



Board of Commissioners' Work Session Meeting
May 13, 2021 ~ 11:00am ~ Room 214

5/13/2021 - 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; Vickie Noel / Finance.

3. ARP Project Funding

Vickie Noel addresses the Board regarding ARP funding. We should receive the money within 5 days after signature which was yesterday. She reviewed documents pertaining to approved uses. Commissioner Morris submitted a list of her recommended funding priorities: delivery of efficiency of county services, community development and infrastructure improvement and economic development projects that are uniquely Klamath. Commissioner DeGroot said, my three priorities are: job creation, housing, childcare. Commissioner Boyd said, I completely agree with those and would like to add mental health help. Commissioner Morris said, I think we need to make a decision relatively soon on what the ask process will be. On the County department side, I think should be separate than the way we distribute to the community. Commissioner Boyd said, I think it should be a fairly simple application, this is my request, this is why I need the money and this is my payback to the community and then three of us go through the applications and if they make it through the second cut, ask them to come in and make a presentation to us. Commissioner Morris said, we could setup it up like a grant program, take applications, have a max dollar amount, have a set of criteria, we go through the applications, the applications that meet the criteria would come in and make a presentation. Commissioner Boyd said, we don't have to distribute all this money in a hurry. Commissioner DeGroot agreed. The Board discussed creating an advisory committee for application review with the Board making the final decision. Commissioner Boyd discusses Klamath Works and tiny homes for proposed projects. Commissioner Morris said, I love that but those would need to go through the process. Commissioner Boyd said, I agree. Commissioner Boyd asks Ms. Noel to clarify job creation. Ms. Noel said, assistance to unemployed workers and job training. Commissioner Boyd said, Klamath Works would fit in with that. I don't know who else is doing job training. Commissioner Boyd said, so the switch is not an option other than under Linthicum's money? Ms. Noel said, tell me about what it will do. Commissioner Boyd said, it will put people to work. Commissioner DeGroot and Commissioner Boyd agreed we could figure out how to tie jobs to the switch. Commissioner Boyd discusses Staub Petroleum building 600' of railroad track that would bring people here to work from Eugene. Ms. Noel asks, would we do contracts with these people? Commissioner Morris said, I like doing a grant. Ms. Noel said, I will look at the reporting requirements. Commissioner Boyd said, I'll work on an application and criteria. Commissioner Boyd said, I think we take a million and a

half for economic development plus a portion of Linthicum's money. Commissioner DeGroot said, KCEDA is distributing one million of Reschke's dollars, State dollars and SCOEDD is distributing a half a million here and a half a million in Lake County. Commissioner Morris said, so we all agree on the 1.5 million plus Linthicum's dollars on job creation and economic development. 2 million for housing and homeless and 2 million for community development/childcare/improvement of livability/training/placement/drug rehab/mental health. 1.1 million for County services. Commissioner Boyd said, the other thing we need to do is hire a part time medical examiner immediately. Commissioner Morris said, let's do an emergency hire. Let's do it and we can figure out the finance piece. The Board agreed to set aside funds for Public Health to meet their need for a new refrigerator and a generator. The Board discussed requests from various departments, Assessor, Surveyor, CDD, Public Works, IT, storage for PPE. Commissioner Boyd said, let's have all the departments come in and present their requests. Commissioner DeGroot suggested having the departments who need funding for digitizing get together and see if there might be some collaboration/shared resources between them to reduce costs. Commissioner Morris said, I will reach out to those departments and then have the ask come to the Board in a Work Session. Ms. Noel said, I think the County needs a grant administrator. Ms. Noel said, we could pay for some of the position out of this money. She said, we've never had so many grants. The federal grant reporting is so time consuming. The Board agreed to put \$50,000 aside for a grant administrator. Ms. Noel said I don't know that I want to supervise a grant administrator, I think that should go under County Counsel. She said, I can handle this grant. It's just the reporting and some of these we might have to do a lot of auditing. Ms. Noel said, I will do some more research on job creation since it doesn't spell it out very well.

4. Congressionally Directed Spending Requests For FY22

Commissioner Morris said, we all received an email from Merkley's office on this. Does this Board want to submit something? Commissioner DeGroot said, I have a couple ideas. One, I had Brandon Fowler put together a list to modernize our emergency communications system and second, I have a list from Public Works of all roads and bridges that are low graded that are tied to national forests. Commissioner DeGroot will respond back to Senator Merkley's office on behalf of the board with these two items. Commissioner Boyd said what about agricultural infrastructure improvement such as KDD digging a canal and piping the A-Canal. Commissioner DeGroot said, yes that has been on my radar.

5. State Legislation Funding

Commissioner Morris said, I put this on, but there's really nothing to talk about. We all saw the email from Senator Linthicum that he made an ask that may go to use or it may not. Commissioner DeGroot said the other piece of that is that Rep. Reschke did submit a million dollars to KCEDA and a million to SCOEDD. SCOEDD's money will be split between us and Lake County.

6. Vaccine Incentives

Commissioner Morris said, I received an announcement that there is about 25 million dollars state-wide related to incentivizing vaccines. We are getting something like \$400,000 for incentivizing. The Board agreed to get feedback from community partners and revisit this item at the Administrative Meeting on Tuesday, May 18th.

7. Other County Business

Sprague River Fire District - Commissioner Boyd said, the Sprague River fire district will need to borrow money like Bonanza did. Commissioner DeGroot said, we have a program for that. Commissioner Boyd said, I think it should be a short term loan or we could gift it. Commissioner DeGroot said, I like a short term loan.

SCOEDD Grants - Commissioner Morris said, I asked Vickie if other businesses besides restaurants and gyms could be eligible. Ms. Noel said there's nothing in the amendment that says we can't. The Board was in agreement to remove the language regarding indoor dining facilities having priority.

8. Adjournment

12:20pm

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

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