar as I haven't seen anything that I'm opposed to. Commissioner Morris said, I haven't had a chance to dive into it and probably won't unless you task me too. Commissioner DeGroot said, it's the same Senator, it didn't pass last time. Commissioner Boyd said, it is the same, but he has made a few changes. The Board agreed to have Commissioner Boyd work with staff to update the previous letter. Commissioner DeGroot said, maybe ask Jake Kennedy for a couple talking points that we could put into our letter. The Board was in agreement to proceed, Commissioner Boyd will ask Jake for talking points and work with staff on a new letter. The Board agreed to sign the letter once it's completed.

#### **8. Other County Business**

None.

#### **9. Adjournment**

1:46pm

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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