



**TSCC Regular Business Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 23, 2024  
12:03 p.m.**

Chair Harmony Quiroz, Commissioners Wubbold, Donahue, Burton, and Lugo Knapp 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 12:03 p.m.

**District Budgets to be Considered**

Executive Director Willhite said the commissioners were scheduled to discuss the approved budget reviews and questions to be asked at the Metros Hearing. They will also be considering four smaller districts to certify their budget process: Gresham Barlow School District, Riverdale RFPD #11J, Dunthorpe-Riverdale Sanitary Service District, and Mid-Multnomah County Street Lighting Service District.

**Metro Review and Hearing Questions**

The executive director gave a high-level overview of Metro's approved budget, sharing the significant themes and changes from last year's budget. The agency is experiencing a considerable beginning fund balance, with the supportive housing dollars coming in higher than expected. They are expanding the program and adding staff to manage funds. She discussed the visitor venues, saying they are seeing some recovery from the pandemic. They are close to 87% of pre-pandemic levels. The Solid Waste division will change to a cost recovery model for the fee structure in FY25 and increase rates by 11%. Metro did not include the Zoo Bond revenue in this budget since they did not want to assume passage of the bond before the voters had made their decision.

Following the introduction, the commissioners considered the questions to be asked at the hearing. There had been some suggested revisions to the questions provided before the hearing via Google Docs. They reviewed the suggestions and discussed some changes. During the discussion, they rearranged some, edited many questions, and replaced them with revised questions. They consolidated a couple and changed one to encourage a thorough answer. They eliminated a couple. When the discussion on Metro's budget ended, they had developed nine questions and several follow-up questions to ask at the 90-minute in-person hearing on Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, held at the Metro Regional Center in the board room.

**Gresham Barlow School District Review and Certify Budget Process**

Executive Director Willhite gave an overview of the district, stating they have a new finance director this year. They will be spending down the fund balance, but there are no



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fundamental shifts from the previous year. The fund balance is within the district's policy of 5% and the best practice of 8% of expenditures. They are right-sizing the number of FTEs basically through attrition. Enrollment has been flat for a few years and is below pre-pandemic levels. Capital spending is decreasing in FY25 following a large project installing artificial turf in the current year.

*Commissioner Donahue moved to certify the Gresham-Barlow School District's 2024-25 Approved Budget with no recommendations or objections. Chair Quiroz seconded the motion which carried with a unanimous vote.*

#### **Riverdale Rural Fire Protection District #11J Review and Certify Budget Process**

Executive Director Willhite briefly explained the district, stating it is a small fire district with a biennial budget. The budget is status quo with no fundamental changes. They have a large fund balance and collect permanent rate and local option levy taxes. They are levying only \$0.20 of their \$0.50 local option levy taxes, down from the \$0.25 of prior years. Commissioner Wubbold suggested including a sentence in the certification letter commending the district for only levying a portion of the local option levy and saving the taxpayers money.

*Commissioner Wubbold moved to certify the Riverdale Rural Fire Protection District's 2024-25 Approved Budget with no recommendations or objections and including the sentence commending the district on levying only a portion of the local option taxes in the district's certification letter. Commissioner Burton seconded the motion which carried with a unanimous vote.*

#### **Dunthorpe-Riverdale Sanitary Service District**

The executive director gave a brief synopsis of the Dunthorpe-Riverdale Sanitary Service District. The district is a service district whose budget is prepared by Multnomah County staff and managed by Multnomah County. She explained that this district does not have a permanent rate for property tax as most districts do but instead collects a sewer assessment charge. The district fixes the yearly rate determined by the need to balance the budget. They are working on a significant capital project, the Elk Rock Pump Station Project, and have been working on it for several years. They have said they will probably need to increase rates and borrow funds to complete the project over the long-term

*Chair Quiroz moved to certify the Dunthorpe-Riverdale Sanitary Service District's 2024-25 Approved Budget with no recommendations or objections. Commissioner Wubbold seconded the motion which carried with a unanimous vote.*

#### **Mid-Multnomah County Street Lighting Service District**

Executive Director Willhite explained that this is another service district whose budget is prepared by Multnomah County staff and managed by Multnomah County. However, it is a separate taxing district. This street lighting district assesses a property assessment each year for each property within the district. They had storm storm damage in the current year. The district is building up the fund balance to support capital projects. The budget was missing the ending fund balance in FY23, causing the budget to be out of balance. They will correct this error in the budget document before adopting the budget. They have already fixed the error on the LB-1 before publishing the public hearing notice. Staff

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## Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission

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suggests including a recommendation in the certification letter that the district finalize and note the corrections to the board before budget adoption to ensure transparency with the public throughout the process.

*Chair Quiroz moved to certify Mid-Multnomah County Street Lighting Service District's 2024-25 Approved Budget with one recommendation as suggested by staff and no objections to include in the certification letter. Commissioner Wubbold seconded the motion which carried with a unanimous vote.*

There being no other business, Chair Quiroz closed the Regular Meeting of the TSCC.