

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION AGENDA

3:30pm, CBAB, 601 State Street, Hood River, OR - 1st Floor Conference Room

MINUTES

Chair Oates called the work session to order. Present: Commissioner Benton, Commissioner McBride, Commissioner Joplin, Commissioner Perkins, Counsel Davies and Administrator Hecksel.

Review and Discuss Options with staff and Sheriff English for Potential Operating Levy

Hecksel asked the Commission again if the Commission wants to cut funds from one department/service and direct those funds to another department/service, i.e. cut funding to Extension or Museum or stop providing Public Health services . If the answer is still no then \$.67/per \$1000 assess is a good number to fill the hole. This does not bring you more services and you might still decide to cut services.

Benton said he recalls only discussing not funding the Extension and Museum. Asked if those services/funds are included in the number received (\$.67). Hecksel confirmed they are.

Much discussion ensued surrounding the direction to go, how to communicate it, what would the funds be used for, how would that relate to the other services provided and creation of a equipment replacement fund. Further discussion on the order of decisions – and need to some discussions to take place at the same time, i.e. moving funds from one service to another.

Benton recommends moving forward with a public safety levy that funds as close to possible 24 hour public service and what that offsets in the general fund he would like to continue existing services as is and if we start there we can then argue about the levy amount. Stated being as clear and simple as possible is best.

Perkins said we need to make sure we include public safety services that impact the Cities. If we just focus on patrol, we might lose city voters.

McBride – feels getting information from the voters on what they feel is important will play a big part in the success of a measure. Mark Weiner stated we need to do that. We need to do a poll, a simple poll to target age/location of the voters of the county and feels that information would inform the discussion we are having right now. Perkins and Benton said timing is an issue.

McBride concerned that if we don't change the way we are going about this we are going to struggle getting a different answer than we received in the spring. Joplin is interested in hearing more about McBride's plan for that and timing etc.

McBride asked Paige Rouse to come up who would be helping with the potential on-line survey. Paige said there are many ways to distribute an on-line survey. These platforms are inexpensive and can be quick. Feels the easiest way to send a survey is e-mail. You can also use the media, social media and the county website as well however using a tool like Constant Contact is also a good. If the Commission spends a few weeks putting together a survey you could also task staff to get their e-mail lists together and added to constant contact.

Paige asked about goals from the survey, what are you trying to capture? Are we going to ask which county services are valued or are you focusing just on public safety? Suggested having a professional methodologist review the survey once you develop it or you can hire an organization to do the whole thing. Oregon Kitchen Table has done this type of thing in our community before, but she is not sure on the turn around time.

Benton he is personally comfortable moving forward with a public safety levy and would focus the survey questions around that. Benton addressed McBride's concern about explaining where the money goes. The levy funds would go to public safety and the general fund money that would be freed up because of the levy is going to provide services we provide today it is clear, and you can answer the question.

Perkins agrees, simple messaging as outlined by Benton is best.

Benton is not in favor of asking for a general government levy.

McBride stated he is supportive of collecting e-mail address but getting them in place takes time and something that would take years to get fully in place, not sure that relying on just e-mail distribution is the best solution.

Oates asked each Commissioner if they feel it important to do a survey like was being discussed. Joplin said it reminds her of the first time we did the public outreach and not that we received a lot of participating but we were able to say we did it and feels that way today. It is important for the citizens to have the opportunity to provide information.

Benton said yes it is valuable, but options presented don't seem like they fit our timeline and asked Paige for more details.

Paige said you would use different websites and you could develop a Facebook page for distributing the survey. You will want to pay to boost distribution of the surveying via paid advertising on Facebook. Run the survey in the various sites/ways for 2-3 weeks, maybe longer if you get the questions done in a week.

Joplin asked Paige if they have the capacity to get the survey up and launched. Paige yes, they do. Pointed out that if the survey is not scientific survey you could be open to criticism so again encouraged having someone review the survey before it is released.

Joplin said if we are going to put out an operational levy for public safety the questions need to surround public safety i.e. do you like a school resource deputy, court security, etc.

Oates asking if we are only going to ask public safety levy questions or if we are going to add questions about general operating needs as well. Perkins said he feels we need to just focus on public safety.

Benton said he supports a levy for public safety. How those funds are dedicated within public safety needs to be clear and equitable.

Sheriff English, messaging and services needs to be the focus, in talking with counterparts and Mark Weiner has learned your message must stay high level and shared a possible title that, on a high level, covers patrol, schools, investigation etc. Matt stated what he just read out is about \$1.2M in new service. If you did .85/per \$1000 assess it would free up approximately \$850K in the general fund that would then go towards the other

county services outside of public safety. He can tighten the numbers up. Also noted there is more than likely some doubling up on capital needs in his estimate and that of what Hecksel provided, those would need to be cleared up.

Benton likes what he heard, and we need to articulate what that means. The general statement was good, but we need to articulate what services will be provided.

Joplin asked Matt's opinion on the survey and questions. English is concerned, things are dire right now, they are struggling. Concerned about getting into the weeds and kicking the can again. You brought up that we did the public outreach and did a survey in the last 2 years. There is a benefit to surveys but concerned the timing is not adequate. Feels the commission has done a lot for outreach already. There is a time issue.

Joplin agrees the timing is not the best and there is some value in a survey maybe one of the biggest being that we can say we did a survey. If we were to move forward with that what would Matt feel the best questions would be.

Perkins asked if there is any benefit of doing something in conjunction with the District Attorney. We don't seem to have the ability to prosecute certain crimes. Perkins said that DA and Juvenile are services that affect everyone in the county. It could be one of the questions and it could also be services that are targeted in the levy – offender prosecution etc.

Sheriff English pointed out the county took over prosecution of the City of Hood River crimes without compensation. That is direct service to the city and city police. Joplin asked what other services impact all public members. Sheriff English stated Civil, Animal control, school officer, patrol to a certain level – we provide back up, major crime investigations are a few.

Sheriff English asked if the communications group (himself, McBride, Joplin, Paige, Hecksel) could meet and formulate the survey questions and it can then be reviewed by the other Commissioners. It was decided the group would meet this Wednesday and next Wednesday.

Benton said he would like to share our plan once the survey questions are formulated with Mark Weiner before we put this out. Mark has offered to help, and we should keep him involved as much as he is willing.

Chair Oates said we will have a special meeting on November 12th at 3:30pm to review the questions and make a determination about moving forward with the idea being we release the survey that week.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
CBAB, 601 State Street, Hood River, OR - 1st Floor Conference Room

MINUTES

Chair Oates called the special meeting to order. Present: Commissioner Benton, Commissioner McBride, Commissioner Joplin, Commissioner Perkins, Counsel Davies and Administrator Hecksel.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

Chair opened the special meeting and called the Commissioners into executive session, per ORS 192.660 (b)
Personnel

Chair Oates moved the Commission back into regular session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION ITEM –

Human Resources

VanSickle Grievance

RECOMMENDATION: Respond to the grievance or authorize the County Administrator to respond on your behalf.

Commissioner Benton made a motion to appoint County Administrator Jeff Hecksel as the Board of Commissioners designee and respond to the VanSickle grievance. Commissioner Perkins seconded the motion.
motion.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Commissioner Benton – yea
Commissioner Perkins – yea
Commissioner Joplin – yea
Commissioner McBride – yea
Chair Oates – yea

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – meeting adjourned at 4:51pm