



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAUPIN TOWN HALL
OCTOBER 25, 2017

PRESENT: Scott Hege, County Commissioner
Steve Kramer, Vice-Chair
Rod Runyon, Commission Chair
STAFF: Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer
Kathy White, Executive Assistant

At 5:35 p.m. Chair Runyon opened the Town Hall Meeting.

He introduced the Commissioners and explained the purpose of the Town Hall as an opportunity for the Board to hear the concerns of the citizens. He noted that at the end of the meeting, the Board would have to take a moment to address some time-sensitive business items. Each Commissioner reviewed some of the committees on which they serve.

Maupin Mayor Lynn Ewing noted that the expectation is that the District will soon lose both a State Senator and a State Representative – Ted Ferrioli and John Huffman. He asked what influence the Board of Commissioners will have in selecting their replacements.

Commissioner Hege replied that the Boards of Commissioners in the districts will be involved in the process. He explained that any resident registered republican – since both seats are currently held by republicans – can be considered for the positions. He stated that precinct committees will have something akin to a mini-conference and will put forward three candidates for consideration. Once the candidates' names have been submitted, the Commissioners from the districts will appoint the replacements. Appointees would then have to run in the next election to maintain their seat. Commissioner Hege went on to say that it will be a challenge to replace

Representative Huffman as he was from this area and we would like him to be replaced by someone from this area – we will need to find someone who is willing to serve. He noted that there are others from the central Oregon areas who are interested but we would like to identify someone locally. He stated that Huffman and Ferrioli were appointed in this fashion.

Chair Runyon commented that the dynamics of the district changed when the district boundaries were gerrymandered. He said that a portion of Deschutes County, now part of the district, has a large population that can influence the outcomes of elections.

Commissioner Hege introduced Bob Wood, Water Master for Wasco County. He stated that Mr. Wood is a State employee and has an incredible wealth of information regarding water issues in the area. Mayor Ewing stated that there is concern that there are some large marijuana growing operations on Juniper Flat that are drilling wells; we do not know how much water they will be using and how that might impact Maupin.

Mr. Wood replied that since the marijuana legalization laws were passed, there have been six to ten serious inquires – of those, there is only one that is moving forward and has applied for a water right. He stated that there may be others but they have to have a legal source and be licensed by the OLCC to grow. He said that they can get water from a municipal water source and have it trucked in.

Mr. Ewing reported that there was one grower who wanted to tap into the irrigation district water. Mr. Wood commented that there has not been a determination made for that request. He added that for wells, the drillers must file a well log for output as soon as the well is operational. He stated that those records are available on line.

Further discussion ensued regarding the sale of municipal water and recent requests to grow hemp in the area. Maupin City Attorney Paul Sumner asked if they could be notified when the Planning Department receives applications for grows in Maupin. Commissioner Hege said that he would circle back with more information.

Chair Runyon read the following email from the Wasco County Planning department which addresses the County process for approvals:

Wasco County Planning bases our approvals off of where water will be supplied from. We evaluate whether or not the property has water rights, and the types of water rights. If the property has no water rights, we require documentation that the owner will be purchasing water from a municipal provider of their choice. We do not regulate the amount of water allowed for a land use. Marijuana as defined by the state is a farm use, and as such, is allowed the same rights as any other crop. It is the responsibility of the state to regulate the amount of water that can be utilized. Our Watermaster Robert Wood is the best resource for this information. robert.l.wood@wrd.state.or.us

There are specific regulations that relate to waste water, if that question comes into play. John Zalaznik would answer those best.

Currently in south county (starting at Tygh Valley), there are six approved grow sites. Only one of these producers purchases water from the City of Maupin. All others have water rights for their property, or purchase water from the Barlow Water District. Keep in mind, these are the only ones that are on the books as approved grow sites. This does not account for all of the backdoor operations that are not permitted.

Vice-Chair Kramer stated that in the face of the current recycling crisis, we will continue to recycle but will need to do it better. He said that we will need to consider less of the wishful recycling and be better about not including contaminated recyclables. He announced that China is no longer going to accept any of our recycling – we have been at a 14% rate of contamination and China has dropped the allowable rate to 1.5% and will drop it to .3% in January. He explained that contamination runs from liquids remaining in recycled bottles to food remaining in containers to clamshell packaging to plastic grocery bags which must be recycled separately.

Commissioner Kramer went on to report that there had been a stakeholder meeting this afternoon to put together a plan for Wasco and Hood River Counties; there was no definite outcome but the conversation is ongoing. He stated that part of the effort will be messaging and retraining ourselves on how we recycle – we have to do a better job. He said that Wasco County produces 400 tons of recyclables each month – 200 tons of cardboard and 200 tons of comingled product. While the cardboard has value, if it is put in with the comingle, it will go to the landfill along with the comingle. The DEQ has granted a 6 month extension with reporting requirements. The group will do a review in

3 months.

Mayor Ewing observed that the hauler used to take recyclables to Portland and get \$25 per ton which almost covered the cost of hauling; now they have to pay \$75 per ton.

Lois of Maupin asked if glass is being accepted. Vice-Chair Kramer replied that it is. He stated that in Dufur, residents have to take it to The Dalles to be recycled along with plastics numbers 1, 2 and 5, such as water bottles, milk containers and tubs without lids. Recyclable items need to be clean before pick up.

Mr. Sumner asked that that in a perfect world, where we segregate everything, would there be a positive cash flow. Vice-Chair Kramer replied that is the goal they hope to eventually reach. He said that we will need to develop the domestic market and bring the manufacturers to the table to be accountable for their products. Mr. Sumner suggested that if it is cash-positive, then someone should be hired to prepare the items for recycling. Vice-Chair Kramer responded that there used to be enough money in recycling to do that. Maupin City Recorder DeOra Patton reported that Maupin assesses a recycling fee but the recycling is open to all; Pine Grove could be coming here for recycling. She asked if the County could assess a recycling fee. Vice-Chair Kramer replied that he does not have that answer right now adding that the Tri County Hazardous Waste Committee might be able to help with outreach efforts.

Lois asked about the fiber optic project in Maupin. Commissioner Hege replied that the project is still in play. He stated that he backbone is in place through LSN, but the distribution system is what needs to be done and QLife is involved in that piece. He said that the funding is a challenge.

Dufur Regional Solutions Grant

Vice-Chair Kramer explained that the City of Dufur is working through some challenges with their water system and is applying for some grant funding to help with that issue. They are requesting a letter of support from the Board for their application.

*****The Board was in consensus to provide a letter of support for the City of Dufur's Regional Solutions grant application.*****

CAMI Grant

Program. She said that the DA's office had just received the document which needed to be turned around prior to the next meeting of the Board. She added that the grant agreement was reviewed and approved today by County Counsel.

{{Vice-Chair Kramer moved to approve the 2017-2019 Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Grant. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}

Chair Runyon closed the Town Hall at 6:25 p.m.

Summary of Actions

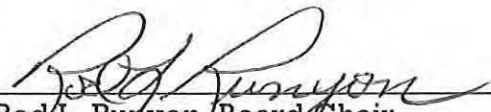
MOTIONS

- **To approve the 2017-2019 Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Grant.**


CONSENSUS

- **To provide a letter of support for the City of Dufur's Regional Solutions grant application**

Wasco County
Board of Commissioners


Rod L. Runyon, Board Chair


Steven D. Kramer, Vice-Chair


Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner