

**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners
Multnomah Building, Board Room 100
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon
Thursday, May 5, 2011**

REGULAR MEETING

Chair Jeff Cogen convened the meeting at 9:33 a.m. with Vice-Chair Deborah Kafoury, and Commissioners Diane McKeel, Loretta Smith, and Judy Shiprack present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity for Public Comment on non-agenda matters. Testimony limited to three minutes per person unless otherwise designated by the presiding officer. This is a time for the Board to hear public testimony, not for Board deliberation.

Testimony was given and received for the record.

REGULAR AGENDA

R-1 Chair Jeff Cogen's Executive Budget Message Followed by Consideration of RESOLUTION Approving the Chair's Proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Budget for Submittal to the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission as Required by ORS 294.421. Presenter: Karyne Kieta, Budget Director

Vice-Chair Kafoury moved and Commissioner Shiprack seconded approval of R-1.

Chair Cogen gave his Executive Budget Message. He said the County is facing a General Funds Shortfall of \$4.4 million for Fiscal Year 2012. Although more modest than in years past, this shortfall occurs at a time of increasing needs for the community. This is the 11th straight year the County has faced cuts to service levels. The County must prepare for cuts from Federal and State sources that combine to provide about 30% of the County's funding.

Critical County services will be maintained through belt-tightening steps including freezing wages, management's COLA, and merits. These and other constraints allow the County to maintain current service levels for direct service programs. It also allows for strategic reinvestments for critical services and/or projects. This budget preserves jail beds, maintains current service levels for Community Justice, works to protect domestic crime functions; and, continues partnerships with the City of Portland, State of Oregon, and our nonprofit partners to provide critical services to the community, including two new centers: Crisis Assessment & Treatment Center (CATC) and Gateway Center for Domestic Violence.

New initiatives include: an increase in funds for temporary rent assistance; additional support for three schools in the SUN program whose Federal support is expiring; and,

creation of a micro-lending program to help people struggling in poverty to achieve self-sufficiency.

He emphasized that core County values will continue to focus on sustainability, diversity and equity and insuring investments made in the community are carefully targeted to these core values. Strategic investments focused to future and prudent use of resources and funding reserves to set aside a rainy day fund of \$5 million plus \$6.5 million to ramp down against State and Federal dollars. Investments will be made in one-time money to provide for seismic upgrades in County buildings; replace security electronics at the Juvenile Detention Center; and, replace radios in Community Justice made obsolete by changes in the spectrum used by the law enforcement community. Work will continue to complete the East County Courthouse and Data Center. The project to replace the Sellwood Bridge will begin construction in late FY 2012. Other major capital projects in the FY 2012 budget include planning for a replacement for the downtown Courthouse. The FY 2012 budget includes \$1 million for retrofitting our facilities to withstand earthquakes.

Chair Cogen acknowledged his colleagues on the Board, the Sherriff and DA, who provided critical input; the citizens engaged in the public forums; the work of the Citizen Advisory Committees; his staff, and the Budget Director and her staff who all worked tirelessly in guiding and developing this budget. He thanked the employees who have worked together to continue providing the community's needs.

Ms. Kieta introduced the Resolution to approve the FY 2012 proposed budget and direct the Budget Office to submit it to the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission (TSCC) as required under Oregon law. She pointed out that after the budget is approved, no fund can be increased more than 10%, nor can any changes result in an increase in the property tax estimate. Approval of this Resolution does not mean the Board is in agreement of the allocation of resources, it just allows them to meet the requirement of Oregon budget law. It will be made available to the public online.

Resolution No. 2011-051 was unanimously adopted.

UC.1 RESOLUTION Opposing Proposed Changes in the State Legislature to the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) Program. Sponsor & Presenter: Vice-Chair Kafoury.

Vice-Chair Kafoury introduced an item for the Board to consider at this time under Unanimous Consent. Chair Cogen advised the audience that Section 6 of our Board Rules allow the Commissioners to act on an item not on the agenda if at least three Commissioners vote in favor of a motion to immediately consider the matter, and for the matter to be adopted, all Commissioners present must vote in favor of the matter.

Commissioner Shiprack moved and Commissioner McKeel seconded, approval to consider a Unanimous Consent item. Consideration of a unanimous consent item was unanimously approved.

After the item was read into the record, Commissioner Shiprack moved and Commissioner McKeel seconded approval of UC-1.

Vice-Chair Kafoury provided the explanation and responded to Board questions and comments. She said that TANF goes only to families with children and one-third of them live in Multnomah County. This is being decided now in Salem and she urged her Colleagues to support this Resolution and contact the Legislature as it puts these families at risk of child welfare placements, hunger, and homelessness. Commissioner Shiprack thanked Vice-Chair Kafoury for bringing this forward so the objection can be heard. Chair Cogen thanked her too, adding that this cut would only save \$11 million or .03% of the budget on the most vulnerable members of the community, and if passed, Oregon would have the least generous support for needy families in the entire country.

Ms. Patti Whitney-Wise of Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon, gave testimony about the program and work of the Oregon Hunger Task Force to stop this budget cut. Ms. Shannon Singleton, Salvation Army Program Director, also gave testimony about the impacts of this cut on the programs for these neediest members of the community.

Resolution No. 2011-054 was unanimously adopted.

R.2 ODOT FLEXIBLE SERVICE AGREEMENT - Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for Equipment and Services with the Oregon Department of Transportation. Presenter: Kim Peoples, Road Services Manager.

Commissioner Shiprack moved and Vice-Chair Kafoury seconded approval of R-2.

Mr. Peoples provided the explanation and responded to board questions and comments.

The IGA was unanimously approved.

R.3 RESOLUTION Authorizing Negotiations to Acquire Real Property Interests for the Purpose of Constructing Road Improvements in the City of Troutdale. Presenter: Patrick Hinds, Program Manager, Multnomah County Transportation.

Commissioner McKeel moved and Commissioner Shiprack seconded approval of R-3.

Mr. Hinds provided the explanation and responded to Board questions and comments.

Resolution No. 2011-052 was unanimously adopted.

R.4 PROCLAMATION Proclaiming May 2011 as Older Americans Month in Multnomah County and Portland, Oregon. Sponsor: Commissioner

Shiprack. Presenters: David Hanson, Aging & Disability Service; City of Portland Commissioner Nick Fish & Other Invited Guests.

Vice-Chair Kafoury moved and Commissioner McKeel seconded approval of R-4.

Ms. Shiprack made opening remarks and welcomed Commissioner Fish. Mr. Hanson provided the explanation and responded to Board questions and comments. Commissioner Fish read the City's Proclamation into the record. After discussion, Commissioner Shiprack read the County's Proclamation into the record.

The Chair and Commissioners thanked Commissioner Fish for attending and thanked the Presenters and acknowledged the work of their department.

Proclamation No. 2011-053 was unanimously adopted.

R.5 Board BRIEFING on Financial Condition of Multnomah County 2011. Presenters: Steve March, County Auditor; Judith DeVilliers, Principal Auditor; Amanda Lamb, Performance Auditor; Mindy Harris, CFO; Karyne Kieta, Budget Director, and Others.

Dr. March made the introductions and gave the opening remarks. He said that despite difficult times, Multnomah County has continued to maintain a strong financial condition so that it may withstand current and future economic downturns and adapt to changing service needs. The 2011 Financial Condition report provides public officials, managers, and citizens with an independent perspective and analysis of the challenges.

Ms. Lamb presented an update and responded to Board questions and comments. The report covers Fiscal Year 2011 through 2010 and provides valuable historical information about the County's financial health, the effect of the current economic downturn and impact on County revenues, and recommended areas of improvement. The report covers five areas: County Revenues, County Spending, Financial Health, Revenue Base & the Economy, Demographics, and Recommendations. Total operating revenues have been steadily increase, particularly intergovernmental revenues. County spending per capita has decreased over the last ten years, in part due to an increase in service population. Though the recession has hit the County population hard, the County has benefited from a history of sound, conservative financial decisions and policies, and has maintained a relatively positive financial condition. Recommendations highlight issues of concern with regard to internal service funds and long-term financial planning. Recommendation #1 was: setting a reasonable reserve amount; monitoring and enforcing an internal service fund reserve policy and removing the exception policy and fund special projects transparently. Recommendation #2 was: Long-term planning. Set aside a set amount or percentage of undedicated general fund dollars; identify additional funding sources; and, seek federal assistance for seismic upgrades.

Chair Cogen and the Commissioners thanked the presenters for their report and for attending and participating in this Briefing.

R.6 BUDGET MODIFICATION NOND-14, State Homeland Security Grant Program Funds for Emergency Management. Presenter, Dave Houghton, Director, Emergency Management.

Commissioner McKeel moved and Commissioner Shiprack seconded approval of R-6.

Mr. Houghton provided the explanation and responded to Board questions and comments.

BudMod NOND-14 was unanimously approved.

BOARD COMMENT

BC.1 Opportunity as time allows, for the Commissioners to provide comment on non-agenda items.

Comments pertaining to non-agenda items were made by the Board and noted in the record.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Submitted by:
Lynda J. Grow, Board Clerk and
Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County