



Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission

Thursday, June 8, 2021
TSCC Regular Business Meeting

Meeting Minutes
12:00 p.m.

Chair Barringer, Commissioners Ofsink, Norton, and Wubbold were present, as were Executive Director Craig Gibons, Incoming Executive Director Allegra Willhite, Budget Analyst Tunie Betschart all via Google Meeting.

Commissioner Quiroz arrived later.

REGULAR MEETING

Chair Barringer opened the Regular Meeting of the TSCC at 12:05. Commissioner Quiroz would be joining the Regular Meeting Commissioners later, so the commissioners decided to review Mt. Hood Community College first since she would like to be present to discuss Portland Public School District.

Mt. Hood Community College

The commissioners discussed Mt. Hood Community College's 2021-22 Budget Review and the questions to ask at the upcoming hearing. Executive Director Gibons gave a brief overview of the College's budget and answered questions the commissioner had about the review. The College will use the same Student FTE in the upcoming year as they had last year and assume an increase of 1,000 Student FTE the following year. Personnel Service, Materials & Services are both about the same as it had been in previous years. Capital outlay is increasing but is dependent on grant funding. There was discussion on the PERS obligation, which was unusual. The 13% increase in salaries and the decrease in staffing were topics of discussion. This will be a question for the hearing.

Following the discussion, they considered the questions to ask at the hearing. (Commissioner Quiroz joined during the conversation of the questions) The Commissioners revised, reworded, rearranged, and combined the prepared questions sent earlier and ended with 11 questions. Executive Director Gibons will prepare and assign the revised questions and send them to the College and the Commissioners to prepare for the hearing on June 16 at 6:30.

Portland Public School District

The next item for discussion was the Portland Public School District. There was a discussion about the 2021-22 Budget Review. Commissioner Quiroz said the map of the district is out of date on their website. So once they update it, we will need to update our records too. Executive Director Gibons highlighted the strategic objectives, board goals, capital projects, budget totals, and FTE increases. Following the conversation about the review, the commissioners considered the questions they would be asking at the 2021-22 budget hearing. They reworded, revised, eliminated, and added follow-up questions to the prepared questions sent previously. They finished with 11 questions to ask at the 90 minute hearing on June 15. Executive Director Gibons will revise and assign the questions and distribute them to the Commissioners and the school district so everyone will be prepared for the hearing on June 15 at 4:30.

Debrief on the City of Portland's Hearing

There was a discussion about the City of Portland's hearing. The Commissioners felt the answers were pretty rehearsed or following the prepared answers. The suggestion was made to emphasize the conversational aspect of the hearing when meeting with city staff next year and to advocate for more of an exchange with the City Commissioners and their staff. Another suggestion was to present a topic-based question that does not have 4-6 parts; and then ask follow-up questions on the subject, thus creating more of a dialog. Commissioners will give this some thought and reexamine it in July during the debriefing of all hearings.

Corbett School District

The next district to be discussed was Corbett School District. Mr. Gibons highlighted the district, focusing on the construction project for the new middle school, which will use revenue from the General Obligation Bonds, which were sold during the current year, and the matching state grant. They have enrollment fluctuations due to the pandemic and not knowing what out-of-district students will return. The budget looked good, except for the GO Debt service tax levy. The budget committee approved the amount needed to pay the GO Debt service and did not consider the 94% collection rate for taxes imposed; the district may be short and need to use General Fund dollars to supplement the GO Debt service this first year. TSCC staff recommended that the district use the annual TSCC tax estimate as the basis for the tax projection and include a check of this levy annually during their budget preparation. Commissioner Norton suggested including an introductory paragraph in the Certification Letter that compliments the district on successfully acquiring the required votes to pass the General Obligation Bond for the new middle school. There were no further questions or discussions, so he asked for a motion to certify that the commissioners had one recommendation to the Corbett School District's 2021-22 Approved Budget as presented by staff. Commissioner Ofsink made the motion to certify the budget, seconded by Commissioner Quiroz, and passed with a unanimous vote (5). Executive Director Gibons will prepare the Certification Letter to include the congratulatory remark about the bond measure and the recommendation. (5).

(Commissioner Wubbold left the meeting at this point.)

West Multnomah Soil & Water District

Mr. Gibons reviewed the highlights of the West Multnomah SWCD, saying they had several pages of work plans and objectives included in this budget. He said the budget as presented is stable with a 2% increase. It included some hold-overs from the current year. The district is closing the Sturgeon Lake Fund this year since restoration is complete. Personnel Services will increase due to the completion of a compensation comparison study the district just completed. The budget was balanced and in compliance with Local Budget Law. Chair Barringer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none, so he asked for a motion to certify that the Commissioners had no recommendation or objections to make regarding the certification of the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservations District's 2021-22 Approved Budget. Commissioner Ofsink made the motion as stated, seconded by Commissioner Quiroz, and passed with a unanimous vote of the commissioners (4).

Palatine Hill Water District

Mr. Gibons gave a brief overview of the district, saying they do not levy their tax since it is such a small district with a low tax rate. The district has as few pipe replacement projects planned but a pretty status quo budget for 2021-22. They are not concerned about the cost of water purchased from the City of Portland. The budget was balanced and in compliance with Local Budget Law. Chair Barringer asked if there were any questions or further discussion on the district's budget. There were none, so he asked for a motion to certify the 2021-22 Approved Budget for Palatine Hill

Water District budget with no recommendations or objections. Commissioner Quiroz made the motion as stated, which Commissioner Norton seconded. The motion carried with a unanimous vote (4).

Other Business

Mr. Gibons said there is one more budget the commissioners will need to certify. However, it will be later in June because the Sauvie Island Fire District is having a problem getting the budget balanced. They have delayed the adoption until late in June. So, he will schedule a meeting later to review and certify this budget and approve the minutes previously presented.

Chair Barringer adjourned the meeting at 2:00.

Approved by Commission at its July 27 Regular Meeting