



**TSCC Regular Business Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, June 12, 2023  
12:01 p.m.**

Chair Harmony Quiroz, Commissioners, Ofsink, Norton, Donahue and Wubbold, were present, as were Executive Director Allegra Willhite and Budget Analyst Tunie Betschart, all via Zoom meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Chair Quiroz called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

**District Budgets to be considered**

Executive Director Willhite said the commissioners were scheduled to consider the approved budget reviews for Prosper Portland and Mt. Hood Community College and develop final questions for the hearings that will be held Wednesday June 14. They will also be considering the review and certification of the Corbett School District's FY 24 budget.

**Prosper Portland review and hearing questions**

Executive Director gave a high-level overview of Prosper Portland's budget, sharing the significant activities noted in the budget. Prosper Portland completed a new strategic plan in FY 23, Advance Portland. It includes details on goals and how they will be accomplished. TIF districts are changing and are no longer initiated solely by Prosper Portland. They now work to identify TIF areas where the community wants them. Existing large districts will be closing in the coming years, reducing direct funding to Prosper Portland. The district has completed an update to their financial strategy, Financial Sustainability Plan 2.0. They will continue to receive money from the City of Portland General Fund from a portion of the TIF dollars returned to the city. The district will continue to research other funding options as well. Prosper Portland is the City of Portland's economic development branch of the city and has functions beyond the TIF districts.

Following the introduction, the commissioners discussed the questions to be asked at the hearing. There had been some suggested revisions to draft questions before the hearing via Google Docs. They removed a portion of one, added an informal follow-up to another, and reworded a couple. They changed the wording for some questions, paired one with another, and repositioned a couple. When the discussion of Prosper Portland's hearing questions ended, they decided on eight key questions to ask, some with follow-up questions. The hearing will be a 60-minute in-person hearing on Wednesday, June 21, at 11:00 am, held in the Prosper Portland Board Room #222 Second Avenue.

**Other Business**

Since Chair Quiroz had another event and had to leave early, the commissioners decided



to discuss other business at this point so she could participate. The topic of discussion was the Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District's hearing, what went well, and what needed improvement. Commissioners thought the online meeting made the hearing difficult at times, given the number of board members. Commissioners were very surprised by the possibility of the district introducing a Privilege Tax as there was no information included in the budget message or budget documents on this topic. Some commissioners expressed that electing a new board and a GO Bond in the same election could be a heavy lift. If the district has to seek legislative approval for a new revenue approach the commissioners wonder about timeline challenges. The district is complex and their work is far reaching. The commissioners discussed that if a bond measure is to be considered, careful attention must be paid to the specificity of the projects included in the bond.

Commissioner Norton suggested asking Mr. Jim Middaugh if there is a one- or two-page document that explains how this privilege tax is intended to work. This may provide information for future hearings.

#### **Mt. Hood Community College review and hearing questions**

Executive Director Willhite gave an overview of Mt. Hood Community College's Approved budget. She said the budget was quite similar to last year's budget. Capital is very close to last year's plan and many projects from FY 23 are carrying into FY 24. They are seeing enrollment increase. They are raising the tuition rates two dollars per credit hour which is about the same as the last increase.

The commissioners moved to discussing the questions for the hearing. Before the meeting, commissioners suggested revisions to draft questions using Google Docs. The questions and proposed revisions were discussed. The exchange of ideas resulted in rewording of some questions, deleting one, and using the follow-up question as the lead-in question with a follow-up if necessary. They also changed the language on one question, dropped one in favor of a more important question and changed the numbering on some. The result was the development of seven key questions, with two follow-up questions.

Commissioner Wubbold suggested putting the time and address for the hearing on each set of questions for the commissioners. This is the one document he checks when heading out to attend the hearing so it would be a great reminder of the time and place.

(Chair Quiroz had another event to attend and left the regular meeting at this point.)

#### **Corbett School District Review**

Executive Director Willhite reviewed the progress on the Corbett School District's budget, stating staff is still waiting to hear from the district on the needed revision of budget numbers. The Approved Budget as submitted did not show summaries and various tables matching the detail numbers. The request sent to the district states the changes need to be sent to TSCC by Wednesday June, 14. There has been no response from the district so far. TSCC's recourse was discussed. The commission is advisory in nature. The commissioners can certify that the budget does not follow Local Budget Law, and that they have one recommendation and two objections to the budget – this does not constitute an



approval or saying that the budget is following budget law. TSCC's certification letter is sent to the Multnomah County Tax Assessor so that objections and recommendations may be seen by that assessor's office. Local Budget law requires TSCC to send the Certification Letter to the district before they hold their Budget Hearing. At the time the district adopts the budget, the certification letter is to be discussed and the objections corrected before the budget is adopted. If there are problems with next year's Proposed and Approved, staff will need to suggest further procedures to deal with the errors.

Commissioner Norton asked about the money for the Mental Health Grant. Ms. Betschart said the information in the review came directly from the Budget Message. It states that additional federal funds for a new School-based Mental Health Department have been secured including four new mental health professionals, a director, clerical staff, and off campus office space. Under "Grants" the budget shows the FY 24 School Based Mental Health amount as \$890,528. In FY 23 the figure for this grant was \$431,040. Commissioner Norton is wondering if this is an ongoing grant in the higher amount, since they are developing a new department and offsite office. Staff will clarify whether or not this is an ongoing grant.

*Commissioner Wubbold moved to certify that the commissioners have one recommendation and two objections concerning Corbett School District's FY 24 budget. Commissioner Donahue seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote.*

Executive Director Willhite will send the certification letter June 14 or 15 since she reached out to the district about the numbers in the budget and gave them until June 14 to respond.

#### **Other Business**

Executive Director Willhite asked commissioners for tentative dates for a get-together to discuss this year's budget season, what went well and what needs to change. It was decided the week of July 17 would work best. She will send a Doodle poll to determine the exact date and time.

There being no other business, Vice-Chair Ofsink adjourned the meeting at 1:51.