APPROVED BY ORDER # 5-20-130

MINUTES OF THE
LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING OF April 27, 2020

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Jacobson called to order the regular session of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners.

ROLL CALL - ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM
Present at the meeting were Commissioner Hunt, Commissioner Hall, County Counsel Wayne Belmont, Public Information Officer Casey Miller and Executive Assistant, Kristi Peter.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR
Chair Jacobson introduced the Consent Calendar and the items were reviewed.

Commissioner Hall acknowledged item (H)(1) Property Tax Exemption for Fisterra Gardens Townhomes; the County provides a property tax exemption to low-income housing developers to encourage increases in the development of low-income housing.

Commissioner Hall moved and Chair Hunt seconded to approve the consent calendar; a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR
OF April 27, 2020

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:
Minutes of Board of Commissioners Meeting
1. Order #4-20-112 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes 2.19.2020
2. Order #4-20-113 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes 4.6.2020
3. Order #4-20-114 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes 4.13.2020

Commission Appointments and Resignations
1. Order #4-20-115 Changes in Membership to the Lincoln Community Health Council

Execution of Documents
1. Order #4-20-116 Property Tax Exemption for Fisterra Gardens Townhomes
2. Order #4-20-117 Appointment to the Lincoln County Planning Commission
3. Order #4-20-118 Extending Order #3-25-85 Exercising Authority to Act to Protect Lincoln County and Minimize the Effects of the COVID-19 Emergency
4. Amendment #10 to Intergovernmental Agreement #159820 between Oregon Health Authority and Lincoln County for the Financing of Public Health Services (effective 07/01/19-6/30/20; not to exceed $66,559 for COVID-19 funding)

REPORTS

A. Lincoln County Public Health COVID-19 Update
Nicole Fields, Public Health Deputy Director, reported 2,311 positive cases of COVID-19 in the state of Oregon, including 5 cases in Lincoln County, of which 3 have recovered and 2 are still active. Lincoln County Public Health’s procedure for contact tracing for positive cases includes interviewing the patient and contacting those that they have interacted with. Public Health requests potentially infected individuals to self-quarantine and monitor themselves for symptoms. Ms. Fields reported expanded testing in Lincoln County: 449 negative tests have been conducted. The County had previously administered roughly 10 tests per day and has increased testing to 22 tests per day, in addition, tests are now being administered to individuals who are asymptomatic. Public Health is working toward continuing to increase testing.

Rebecca Austen, Public Health Director, reported the Incident Management Team is currently planning Lincoln County’s phase I reopening. Ms. Austen reported Lincoln County is working on increasing testing capacity; a hinderance to increasing test capacity is the difficulty obtaining test kits and obtaining adequate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) required for expanded testing procedures. Ms. Austen acknowledged the good job Lincoln County has done to keep positive test cases low and reported the County has safe working conditions for employees, follows proper sanitation and social distancing protocol, and is working on gathering PPE for employees and volunteers.

B. Update from Congressman Schrader
Congressman Kirk Schrader reported and briefly discussed four aid packages that were released by the Federal Government to address the virus, including the CARES package and the Paycheck Protection Program. Congressman Schrader commented on the downward trend in cases and the need to reopen the State carefully while obtaining adequate PPE and test kits.

Commissioner Jacobson reported small hook and line fishermen have been told, starting May 1st, they are required to have observers on their vessels and noted the small size of the vessels. Commissioner Jacobson stated it is currently ill advised to have two people on the small boats and requested Congressman Schrader push to waive that requirement for the time being due to the risk of transmission and requested his office follow up with the May 1st date. Congressman Schrader stated he will follow up on this issue with NOAA.

DECISION/ACTION

A. Resolution #20-27-4A Extension of Short-Term Rental License Suspension
Commissioner Jacobson noted this is an extension of Resolution #20-4-3B, which suspended the licensing program; the COVID-19 related closures will be discussed later in the day at 1:30 p.m. with the local cities. Roughly 60 days ago, the Board decided to suspend the issuance of new short-term rental licenses while the County reviewed and implemented changes to the rental licensing program. Due to the state of emergency declaration, this process has not yet been completed.
Wayne Belmont, County Counsel, reported Resolution #20-4-3B temporarily suspended new licenses to allow the County to comprehensively review licensing standards, program operations, enforcement actions, and the possibility of new provisions. County resources and energy have been focused on responding to the pandemic and Counsel Belmont noted he anticipates that will continue for the foreseeable future as the County works toward recovery and reopening. Counsel Belmont requested the Board approve an extension of the licensing restriction, as per the provision in Resolution #20-4-3B. The suspension is set to expire on May 7th; Counsel Belmont recommended extending the restriction to September 30, 2020 to allow for the necessary resourced focused COVID response and complete the appropriate licensing program review.

Commissioner Hall confirmed that licenses that were in process when the suspension took effect would be completed and renewals will be processed; the suspension is specific to new license requests. Counsel Belmont noted the original terms and conditions of the Resolution will continue, except for the expiration date. Counsel Belmont reported he has received requests to issue refunds due to the COVID 19 issue and he does not recommend refunds, but rather extending the time of the license to reflect the COVID closures; legal staff is working on a specific recommendation. Commissioner Hall inquired as to the status of the licensing tracking software and second code enforcement officer. Counsel Belmont noted the County is moving forward with the purchase and installation of the software this fiscal year and hiring the second code enforcement position around July 1st or shortly thereafter.

Sheriff Curtis Landers reported the Sheriff’s Office has identified a potential hire, though the hiring process has been delayed due to budget constraints and the closures of the short-term rentals; Sheriff Landers confirmed the anticipated start date of July 1.

Commissioner Hunt moved for approval of Resolution #20-27-4A, Commissioner Hall seconded; a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

C. Commissioners
Commissioner Jacobson reported the County has started to receive guidance from the Governor’s office for entering phase one of reopening and will begin to have additional conversations with community partners to put together framework.

ADJOURNMENT
The next meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners will be held on May 4th, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

These meeting minutes were read and approved this 11th day of May 2020.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

KAET JACOBSON, Chair