

Minutes of the Veneta City Council Work Session

November 23, 2015

Present: Sandra Larson, Tim Brooker, Thomas Cotter, Victoria Hedenstrom and Thomas Laing

Others: Shauna Hartz, Finance Director; Ken Jones, Legal Counsel; Kyle Schauer, Public Works Director; Darci Henneman, City Recorder; Steve Reister, Lt. Halvorson LCSD; and Joan Mariner, Fern Ridge Review

1. CALL TO ORDER THE VENETA CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Mayor Larson called the Veneta City Council Work Session to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. FERN RIDGE COMMUNITY POLICING DISTRICT

a. Services to Be Delivered

Mayor Larson said due to illness, Ric was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

Mr. Reister reviewed the City's power point presentation and what services will be delivered. He said a few things have changed; there will be two jail beds, rather than three, and it is planned that there will be an Advisory Committee formed prior to May 2016.

b. What we Don't Know – Answers to Previously Asked Questions

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Commissioner Bozievich said Lane County Board of Commissioners (BOC) will hold one public hearing prior to the January 5, 2016 public hearing, when the Explanatory Committee will be appointed, so the language can be sent to the secretary of state before the January 26th deadline.

Mr. Jones said performing an economic feasibility study needs to take place to make sure that the cost to provide services have been reviewed by those who can confirm the numbers are right and in turn, the proposed rate (\$1.88) will meet those costs and provide enough for reserve and continuation funds.

Mayor Larson said conducting the economic feasibility study would be the County's responsibility.

Mr. Jones said that performing the economic feasibility study falls to someone other than the City. He explained how the tax rate is calculated and how compression works. He said roll back is a separate issue and by law the City would address that through the budget process. He said that will be an ongoing process.

c. Ramp up of District Personnel (Full Time Equivalent)

Mr. Reister said the District will provide a full time sergeant, five deputies in July, six in September, 8 in November, 9 in January, 10 in March, 11 in May and be fully staffed by July, 2016. He said the school resource deputy will be added in September 2016.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Lt. Halvorson said if the District passes, LCSD's office will begin the recruiting process. He said lateral hires can apply for the positions. He said they would be certified officers who have already received the appropriate training.

Thomas Cotter said he doesn't see how two deputies can patrol the entire District. How is the presence going to be seen when one deputy is in Alvadore?

Mr. Reister said the City is proposing to construct a building adjacent to the current City Hall and lease the building to the District.

Victoria Hedenstrom said before the City gets on board with the District, patrols needs to be ironed out and we need to know that the standard of service we currently have will continue.

Mr. Reister said the City is going from 20 hours of coverage per day to 24 hours per day which would provide the City with coverage it currently doesn't have.

d. Finalization of Boundary

Mr. Reister said the boundary should be finalized by the end of the month.

e. Proposed Budget - 15 years

Mr. Reister said total costs for the District per year are estimated at 2.5 million dollars. He said the first year of taxes collected will not cover the first year of expenses. He said formation of the District is estimated at \$110,000 which Lane County will cover. He reviewed the entire budget and said ramping up, to provide all the services, is needed in order to make it work. He said the budget will not change significantly, even though the district boundary may change.

In response to a question from Hartz, Lt. Halvorson explained how backfill will be addressed both financially and with deputies.

f. Proposed Tax Rate

Mr. Jones said we cannot get above the permanent rate even with a vote. He said the first time the District will see tax money is December 2016 but it will need operating capital for the first five months and that takes time to build up.

Mayor Larson said the BOC will be the governing body of the District and will have a separate Budget Committee and process. The Advisory Committee may make recommendations but the Budget Committee will make the decisions.

g. District Timeline

Mr. Reister said the timeline had an error; the 24 hour coverage would begin in July, not in September. He said the building design also need to be discussed.

Ken Jones said the District is included on tonight's regular City Council agenda and he recommended the Council discuss it at that time.

Hartz said the main issues for the Council to discuss is the tax rate and if they need more clarity while Mr. Resister, Lt. Halvorson and Mr. Jones are in attendance.

Mr. Jones said we should know what the tax rate will be by the December 8th Town Hall meeting.

Commissioner Bozievich recommended that the BOC appoint the Advisory Committee and that the Committee and the District is formed prior to the May 2016 ballot.

h. Proposed Conditions to be Included in Resolution

The Advisory Committee would consist of seven members: Lane Fire Authority (1), School District (1), citizens at large (2), crime watch (1), and City officials (2). The Advisory Committee would like to assist in appointing the sergeant. The City wants to be included in the selection of the Sergeant and that could be tied into the contract with LCSO and could also be a condition in the City's resolution.

Mr. Jones said as the City prepares the Resolution, we will look to the BOC to add this into the Board Order. He said it wouldn't be included in the ballot language.

Commissioner Bozievich said the Board Order can include District audits. He explained the concept of legislative intent.

Lt. Halvorson said until the District is fully operational, he's not sure what calls will or won't be responded to. He said we really can't talk about operational issues until we have a specific numbers of deputies.

Thomas Cotter asked if a review clause could be included in the Resolution. He said he would like to see the City and not just the BOC, to be able to review the District. He said what if it's determined that the District isn't working for the City, can review it and be able to revise the contract; not to necessarily throw it out but to make adjustments.

Mr. Jones said the statute provides that a date may be set where the BOC, as the District Board, could review whether or not there is benefit for the District to continue. If they determined there is not, they could shut it down.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Mr. Jones said regardless of how involved the Advisory Board or citizen group is, the governing body, which would be the BOC wearing a different hat, would make the final decision.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Hartz said a review clause could be included in the Resolution but that doesn't mean it will be included in the Board Order.

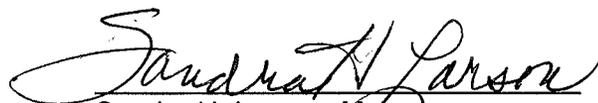
Mr. Jones said there are provisions, if it's not working, to dissolve the District through a citizen petition which would include the entire District.

In response to a question from the audience, Mr. Jones said the District budget would not be static and would be a living budget so each year the budget must be approved.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Lt. Halvorson said he said the Advisory Committee will tell LCSO what they want and each department will be required to conduct a budget presentation to the BOC and the Budget Committee. He said evaluations and check-ins will also be required.

3. ADJOURN

Mayor Larson adjourned the Veneta City Council at 7:30 p.m.


Sandra H. Larson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Darci Henneman, City Recorder
(Minutes prepared by DHenneman)