

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 05-065

Declaring Intent to Explore Options with the State, Oregon Counties and Others for Use of the Wapato Facility

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. In May 1996 Multnomah County voters approved a bond measure to construct a new detention facility. A citizen-drive process involving thousands of County residents led to the selection of a site in north Portland. Citizens further aided the County in planning and designing the new facility, ensuring that environmental, traffic, cultural resource, storm water and other community issues were fully addressed.
- b. The result is the 170,000 square foot Wapato Facility – named for a Native American tuber indigenous to the area. The use of natural landscaping and a six-foot surrounding berm successfully blends a secure, state-of-the-art jail facility with it's environ.
- c. Voters approved spending \$46 million to build Wapato; an additional \$12 million in construction funding was obtained through a State of Oregon program to fund construction of local jail facilities. Opportunities to secure funds to operate the facility were precluded due to changes brought on by voter-approved reforms to Oregon's property tax system. Ballot Measure 50 approved in 1997 placed limitations on options for local governments to obtain special property tax levies for operational needs. Ballot Measure 5 approved in 1990 also places limitations on local governments to obtain special property tax levies for operational needs. Because of these limitations, the facility remains closed following its dedication in July 2004.
- d. Multnomah County is projecting up to \$40 million in revenue losses and a resulting budget decline over the next two years. This includes the sunseting of the voter-approved temporary local income tax in just eight months. No major improvement to the County's revenue situation is expected for at least five years.

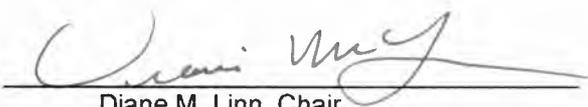
The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. In order to utilize the Wapato Facility, the Board of County Commissioners is committed to exploring alternative options for the public's benefit including, but not limited to, discussions with the State of Oregon and other Oregon Counties.

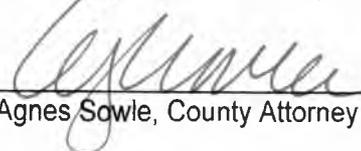
ADOPTED this 28th day of April, 2005.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Diane M. Linn, Chair

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
Agnes Sowle, County Attorney