

**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners
Multnomah Building, Board Room 100
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon
Tuesday, January 22, 2013**

BOARD BRIEFING

Chair Jeff Cogen convened the meeting at 10:07 a.m. with Vice-Chair Judy Shiprack and Commissioners Deborah Kafoury, Loretta Smith, and Diane McKeel present.

Also attending were Jenny Morf, County Attorney, and Lynda Grow, Board Clerk.

REGULAR AGENDA

B.1 Board Briefing on the 2013 State Legislative Agenda. Presenters: Nancy Bennett and Claudia Black, Co-Directors, Government Relations and Rhys Scholes, Policy Manager, Government Relations.

Ms. Bennett made introductions and opening remarks about what they would cover in this briefing.

Ms. Black gave an overview of the changes as a result of the elections. She said the Oregon Senate is split 16/14 and may cause a shift to a more conservative venue. Session begins February 4, 2013. The Oregon House of Representatives is 34/26 split with the Democrats in majority and with 13 new House members; 8 from Portland. There will be a shift in both Democratic and Republic caucuses, but both are making an effort to be bipartisan. She said the primary legislative issues are: the budget, funding for schools and education, jobs, the I-5 Bridge, health care, and firearm safety.

Mr. Scholes reviewed the budget and said that the Governor intends to increase the budget in some areas, but it is predicated on savings from the new health plan, reduced prison populations and PERS adjustments. All require legislative approvals. He intends to provide more money in education, early childhood development and research linked to economic development. He proposes small increases in funding for mental health, community corrections, and long term care.

Ms. Bennett reviewed the priorities for Multnomah County's Legislative Agenda, which are: supporting legislation to lift preemptions and other restrictions on local government, including the pre-emption on local tobacco taxes; creating a State/County partnership to rebuild the Multnomah County Courthouse; and supporting strategies for improving public safety and reducing the cost of corrections in Oregon.

The presenters reviewed the Key Legislative Issues, which are: (1) Finance - State/County Shared Revenue to preserve counties' share of state liquor, lottery and tobacco revenues which help fund local public safety, health and other essential services; Property Tax Administration including legislation to improve Senior Property Tax Deferral Program; health and well-being benefits while reducing costs; and PERS reform. (2) Economic Development – Support legislation regarding the Gain-Share/Strategic Investment Program (SIP): legislation to assist local governments in making industrial sites ready for development; support funding for critical

seismic upgrades to schools, bridges, emergency buildings and other local infrastructure. (3) Health Care – health care transformation input, training, supporting the provider tax, billing insurances for incarcerated members; Early Learning, Mental Health Services, Youth Development, Public Health, affordable housing improvements, housing stability for the homeless and at-risk families, assistance to needy families, earned income tax credit, and benefits and support efforts to Veterans. (4) Public Safety Reforms - programs and practices proven to reduce recidivism and improve public safety. Juvenile services and increased access to residential placements; gang intervention funding; support services to victims of human trafficking; preventing gun violence by allowing local jurisdictions to regulate weapons in public facilities; and explore opportunities for the sale or lease of Wapato Jail. (5) Lastly, Transportation Funding – including funding for transportation infrastructure in the Portland metro region, including the I-5 Bridge; allowing local authorities to raise fees and taxes; and transferring Area 93 from Multnomah to Washington County.

Ms. Bennett said it is always a challenge to develop a Legislative Agenda that reflects all the priorities of the Board. The agenda doesn't reflect every issue that they will work on in this Session. She said as changes arise during the session, they will notify the Board.

Ms. Bennett said they will return before the Board on Thursday, January 24, 2013, to request adoption of the legislative agenda to provide guidance to the County government relations staff in representing Multnomah County before the Oregon Legislature.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

The minutes reflect the actions of the Board. For more detail, you are welcome to view the presentation material and/or video

at: http://multnomah.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3

Submitted by:

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