

TSCC Regular Business Meeting Minutes Monday, June 2, 2025 11:01 a.m.

Chair Harmony Quiroz, Commissioners Burton, Donahue, Lugo Knapp and Moore were present, as were Executive Director Allegra Willhite and Budget Analyst Brittanie Abayare, all via Zoom meeting.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

Chair Quiroz called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

## **District Budgets to be considered**

Executive Director Willhite said the commissioners were scheduled to discuss the 2025-26 Approved Budgets for Multnomah County Fire District #10, Lusted Water District, Corbett School District and Portland Public Schools.

# Multnomah Fire District Budget Review

Allegra presented a summary of the Multnomah Fire District's FY 2025-26 budget. The district is paying off its long-standing debt earlier than scheduled and redirecting the former debt payments into capital reserves. This will build fund balance to support future capital needs. The district contracts with the City of Gresham to provide fire services, while it maintains the infrastructure and facilities. They have minimal administrative staffing for budget processing and basic accounting. There were no concerns regarding compliance with local budget law. TSCC have recommended a clean certification with no objections or recommendations.

Chair Quiroz moved to certify the budget, Commissioner Lugo Napp seconded and all commissioners voted in favor to certify the budget without objections or recommendations.

#### **Lusted Water District Budget Review**

Allegra reviewed the Lusted Water District budget, highlighting their transition from purchasing water from the City of Portland to the City of Gresham, which should offer moderate rate increases compared to Portland's. The district completed prior capital projects and is budgeting for a new loan through the Oregon Business Development Department to address leaking water mains. Commissioners discussed the Board's resistance to rate increases despite rising infrastructure costs and noted plans to invest in leak detection technology using tools like LiDAR.

Two staff members are retiring in July, potentially prompting changes in staffing structure. The district is still awaiting its audit. Allegra noted this was not yet a compliance issue but should be watched as the district has had multi-year audit delays in the past. TSCC recommends certification with no objections or recommendations.

Commissioner Burton moved to certify the budget, Commissioner Donahue seconded and all commissioners voted in favor to certify the budget without objections or recommendations.

Tactiq was used to generate the transcript referenced above. The content was reviewed and edited before being published by Brittanie Abayare, on 6/16/2025.



## Corbett School District Budget Review

Allegra explained that Corbett School District's budget process improved substantially over the previous year due to a new business manager and early draft submissions. Although the budget shows an increase, it reflects temporary grant funding—some of which, including nearly \$1 million for school-based mental health services, has already been lost. The district's General Fund is significantly decreasing due to ongoing operating expenses and reduced reserves.

Corbett is reducing staff by 10.68 FTE across various roles. Commissioners discussed enrollment changes, inter-district transfer trends, and the district's magnet school structure. A minor \$350 fee incorrectly budgeted in the General Obligation Bond fund was acknowledged and discussed with staff.

Chair Quiroz moved to certify the budget, Commissioner Burton seconded and all commissioners voted in favor to certify the budget without objections or recommendations.

### Portland Public Schools (PPS) Budget Review

The discussion turned to PPS, which is seeing declining enrollment—down 12% since prepandemic levels and continuing to fall, according to both PPS forecasts and PSU studies. Revenues are rising but not fast enough to match cost increases, especially following a major labor contract negotiation. PPS is cutting 183 FTE, including teachers and central services staff.

PPS is budgeting \$490 million in capital expenditures, funded largely from existing 2020 bond proceeds. Allegra noted that PPS has a full finance and budget team in place for the first time in years, and submitted its documents on time. One issue from last year involving a misclassification in a debt service fund is being corrected via a supplemental budget. Compliance with budget law is sound.

Commissioners discussed finalizing hearing questions for PPS, focusing on enrollment decline, administrative versus instructional spending, and other questions.

#### Other Business

The team confirmed dates for the upcoming July retreat.

There being no other business, Chair Quiroz adjourned the meeting at 12:49 p.m.