MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, July 17, 2012
Benton Plaza
408 SW Monroe, Corvallis, Oregon

Part I  9:00 a.m., Large Meeting Room (mezzanine)

Present:  Jay Dixon, Chair; Annabelle Jaramillo, Commissioner; Linda Modrell, Commissioner; Dennis Aloia, Chief Operating Officer; Vance Croney, County Counsel

Staff:  Rick Osborn, Public Information Officer; Kevin Perkins, BOC Recorder;

Guests:  Jennifer Moore, United Way

Chair Dixon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

I.  Opening:
A.  Introductions
B.  Announcements

There were no announcements.

II.  Comments from the Public

No comments were offered.

III.  Review and Approve Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

5.1  Scheduling – Annabelle Jaramillo, Commissioner
5.2  Fire District Annexation – Jay Dixon, Commissioner

IV.  Work Session

4.1  211 Information System – Jennifer Moore, United Way of Benton County

Moore provided an update on the status of the 211 system in Benton County. The system provides referrals for residents seeking assistance on a variety of issues, from mental health treatment to assistance with utility bill payment. The 211 system operates as a hub for several counties, with Benton County contracting with the primary 211 call center in Oregon rather than operating a satellite center in the county. Lincoln County’s portion of the 211 system became operational in January 2011, with Linn and Benton Counties following in October 2011. The 211 staff and cooperating agencies are working through local lists of about 120 providers to ensure that the listed referral information is correct. The hub cooperates and contracts with other agencies in the area, such as having the director of the Linn County Commission on Children and Families contracted to review and update the provider lists for Linn County since he is familiar with the area. The 211 system is a part of the 10-year Plan to End Homelessness, it provides referrals for housing and medical help. A sub-group is working to develop a regional plan to address homelessness-specific services through 211. Providers have expressed appreciation for
the services as they can refer their clients to 211 when the client needs services that particular office cannot provide. Since Benton County 211 went live the top five needs are for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), dental care, shelter, rental assistance, and electric bill payment assistance. However, some needs may remain unmet because a service does not exist or may be at capacity. The top five agency referrals were to the Oregon Department of Human Services, the Benton County Health Department, Community Services Consortium, and Community Outreach, Inc. The Homelessness Steering Committee is working with 211 to refine the service request data to see where the gaps in services may lie. 211 provides reports that are more overviews of the situation, Moore will ask for the raw data to be able to break it down more precisely for the county; each 211 caller is asked to provide demographic data, but it is entirely voluntary. The program will continue to evaluate the services currently provided and identify service gaps in the community that other agencies can begin to fill. The most critical needs may not be those with the loudest voice, the issues with the most press coverage may not be the most pressing for our community. 211 has intentionally budgeted little for marketing and are relying on partner agencies and community sources to spread information; they have hung a banner at the Lincoln County Fair, and are working with the Benton County Public Information Officer to put a link and information on the County’s website. The call volume in Lincoln County is about double Benton County’s, however, Benton County’s usage of the 211 website is double that of Lincoln County.

Modrell commented that one of the advantages of 211 is that it is a common service across the country so even recent residents may be familiar with it.

Moore stated that 211 should be operational statewide in the near future, some of the more rural communities have been more challenging. The United Way is looking at ways to provide additional support and activities to spread the information to a wider audience. Moore reviewed the staffing of the call centers including the multiple languages on staff and the ability to hand callers off directly to immediate crisis care lines. In response to a question from Dixon, Moore stated that the calls for food stamps are a mix of how to apply, and where to look for additional help; the 211 call center staff are very knowledgeable and can walk an applicant through the process rather than simply point them to an agency. In response to a question from Aloia, Moore stated that the callers included in the statistics are unique callers, the website traffic is a bit more complicated to measure due to public access at libraries and other venues. She expects the web traffic to increase and they are working to increase the utility of the search engine to capture the most results. 211 has been working with the state for tsunami recovery information and is working with Oregon Health Plan to train 211 staff to assist residents with the sign up process.

Modrell suggested that Moore speak to Sherlyn Dahl to discuss items from the Community Health Center that may be helpful.

Moore stated that in general at United Way that they recently wrapped up the 2012 grant program after significant revisions to the process to avoid duplication of efforts in the organization and community. The local United Way manages the City of Corvallis’ assistance funds as well as their own; the process was revised to combine the applications and review processes into a single process for both funds but United Way has maintained the distinction in the individual funding streams’ goals. The overall recommendation package that resulted was more efficient than in previous years. They are also forming vision councils in different impact areas (health, education, etc.) to determine where United Way’s knowledge fits into the community to be supportive, but not duplicative, of other activities in the County. The individual vision councils will then be assembled to merge and evaluate the needs that each council discovered, and from there set the goals for United Way’s activities.
Jaramillo complimented Moore on her work in reshaping the local United Way.

Moore credited the successes to their volunteers and various committees working on the community’s challenges. United Way staff and volunteers are working hard to be very intentional and somewhat cautious in the planning process to move the agency forward. Mitch Anderson, Benton County Health Department Director, has stepped forward to chair a vision council which places him on the overarching Community Impact Committee as well. The next formal donation campaign will start early in September, she would like to continue having a single point of contact per county department for the campaign, if the Board supports that strategy. A few short trainings will be held for the campaign volunteers, Jaramillo offered to have that set through the Board Office to ensure attendance is authorized.

She closed the update by thanking the Board for the support that they provide for the community in general and United Way specifically.

V. Other

5.1 Scheduling – Annabelle Jaramillo, Commissioner

Michael Jordan, State of Oregon Chief Operating Officer, has agreed to a date to address the Benton County taxing jurisdictions, however, it appears that there is a scheduling conflict at the Sunset Building. Jaramillo will see if she can secure the Library for OSU Extension’s program that night.

Next Tuesday the first meeting of the Bureau of Land Management’s cooperating committee will be held and Jaramillo and Aloia will be attending. The Resource Advisory Committees will be meeting in September to recommend projects for the County’s Title II allocations. The Board discussed the challenges surrounding the federal forest payments.

The Board and Aloia agreed that the Board will attend management team in the even numbered months.

5.2 Fire District Annexation – Jay Dixon, Commissioner

Currently, the statutes governing annexation to a fire protection district requires a full survey of a property to be annexed, which is extremely expensive. Staff will be working to provide more information to the Board about the costs and process.

Staff’s position is that that detailed a survey is unnecessary for a fire district annexation beyond the tax lot description. A tax lot based description is much more usable and inexpensive, Dixon will work to propose legislation to correct the problem.

Chair Dixon recessed the meeting at 10:02 a.m.
Part II  12:00 p.m., Plaza Meeting Room (basement)

Present:  Jay Dixon, Chair; Annabelle Jaramillo, Commissioner; Linda Modrell, Commissioner; Dennis Aloia, Chief Operating Officer; Vance Croney, County Counsel

Staff: Jenny Anderson, Tammy Woodward, Assessment; Chris Bentley, Greg Verret, Community Development; Pat Cochran, Budget; Charlie Fautin, Health; Rick Osborn, Public Information Officer; Kevin Perkins, BOC Recorder

Guests: Jeff Warnock, Nu-Scale

VII. Opening

Chair Dixon reconvened the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

A. Introductions
B. Pledge of Allegiance
C. Announcements

There were no announcements.

VIII. Comments from the Public

No comments were offered.

IX. Review and Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved without amendment.

X. Consent Calendar

9.1 Benton County Administrative Policy, Social Media – Rick Osborn, Public Information Officer

9.2 Minutes of June 5, 2012 Meeting

9.3 Minutes of the July 3, 2012 Meeting

MOTION: Jaramillo moved to approve the Consent Calendar of July 17, 2012. Modrell seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.
Dixon opened the public hearing at 12:01 p.m.

The hearing was continued to August 7, 2012.

The public hearing was closed at 12:01 p.m.

X. New Business

10.1 Discussion and Decision of a Grant Application for a Disease Control Community Transformation from the Center of Disease Control - Rural and Frontier Communities – Tatiana Dierwechter, Mac Gillespie, Health Department; Pat Cochran, Budget Manager

Dierwechter presented the request to apply for the grant, the state Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has encouraged the Health Department to apply because of the County’s and the State’s reputation in this area. This application has been prepared in partnership with other agencies in the three county area (Linn, Benton, Lincoln) as well as the local private health care providers. Benton County’s role will primarily the fiscal agent and “capacity builder” with the Cascades West Council of Governments (COG) taking the lead; the majority of the funding will be disbursed to community agencies to complete the work. None of the projects are new, the planning has been completed and this funding, if awarded, will push projects to the next phase.

Fautin reiterated that from the County’s perspective this is largely pass-through funding with over half being distributed to community agencies. In response to a question from Jaramillo, Fautin and Dierwechter confirmed that the four new positions would be limited duration rather than permanent hires.

In response to a question from Modrell, Dierwechter described COG’s role in convening the discussions; COG has a recent history of bringing staff together across the three counties for planning and health initiatives.

Aloia commended Health staff for going forward and building the cooperation with the other counties involved in this effort.

MOTION: Jaramillo moved to approve submission of the Community Transformation Grant to the Centers for Disease Control Modrell seconded the motion, which carried (3-0).

Staff and the Board discussed the changes to the state and federal health funding streams. Fautin commented that this application will occupy Health staff for the next few weeks until it is submitted.
10.2 Discussion of the One Year Extension of Federal Forest Payments – Pat Cochran, Budget

Cochran stated that the payments were extended for one year at 95% of the previous year’s amounts; he discussed the precise amounts as listed in the meeting materials. Later in the year, the Board will need to decide the precise allocations under Title II and III. The elections must be made whether to take the funding through the Secure Rural Schools Act (SRS) formula or to take the direct payment from timber receipts. Cochran has examined whether it would be more beneficial to avoid the SRS funding, however, it did not appear that it would be beneficial to take the funding from the federal forest receipts.

Jaramillo stated that while the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is increasing harvest levels it does not appear that it would be great enough to exceed the distribution under SRS. Additionally the federal timber funds are distributed immediately to schools and roads, but it may be worthwhile to keep an eye on the difference in the future. She also stated that a delegation of county commissioners has sent a letter to congress stating their opposition to continuing SRS and advocating more active management of federal lands by the Counties.

Cochran stated that taking a larger role in management would benefit Benton County, given the formula under SRS. The Board has until July 25, 2012 to take action if the Board chooses NOT to take disbursement under SRS; if they choose to continue with the SRS formula no action is necessary.

Jaramillo offered to approach BLM staff to discuss the harvest amounts in the current time period and report back to the Board.

Cochran added that the federal forest funds are based on a seven year average, which does not sound promising for Benton County. The County has a 2.7% share of Oregon & California Counties funds (O&C), which would mean the harvest would need to be considerably higher than has been traditional to be of greater benefit. The second question is how to utilize the funds from the SRS extension which will not be received until December or January. The County has traditionally used the extensions to reduce the levy rate for the following year, however, the funding amount is known at present and the County does not need to wait to act as it has in the past. The net payment from SRS will be about $673,000 for the general fund, which would allow the County to lower the levy tax rate, though the savings would only be $10 per $100,000 of value for a homeowner. The Assessor has asked for a decision before August 15, 2012 to file the change in rate.

**ACTION:** This item will be continued to the August 7, 2012 Board of Commissioners’ meeting.
10.3 Discussion and Decision to Approve the Application from NuScale Power, LLC for the Enterprise Zone Exemption – Tami Woodward, Assessor

The Enterprise Zone Advisory Committee has recommended approval and the City of Corvallis, the County’s co-sponsor, has approved the tax abatement for five years. In response to a question from Dixon, Woodward stated that the County practice has been approval for 3 years with further discussion needed near the end of the third year.

MOTION: Modrell moved to approve the application from NuScale Power, LLC for the Enterprise Zone Exemption. Jaramillo seconded the motion, which carried (3-0).

10.4 Setting District Attorney’s Stipend and Sheriff Compensation – Jay Dixon, Commissioner

Aloia reviewed the history of the Sheriff’s and District Attorney’s compensation, adding that the Sheriff’s salary will soon be less than that of the Undersheriff. He discussed the options included in the meeting materials.

In response to a question from Jaramillo, Aloia stated that option three in the Sheriff’s information amounts to a 2.1% increase.

Dixon commented that traditionally the Board has increased the other elected officials’ compensation by the same amount as what the Budget Committee has given the Board.

MOTION: Modrell moved to adopt option 2 to fix the District Attorney’s stipend for fiscal year 2012-2013, effective July 1, 2012. Jaramillo seconded the motion, which carried (3-0).

MOTION: Jaramillo moved to adopt Option 3 to fix the Sheriff’s salary for fiscal year 2012-2013 effective July 1, 2012. Modrell seconded the motion, which carried (3-0).

XI. Other

No other items were discussed.

XII. Adjournment

Dixon adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Jay Dixon, Chair
Kevin Perkins, Recorder

*NOTE: Items denoted with an asterisk do NOT have accompanying written materials in the meeting packet.*