**BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM OF OREGON BECC REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, July 15, 2021**

**3:00 PM-5:00PM**

OREGON COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

**Agenda**

1. CALL TO ORDER- Chairman Hauth.
	1. Roll call
	2. Adoption of past meeting minutes.
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS.
3. DIRECTOR’S REPORT/COMMENTS.
	1. Set Aside charges – reinstate collection and payment of set-aside;
	2. Repayment agreements – reinstate collection;
	3. Fines and penalties – reinstate these for late reporting and late payments;
	4. Develop questions for RSA, regarding the TAC #21-02.
4. SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS.
	1. Financial/Budget.
	2. Training/Education.
	3. Facilities Development.
5. NEW BUSINESS.
	1. Re-opening facilities sensibly.
	2. Self Service Roll Out and State Re-Opening Discussion.
6. OLD BUSINESS.
	1. Social Security documents annually.
7. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT/COMMENTS.
8. ADJOURNMENT.

**Transcript**

Hauth: Well, we'll get going here, I know it's only a couple minutes after 3:00, but so anyway, we'll call the meeting to order and we’ll go with the board first. Roll call, Derrick Stevenson? I think I heard Derrick on here?

D Stevenson: Yes.

Miranda: Did we lose you, Randy? Can anybody hear me?

Hawkins: Yes, I can hear you. A fine start!

Miranda: I know.

Young: I think you lost him.

Miranda: He should be right back.

D Stevenson: Am I on? I lost my place. I didn't know where I was.

Miranda: Yeah, yeah, you're there.

D Stevenson: Hit the mute too many times.

Miranda: Is Art with us?

A Stevenson: I'm here.

Miranda: Hi Art. Well, you’re the Vice Chair so you’ll have to take over.

D Stevenson: Hi Art!

A Stevenson: Hey. Okay, so, so, Derrick's here. I'm here. Randy is temporarily indisposed.

Hauth: Hey, Art. Hey, I just got…

Hawkins: There you are.

Hauth: I just got, I just got back. Art, I just got back.

A Stevenson: All you got to do is, all you got to do is say… Well, Lin wasn't on there, but Steve Jackson’s the only one from the board we haven't heard from.

Jackson: I'm right here. Hi guys!

D Stevenson: Art! Randy [inaudible].

Miranda: Oh, he’s here. Hi, Steve.

Hauth: Yeah, I just came back. I got kicked off somehow, but so, Art, welcome. And Eric’s [inaudible]…

A Stevenson: Meeting’s, meeting's yours!

Hauth: Lewanda Miranda?

Miranda: Here.

Hauth: Steve Jackson?

Jackson: Here.

Hauth: Lin Jaynes? Okay, I heard from Lin earlier, she was going to try to make it, but she had some other things going on, so hopefully she'll join in. So, as far as the managers, I heard Harold Young.

Young: Here.

Hauth: Carole Kinney?

Miranda: She had an appointment, can't make it

Hauth: Okay, Jerry Bird? Shawn Bever?

Bever: Present.

Hauth: Hey, Shawn.

Bever: How's it going?

Hauth: Let's see, Char McKinzie? I think I heard Char?

Hawkins: I'm here, yes.

Hauth: Okay, are there any managers that I have not called on that are here?

Hawkins: Harold?

Young: Yep, I'm here!

Hauth: We got Harold, yep, we got Harold. Okay, and any member, any members of the public that would like to announce themselves? Alrighty, and Eric, you're here obviously. And is there anyone joining you?

Morris: No, it's just me today, Randy.

Hauth: Okay, well, thank you, so now we can go ahead and move forward with the agenda. What do you have there, Lewanda, if you please?

Miranda: Adopt past meeting minutes.

Hauth: Okay, so can I have a motion to, I believe the meeting minutes were all sent out.

Miranda: Yeah.

Hauth: And recorded, and do I have a motion to adopt those minutes?

Miranda: I'll make a motion to adopt those.

Jackson: I’ll make a motion.

Miranda: Go ahead.

Hauth: Okay, a motion's been made. Do I have a second?

Miranda: Second.

Jackson: Second.

Hauth: Okay, okay, any… Yea or nay? Art Stevenson?

A Stevenson: Yea.

Hauth: Derrick Stevenson?

D Stevenson: Yea.

Hauth: Lewanda Miranda?

Miranda: Yes.

Hauth: Steve Jackson?

Jackson: Yes.

Hauth: And I'll vote yes as well, so motion passes. What do we have up next there, Lewanda?

Miranda: Public Comment.

Hauth: Okay, if anybody would like to make a public comment, please just announce yourself and the floor will be yours. So, any public comment? Okay, hearing no public comment, we will go on to the next agenda item.

Miranda: Director's report/comments.

Hauth: Okay Eric, you're up!

Morris: All right, thank you, Randy. The next 1, 2, 3, 3, 4 different items are all mine. This is a re--, we're carrying these ahead from the last quarter. When we talked about, this is talking about set aside charges, repayment agreements, fines and penalties for reporting and develop--, oh, the last one we'll hold for a second. So, we're getting ready to start reopening as a state, well, we've reopened as a state, and so we've been deferring set aside. And right now we've got about $10,500 and, not, it's not past due because we've been carrying it forward due to the pandemic. But about $10,000 in unpaid set aside. That's divided amongst about ten VFMs. So, some people have been paying throughout the pandemic, some people have paid some, some people paid none. So, as we get ready to start reopening and stuff, I wanted to be able to talk about this during the elected committee meeting to discuss, like, when we would start the process of people paying and getting back to normal operations as, you know, before the pandemic. So, I'd like to hear, you know, the elected committee's thoughts on that. I know nobody's all of a sudden making a whole bunch of money just because the state opened back up, but as August becomes September, things are going to start tooling back up, so I definitely want to have this discussion before we got there.

Hauth: Hey, guys, don't all speak up at once. Anybody, anybody want to join in and have a discussion on this, how that looks? You know, I know, I know there's a couple of items on the agenda a little bit later that are kinda like you said, you know, just because the state's reopened doesn't mean we're all going to be, you know, you know, making, making, you know, you know, our businesses aren't going to be open like they were before and maybe people aren't going to be making a lot of money, and [inaudible] possible going to be challenged and stress [inaudible]. And I do recall that the plan for paying set aside, when that was to start being paid. I think it was over a, it was over a period of time as I recall, right? Like a year, or, I forget what exactly the agency allowed. But anyway, any of the managers, board members, have any comments on that or thoughts on that? Please speak up.

D Stevenson: This is Derrick.

Hauth: Go ahead, Derrick.

D Stevenson: Yeah, I, the way things are going now, ‘cause, you know, over the last week or so it seems, seems to have started picking up again, and that new variant is, is taking over, and we're, and the state as a, as a whole is kinda losing ground, so I don't know if we should be making any definitive decisions, ‘cause we just, basically nobody really knows what, how, how this is gonna end up, so... That’s my two cents.

Hauth: Yeah, and that's one reason, yeah, I would agree with ya. I don't think there's any decisions that need to be made today, but you know, we need to have that discussion like you’re, you know, bringing to the table. You know, so, as far as set aside, you know, are there others on the line that want to talk about any of that, or if not, then we can see what the agency's thoughts are on that.

Jackson: Steve Jackson.

Hauth: Steve, go ahead, and then we'll go to Harold.

Jackson: Yeah, I just I've been talking to, I've been attempting to do my best to communicate with my building and everybody and try to figure out when the building's population will go back to normal, and nobody knows yet. It's still, they don't have anybody set up to go in the kitchen like the contract officers or just, they're just not thinking about it. Anyways, to pay back the set aside, I think, would be good if we could, people can make payments, you know, like, if they want to, but if we're not really making money, like me, I’m, I'm not making any really. I'm barely staying open. Maybe we can do payments if you can and then maybe defer, until, you know, even another three to six months to even have to make payments. That's what I would like. You know, anybody else?

A Stevenson: Randy.

Hauth: Yes, Art? And didn’t I, did Harold, do you want to say something?

A Stevenson: I believe… Oh, wait a minute. Harold, Harold said something first. Sorry about that. Harold.

Hauth: That's okay, then we'll go to you.

Young: Okay, thanks. I was just gonna say that I've kinda been doing what Steve's been doing, I've been talking to people there in the building that have, when I go in there to see somebody, which isn't very often, because there's not hardly anybody there. But they've been talking about reopening the building sometime in September, but they're going to have kind of a funky way of doing it because they're gonna let part of the people work from home still that want to and can, and then they're gonna have the other group that might work three days a week, and then they'll have another group working the other two. Anyway, they're gonna, it's really gonna be a lot different, and I can't picture them getting that all organized and set up until after the first of the year. So, that would be my recommendation is to maybe start getting things back to normal after the first of the year. That's pretty much it.

Hauth: Thank you.

A Stevenson: Am I, am I off mute?

D Stevenson: That sounds like a good idea to me!

Hawkins: Yes.

A Stevenson: Okay, well as Harold said, you know everything's gonna kinda be varying and I believe the original proposal for those individuals who wanted to delay it, they were going to get a certain amount a month to make the payments back, and so, obviously, in my opinion, if a facility is totally back open and running then, of course the, you know, they should begin paying that back as we agreed. But if they're not fully open, or they're, you know, like Harold said, there could be a whole new scenario which obviously, many adjustments would have to be made. But my thoughts are if a facility is totally back open, that's what we voted on and agreed to, so the payments begin immediately in the format that we voted on and passed. And those that are different and aren't actually going to be completely open, then possibly, you know, a different kind of adjustment could definitely be made. And I, personally, have paid my set aside all along. Didn't want to go into debt, didn't know where we were gonna be, and I think there's several managers who have done the same thing. And so I think that's how we should go. If, you know, if a facility's totally open then they should start making the equal payments. If there's mitigating circumstances, then I think the agency should work with that individual and, and, and make it obviously fair because of the new adjustment and the, you know, loss of income and stuff like that. But my thoughts are there aren't going to be a lot of people that owe a lot of money so that would be my recommendation on how we proceed, because everybody is going to be different.

Hauth: Okay, thank you, Art. Is there anybody else that would like to speak up on this?

D Stevenson: This is Derrick.

Hauth: Derrick, go ahead.

D Stevenson: Yeah, I… It's, it’s such a sketchy situation because most of the managers are gonna have to somehow come up with the cash to restock their places and stuff, and that's gonna put a big… It’s gonna cause trouble down the line. I think…

Miranda: Hardship.

D Stevenson: Yeah, hardship. And it's like, you know, we, we have to make sure that they can afford to be able to buy, buy the product to put it in without having to worry about paying back the set aside at the same time, because it's just… I don't think in a lot of instances that it's gonna be fair. And the manager definitely isn't going to make a fair minimum return on what, what they're doing. So, I think, you know, we should put it off at least six months to see where we're going.

Hauth: Yeah, okay, anybody else before we hear from Eric now that he's, you know, listened to at least a discussion around this. Is there anybody else that wanted to speak up? Okay. Not hearing anybody, Eric, so what are your thoughts on what you're hearing and, you know… Is it an absolute by the agency, we have to start this right now? Or I mean, we have, you know, do we have options and flexibility? And, you know, like, like Derrick was saying, you know, we're not out of the woods yet. I know we have a false sense of security, and I know things are getting better, and it feels, you know… Getting people who are been vaccinated, I know they probably feel safe, and you know, businesses are starting to reopen, but again, like Harold said, it's going to be a really kinda slow process. It's gonna be a different process, and again we're gonna talk about it a little bit later, but that still kinda connects with set aside because people really can't start thinking about set aside unless they're making money to, you know. run their businesses and, you know, blah blah blah… But what are your thoughts, Eric?

Morris: Well, I…

D Stevenson: This is Derrick one more time.

Morris: Go ahead, Derrick.

Hauth: Derrick.

D Stevenson: Yeah, I… The whole situation is kinda, like everyone's saying, is a mess but there's just… I don't see any feasible way that we can come up with anything that's gonna be good for everyone, so… I mean the state's, the state is gonna probably, like, I know the private sector most of them who are working at home are still staying home and most of the jobs that are out there are work from home, so I don't see where the state wouldn't follow that trend, so that’s about it.

Morris: Well, Randy, I think as I'm… I appreciate everybody's feedback ‘cause, you know, you only hear from who you hear from, so I appreciate that. I think the thing we need to keep in mind is, yeah, things are changing, and I can tell you from a state agency perspective that the state is still targeting reopening state government September 1st. That's what they're still talking about, and I wish I had a whole bunch more details about that. But what we're starting to see now is, like, Carole's location in Multnomah County, they opened the building back up, but there's only like 10% of the people are there. And so, the same with Revenue. They've opened the building back up. Sal's got his operation going, but I think it's a very small, 100 and some odd people are in the building. What's gonna happen over the next few weeks is, what I'm envisioning, is the state’s gonna wrap, wrap, wrap up its collective bargaining agreement with the, with the unions, which is gonna really lock down the amount of telework that's allowed, or give better direction to the agencies. Because we haven't really received clear directions from the top about how much telework is going to be allowed. But the discussions I've had with DAS facilities, the head of DAS facilities, is they’re, what they're looking at is, yeah, not as many people are going to come back to work in person in state government. I think the feds will kinda mirror the same thing. So, what they're doing is they’re giving up a lot of the leased property, these smaller footprints that they've got kinda scattered all over the place and they're condensing people, the plan is to condense people back into our bigger buildings like, like at DHS, like Employment. These buildings that have been owned by the state for years and years and years. And so, as I was talking with the facilities people it sounds like, like Sal's building DHS, it holds I think 1400 people on a good day, and so that building may have a population of like, let's say, let's say 1000 people come back to that building, just as a number to work with. And the goal would be that that there would be that 1000 people there throughout the week. But it might not be the same 1000 people day to day to day. They'll have people coming in, what they call hoteling, which is everybody's favorite phrase to use, where basically you come in, you sit down at a cubicle that you can work from, and you work from that cubicle that day. But it would be different populations kinda maintaining that same level of occupancy in each building, which I think for our core buildings like the DHS Building, like the Employment, and the North Mall Building, those ones that have been owned, I think will be a good thing. Because if you're not there every single day as an employee, you're less likely to go eat if you're there every day from the cafeteria. But if you're a few days a week, you're gonna be like, hey, I'm going to go treat myself. I'm going to go down to the cafeteria and get me a hamburger or whatever. But that's, that's the talk that I'm hearing from facilities. The feds, like Steve was saying, still haven't quite figured things out. They were due to have plans back to OMB, I believe it’s the first of next week--I believe it's the 19th--what their plans to reestablish you know their, their facilities. So, we've been in touch kind of infrequently with Edith Green and with the, the Bonneville Power Administration building people, and they just, they don't know, ‘cause a lot of the facility people aren't the, they're not making those decisions and quite frankly they haven't been briefed either. So, you know when it comes to the set aside piece of it, I was thinking we would reestablish set aside, like the collection thereof, either in August or September with, you know, people not starting to make payments or anything until September, October, is what I was thinking. I, I have a problem putting it off for another six months, the discussion, I don't mind putting it off today. We can definitely talk about it next month as things solidify, but I think what's gonna happen, the tempo of government reopening is gonna increase dramatically over the next four to six weeks. So, by the time we have this discussion in August, it may be a whole different conversation. I like Art's idea about, if your operation is up and running, and you're back to quote unquote business as usual, that looks different from a, you know, paying your set aside kind of thing versus, hey, my building's open. There's ten people in the whole building, and it used to hold 600 people. I'm not quite how we navigate those type of different situations, but I, I like that concept. Because either Art, or Derrick, or somebody said that it is gonna be very individualized depending on the circumstances and depending on the facilities.

Hauth: All right. Well, thank you, Eric. And I mean obviously, we're having discussion around this, and, you know, like you said, we'll know more. I just, you know, I hope the agency keeps in mind, and I know the agency has obligations through us blind managers to provide services, but I just encourage the agency to keep in mind that just because a building's open doesn't mean that it's right for a manager to go in and, you know, really have to open that building up if, as a business person, they're not making money. You know, when we do surveys on locations to open 'em up, they're all based on, you know, building population and, you know, gross sales and customer flow and all that. So, going forward I hope, and I've, I’ve heard some things through the grapevine, I, I'm not sure if they're accurate or not, but I've heard, like, some managers have been said, hey, you know, you gotta get in there and open up, and there's like 25 people or 50 people where there were 500. So, I just hope that conversation can be, you know, fair and sensible as we move forward. And, you know, if the agency has to help these building managers, lookit, you know, we are, we do, we are committed to providing a good service and the best service we can. However, you know, we still have to analyze what's going on and not put our blind manager in there to fail. You know, or whatever, or something like that. So, I just wanted, I just wanted to share that. So…

Morris: Yeah, Randy, and I…

D Stevenson: This is Derrick.

Morris: Oh, sorry, Derrick.

D Stevenson: Oh, that's all right. One thing I wanted to throw out there is maybe the possibility that we take vacation pay that people would be getting and put that towards, toward their back set aside. Maybe, maybe something like that might work better for people, I'm just throwing that out there.

Hauth: Well, and let’s move… And that's a good idea. Let… I mean, maybe, maybe it's a good idea, you know. But we'll have more discussion around this. And Eric, you have a few other items on the, you know, on the director's report, so please go ahead.

Morris: Yeah, let me get that pulled back up if I can find it. Yeah, the, the rest of it was just all bullet pointing around the repayment agreements, the, you know, getting people back into the routine of getting their reports in on time, and it sounds like there's not a lot of interest in reestablishing all that right now. So, we can definitely talk about it next month at the August meeting, which I think the timing will be really good if, if things, if we can kinda, if things swing back the other way, like Derrick, what Derrick was talking about the Delta Variant and stuff. You know, if things swing back in a more positive way, it could be a more positive discussion about that. The one thing I was going to say, Randy, you talked about the buildings and stuff. We've definitely had those conversations with the building managers and people have been pretty open minded about it. The most recent one that we found out really short notice was Multnomah County. They let me know the day before the 4th of July weekend that they were opening the following week. So, yeah, that was a little short notice, and then ultimately not a big super rush because they, they're quote opening the building, which in a lot of terms just means literally unlocking the doors to the public, but there was just a few people in there. So, most places have been very understanding about, you know, bringing services back in. We have had some calls from different places asking about vending machines. You know, hey, is anybody gonna come back? Because we have people slowly filtering back. So, it's just important I think for, you know, the VFMs and the subcontractors out there to, you know, just to be a little… Things are starting to ramp back up in, in different places, so...

Hauth: Okay, thank you, is that it?

Morris: That is it for today.

Hauth: Okay, any questions for Derrick? Or for Eric?

Miranda: Director Morris, on B you had “develop questions for RSA TAC number 21-02.”

Morris: Sorry, I, I, I totally missed that, Lewanda. I know this had come up as a topic, the TAC 2102, 21-02 came out a while ago—it seems like a lifetime ago—maybe it was a month, a month and a half ago? This was regarding, I believe it was unassigned vending, if I remember right? Is that right, Randy? And I know we, we cut…

Hauth: Yes. Yeah.

Morris: Yeah. We exchanged some emails about it, and I know that was, we were going to maybe work on some questions to maybe send back to RSA on that?

Hauth: You know it might be good—I don't know, Eric… Yeah, I think it was federal unassigned. My understanding is that RSA's also going to do the opinion, or, or technical, you know, whatever assistance on state unassigned, too. But I don't know if we've reengaged with NFBEI yet or not. Maybe you can share that with us, but you know, it might be good to reach out to Terry Smith. I did reach out to Terry Smith after I saw your initial email, and he said, you know, really this technical assistance doesn't, doesn't deal with the manager. It's more about, like, the agency subcontracting with companies other than blind managers on federal properties. And so he said that's really where it lies, but, you know, I'm not… I mean, don't hold me, you know, don't hold me to that 100%, but maybe you could reach out to Terry and if need be, we can always do some, you know, questions to RSA or whatever, so…

Morris: Okay.

Hauth: Anything else? What do, what do we have on there now? Lewanda?

Miranda: Subcommittee report. Can you hear me?

Hauth: What's that? I'm sorry. Now, now I can better.

Miranda: Okay. Subcommittee reports and A is budget and financials, and I believe that is Art, Linda Haseman, and Lin Jaynes. Is that right, Art?

Hauth: Yeah, but I don't know that I've seen any report come in yet on that. That might just be a standing committee unless Art has something he wanted to share.

A Stevenson: No, it's a standing committee, and so if Linda's not here and doesn't have a report ‘cause she…

Hauth: Yeah, no, she, she doesn't. Yeah.

A Stevenson: Yeah.

Miranda: Yeah. Well, I know Linda had sent something out, and Lin wanted to talk about it but she's not here, so…

Hauth: Yeah, well maybe, maybe we can…

Miranda: Next time.

Hauth: Maybe we can get that dialed in for next month? Yeah.

Miranda: Sounds good. Okay, and next one, training and education. So, I wanted to talk about our… Well, well, what I wanted to do is for our Fall In-Service, which we have to have for elections, we'll probably be having that via teleconference, because we don't have a lot of money in our set-aside. Is that right, Eric?

Morris: Yeah, Lewanda, that, that was one of the things, and I forgot to mention it when we were talking about set-aside, is I've had a couple people already reach out about the, the Mini BLAST in, oh, where's it at? Atlantic City, and I just kinda had to say, well, let me do some checking just because, yeah, we, we don't have a ton of set-aside. So, I think, like you and I discussed, I think the Zoom meeting worked pretty good last time, so… And especially with, like people have been mentioning, things not being dialed in right this second, it makes it a little tough to plan for travel and all that stuff.

Miranda: Okay, yeah that was the other thing I wanted to cover was for travel. So, next is facilities development. We've had two meetings, and I think they've been moving along pretty well, and everyone's invited to come, so we send out the agenda beforehand. We're going to, the agency's gonna get out the Medford route, and the Douglas County route, and Eric is also going to look at the unassigned vending list to see if there's anything that he can add to those. And then once those are done, then we're going to move on to the unassigned vending and see if we can create some other routes, and possibly Salem, Portland, or the Hillsboro area. But we're gonna do one thing at a time, so it'll be after those go out, which will be no later than August 15th. And Eric is going to share with us that unassigned vending, like I've said, you know, the list that we've been working to put it together, and Eric is also going to share with the committee any opportunities that come into the, to the SLA, and I think that's about it. Does anybody else have anything to say about that?

Hauth: Yeah, Lewanda, I'd just like to say I think it's, you know, I think it's a good direction. Might not be 100% perfect, but it's going in the right direction, and it's better than it was previously. If we can open some opportunities for existing managers or new managers, you know, that's what the program's about, so… You know, appreciate the work that's being done on it, and, you know, it's kinda baby steps, you know, one step at a time and go from there, so...

Miranda: Anyone else? Okay. Number five is new business and reopening facilities sensibly, and we've kinda touched on some of that…

Hauth: Okay. Yeah, we touched, we touched on a bit of it. I think you had put that on, Lewanda. I don't know if you had anything specific to talk about on that or not, but…

Miranda: Well, mainly…

Hauth: If not…

Miranda: Mainly I want to make sure that the managers have appropriate time to, you know, to get things together. Like maybe ten business days before the opening, so they can go out and purchase their stuff and get things going. Yeah, that, that's pretty much it, just so they get time.

Hauth: Okay, yeah, I don't know if anybody else has anything they want to mention on this. But I, I can tell you that I, I received over the last, I don't know, you know, few weeks or longer, I received some feedback from managers are concerned about not only jumping into the self-service initiative, you know, that the vending operators are, you know, being directed to do. But also, like, in a case like Multnomah County where the building's saying, hey, come on, we're open, and they just [inaudible] saying, hey, man get in there, show ‘em your, you know, show ‘em your, your trade! And if, if not, you know, if not maybe possibly at the end of the day the best situation to be in. And again, like Derrick said, we don't really know what's going on even though we're heading in the right direction, and as a businessperson in a business, obviously profitability is the end result. The way you get that profitability is through a lot of different, different ways: customer service, good quality service, you know, cleanliness, blah blah blah. But at the end of the day as a businessperson, it's profitability, and so I, I, I do know that I have some specific concerns. I don't run a live operation like Harold does or Char does, or, you know, Sal does, or a number of others. But I, you know, I'm bound to, even, you know, I'm bound to the, through the agency, bound to the self-service initiative which we started the process on, gosh, a year and a half ago, or a year and three months ago, and Covid hit and we waylaid that. Even though the state of Oregon is going to be reopening in September, I think it's going to be a slow methodical process, not going to, not going to know exactly for sure how many people are going to be in a building, so if I backtrack a year and three months ago, when I was looking at the buildings, and the populations, and the demographics of where I wanted to go and service these locations, those very well could have changed. I won't know that until, you know, governments start to open up and I do the work, I'm trying to determine again, are those the right places? Is this going to be a profitable location? Because when I picked the locations, I did it based on, you know, profitability and travel and, you know, all those scheduling type of things. But, you know, we're facing now numbers of people in buildings coming back are going to be so much different. Even trying to hire somebody like a driver or a routeman, because unemployment, you know, government is, government is competing with the private sector, so… And I think unemployment is, right now, is continuing on through October, so I know people are going to face challenges hiring people. I don't know if you guys have seen or experienced this, but prices are going through the roof. Products, many times, products, from what I'm seeing across the land, which I don't think is any different than here, products you can't even find half of them. You know, if you order ten cases of Coke, you're only going to get five cases, or you're not going to get any, or whatever with the... There's also an expected recession coming up, micro recession, in the next, you know, few months or so. And you know there's definitely some other challenges. Gas is, you know, gas prices have risen, and I'm sure even if you can find somebody to hire, you're going to have to pay through the, through the roof for that. So, what I'm just saying, at least from my mind, is that lookit, we've been on hold here for a year and three months. And nobody's saying lookit, we don't want to go back to work, and we don't want to, you know, do this, that, or the other thing. I think what people are saying is, lookit, we have to do it sensibly, and being we've been out for a year and three months, there really shouldn't be a need just to, you know, get right back in if it doesn't make sense. So, if we could project forward and say, hey, let's start, you know, now that government reopens and we're seeing what's happening, let's start reevaluating and analyzing and let's, planning, like I think Derrick and Harold said, you know, for the first of the year. I mean, I think personally that would make sense, you know, and again, we're not gonna make any decisions about it right today, but, you know, if, if locations open up sooner than that and there's numbers of people in the building that's gonna make that building profitable, then so be it, you know. But anyway, I just want to throw that out, and I know that, you know, that item that you put on there, Lewanda, I think was prompted by some feedback you received from managers, and the item I put on the agenda, I received some feedback from managers.

Miranda: Right.

Hauth: So, you know, I think we need to at least have the discussion and have the agency, you know, consider hopefully a bigger picture on that. And I know in the Governor, Governor’s Executive Order in the reopening it talks about flexibility, and it talks about, you know, sensibly doing, doing those sort [inaudible]. I don't know if anybody else has any comments or discussion around…

D Stevenson: Derrick.

Hauth: …this or not, but… Derrick, go ahead.

D Stevenson: Yeah, I just, you touched a little bit on us having to find drivers and stuff and the fact that it's not feasible. Well, down here, Pepsi, which you know has good benefits, life, lifelong benefits, and good pay, they cannot find people to work. I couldn't, it took me three days to get my order delivered because they were short on drivers, and they were having problems elsewhere. But I mean, every night on the, the local news, Pepsi's got their little thing on there begging people to come in and go to work, and people just aren't doing it. So, that's gonna be a real big thing, ‘cause if Pepsi, with what they pay, and the benefits they have, can't find people, how is one of us who don't, there's no way we can offer anything close to that. How are we supposed to find people to, to hire? That's it.

A Stevenson: Randy.

Hauth: Yeah, thank you, thank you, Derrick. Go ahead, Art.

A Stevenson: Yeah, I, I, I definitely agree with that. But I also, where we at as far as the commissary program goes? I just thought of that here. Otherwise I would have brought it up when we were having reports and stuff like that, but I, I do believe, you know, that we were supposed to be working on the commissary program, which, by the way, you know, they stayed open, they continued, I mean, they worked, you know. In Tennessee we know it, I know for a fact, that they didn't slow down or anything. And they continued to make money, and so, where are we kind of at concerning that? And I apologize that I, I just thought of it, otherwise I would have mentioned it when we had the committee reports, because I do believe that we had assigned, or you had assigned, a special committee to work on that, Randy. And it, it doesn't seem like we're anywhere to take advantage of something that we know is going to continue to exist.

Hauth: Yeah, and you know, I think that’s, I think that's a great point, Art. And, you know, again, like we did with the unassigned vending, you know, the agency and us were at odds for a long time, and at least now, you know, again, it might not be 100% perfect, but we're working toward that, and maybe there's some kind of arrangement, some kind of mutually beneficial arrangement that we can work, you know, with the agency on opening some kind of pilot program through the commissaries. For whatever reason, the agency seems to be little bit reluctant on that. I don't know if it's the push back from the, you know, from the agency, or it's the cost, but I think we need to figure out a win-win for our program and our managers. So, again, let's, let’s not let that fall off the radar. I know we've had, you know, our focus has been on the unassigned vending right now, but hopefully in the next month or so, that will start to unfold and we can start, you know, rolling up our sleeves and digging into that commissary thing, so... That's just my thoughts, so... Anybody else? Okay, Eric, I don't know if you have any comments, or, you know, if you want to mull things over or whatever but…

Morris: Yeah, Randy, I, I can, I can say a couple things. I think the thing, the thing, the thing that people need to keep in mind, even though there's a lot of questions and a lot of uncertainty, is that when state government and the federal government finally say, hey, this is what's gonna happen, you know, hey, we're gonna do x, y, and z, and this is what it's going to look like moving forward. I believe a lot of agencies are going to be coming to us saying, all right, we're back open and, like, the reasonableness thing we just talked about, but the perception is going to be that, you know, everybody's been waiting for, you know, things to get back to normal, and be ready to get going. So, you know, I, I think it's important for managers to really sit back and say, and start working on a plan for what it's going to look like them for a reopening plan for either their live unit, or as we get ready to transition to the self-service vending, and those kind of operations to really have that plan in place. And there's some factors, like you mentioned, that we, we just don't know. But I think, like I said, in the next five, six weeks I think it's going to be very specific for a lot of different buildings about how many people are going to come back on a routine basis. Just because, there has to be some certainty around telework and, you know, people coming into the office and those kind of things. There has to be some certainty, because that's, that's how you run these different agencies. People are scheduled certain days at a certain place, so they're going to have a lot more clarity on that. But I think it's really important for VFMs to sit back and make those plans for how they get back to, you know, what, what's it gonna take to get back—and normal's a bad word to use, ‘cause normal's not normal anymore—but just back to the routine that's going to be what we're going to be doing going forward. And if that's thinking about, you know, getting your insurance back in place if you let that that lag,

‘cause your operation's completely closed. Somebody was talking about inventory, what's that look like from, a, your perspective. You know, just the, the day to day, and quite frankly, if you're using public transportation right now, you should be making plans about how to get to work, to your place of work, because those of us that have been out riding transit for a little while now, it is much different than it was a year ago. It's not the same consistency. It's not the same timing. So, just some of those routine, basic kind of things you need to start planning for, because I think by the time government gets its wheels down rolling, they're going to be like, well, hey, we’re, we’re going, because I think Oregon's actually behind the curve compared to a lot of states. Some of the Southern states have been open for six or eight months, it sounds like. So, I think a lot of, a lot of building managers, and obviously we'll push back if it's unreasonable, if they're, like, hey, you need to open tomorrow. We need to have that lead time, and I've told DAS facilities that, too. We need to have lead time, and every time I talk to a building manager, I say that. But people need to also be, not… Like, if they get the call that, hey, I need to open up soon, they don't, you shouldn't be sitting there going, well, jeez, I really need to think about that. Now is a great time to think about it ‘cause there's not a lot of pressure to do that. So, sit down, sketch it out, and reach out, and let's talk about what it looks like for your facility to do that. And just, I didn't want to forget today, ‘cause we might wrap up pretty soon. I know Char's on the call. I just wanted to give her props, because Char, I think, has set, and I haven't crunched the numbers yet, but she, I think she's set an all-time program record for some of the highest earnings in a single month for the new location out at Silver Falls. It's been, I think, and she will probably echo this, it's one of those super happy, super sad kind of things, ‘cause they're working like maniacs out there, but business is going really good from a, there's a ton of people going to the parks these days. So, I just want to congratulate Char on that.

Hauth: Yeah, awesome, awesome, Char!

Miranda: Congratulations!

Hauth: Yeah, awesome. Is that a seven day a week operation?

Hawkins: Yeah, kinda like 14 switched into seven.

Hauth: Oh, my goodness! Oh, my goodness!

Hawkins: And I guess I just want to say I, I feel what Derrick said. We really are having trouble with deliveries. Pepsi, I didn't even get my last delivery. That's the second time that's happened. They just cancel it after a week, and then you just have to reorder. And then we had one of our 50 case deliveries taken back to Woodburn the other day that was supposed to be at the Falls because the driver ran out of hours. So, he couldn't work any more hours, so he just took it back. And so, Jerry and I had to go get it. And it was like, I mean, ice cream is our number one seller up there, and it was probably 30 cases of Ruby Jewel ice cream sandwiches that we're trying to transport in our jeep on a summer morning. So...

Hauth: Wow, wow.

Hawkins: We made it, it didn't melt, but it's, it’s a very, it's a challenge. And you're right with delivery drivers. We, Jerry and I, have been doing our vending route, which, it has, you know, it's gone from 42 machines to pretty much 16 right now. We have been, because number one, no driver wants to work for 12 hours a week, but no driver has wanted to work anyway when everything was closed, and so, Jerry and I have been doing this for the last year, and now we possibly have a driver. We don't know, he's gonna let us know, but it's, it’s incredible. And you're, we're having to pay, you know, like $17 an hour. Even to put it on Indeed, their recommendation was $15-$17 with no experience, except driving.

Hauth: Wow.

Hawkins: It, it’s, it's incredible, because we can't pay benefits, and so…

Hauth: Sure.

Hawkins: It has its challenges, but it's a fun place to work, and I really am grateful for the opportunity. And, yeah, people seem to be happy, and we sell lots of ice cream, I'll tell ya.

Hauth: Well, that's, that’s awesome, Char. Thank you for, thank you for sharing it, some of the challenges, and thank you for setting an all-time record, and I hope it continues in the right direction.

Hawkins: Yeah, I guess I hope that, too.

Hauth: I can just, I can just say I'm glad it's not me. So…

Hawkins: Yeah, yeah, exactly.

A Stevenson: Randy?

Hauth: Yeah, Art?

A Stevenson: When are we gonna find out about, too, because I know that prisons have not opened up visitation. Well, they've opened up visitation, but they have not opened up the vending for that. There seems to be no even thought or any information on when that possibly could occur, or if it even is going to occur. And if that's the case, and, and they're not going to do it, then all those managers who have had, had, you know were making a decent income, aren't going to be making that income and, and therefore some kind of adjustment I do believe definitely needs to make, to be made. And so, I would urge, you know, Eric, to find out, you know, what are the plans there? And, and then we also need to make changes if this is going to be common protocol now, that they're going to have shorter visits, no, no vending, then those people who have suffered a tremendous income loss that somehow needs to be replaced.

Morris: Art, let me reach out, and I'll find out, and I'll send you guys a note.

A Stevenson: Well, that would be helpful, because, you know, they have shortened the visiting time, and they have claimed, well, we're not gonna let people eat snacks and stuff like that, and we all know that you have snack machines and, you know, open all along during this whole thing, and there has been no problems or anything, but we also can make adjustments and put hand sanitizer right there or whatever. But if they're letting people into the visiting, you know, it seems to me that, that it's just as safe to allow them to munch on a soda pop or eat a snack as long as they don't go and, and share it. So, they actually could, you know, make new rules, Eric, that there's no snack sharing, but that individuals can, you know, buy a snack or a pop and, and that individual could be the only one that can do it. So, I appreciate you reaching ‘em out, out to them, Eric, because if this is going to be a permanent thing, then I do believe that, that we need to replace the income for the losses that all the managers have suffered because of no visitation and no vending. All right, thank you.

Morris: I'll find out, Art. I'll let you guys know.

Miranda: E, [inaudible].

Hauth: What's next, Lewanda?

Miranda: It's Old Business, Social Security documentation, requested annually. And so, I touched on this a little bit the other day, Eric, with you. So, a lot of times Social Security will come and want to, you know, usually they say that, that you're making too much money. And when you get the letter from them, you only have ten days to respond, and a lot of times now they're just cutting people's income off, their social security income off. And so, I wanted to know if we could get annually, maybe in January, the unincurred business expenses for each manager and also the managerial services, because that can be deducted. If you have 16 managers, you know, and it’s $260,000 a year, then you can deduct that by 16 people. So, I was wondering if there was any way that you could get that to us, so we don't end up in a jam and get, you know, that taken away.

Morris: Yeah, Lewanda, I, I know we've…

Miranda: Or on hold.

Morris: I know we talked about it before, and it, it seemed like we’d talked about this maybe a year or so ago, and Accounting's went through a whole bunch of different reiterations. And I talked to Accounting recently, and it sounds like we could probably do it in February, ‘cause January, I guess, is pretty loaded up on their end for reporting and stuff. But it sounds like we should be able to establish this for an every February kind of thing. ‘Cause I agree, it’s, it's hard for them to do it ad hoc, you know, which is when, and we've had probably—I was trying to count in my head, probably half a dozen of these during my time here—and it is, I know it’s super stressful for the VFM. Accounting isn't used to doing it if you only do it once in a while. But I think doing it in one big shot for everybody would be a pretty straightforward process we could get it, get our heads wrapped around and get it out in February.

Miranda: Okay, I think February sounds good. As long as we can expect that every year and then, you know, like a lot of times I know they come back for the last six years, seven years, so if we could get those each year, and then the managers would be responsible to, you know, have those on hand. So… Thank you.

Morris: Yeah, and I could, I could maybe check and see how hard it—I think it would be fairly straightforward on an annual basis—but yeah, maybe we just start doing it annually, and then if somebody has to do a farther look back… I mean, they only retain so many years of information, but yeah, definitely I think, yeah, it’d be good, and we'd have a copy of it, too, if people lost it or something like that, too.

Miranda: Okay, thank you. Next… Or, did anybody want to talk on that? Okay, seven is chairman's comments and report.

Hauth: Okay, well, I mean, I made a bunch of comments during the meeting, so… I just, you know, I just anticipate that we're going to continue to move forward and, you know, get some things done here that, like the unassigned vending, and the commissaries, and [inaudible] I’m hopeful, and envision that. You know, somehow, we can put our differences aside, again, even though it's not going to be 100%. If we can somehow begrudgingly work with the agency, you know, or they can work with us. I mean, obviously, it’s, I think there's been a lot of personal issues regardless, and I don't think those helped any of us. So, we can agree to disagree and, you know, but, hopefully we're going to just continue to, you know, help… I know these are challenging times, but we're going to hopefully help make some new opportunities. And, you know, if Eric, like Eric said he'll reach out on Art's request and we can get that information back. I mean, those are the kind of things that are going to continue to build our relationship and trust, and, you know, we can do the same. I think we'll be heading in the right direction, but, I mean, I don't, I don’t have anything really magical or special to say, other than, you know, we're all in this together. And I know the state is starting to open up, but we still have to be really cautious and not rush into anything that's going to, you know, put somebody in a compromising financial position, so that's all.

A Stevenson: Hey, Randy?

Hauth: Yes, Art?

A Stevenson: Yeah, something just popped in my head. I know we had talked about that Eric would share with us surveys being done and all that, and I don't remember receiving any new surveys. Are, are we getting any requests, or are there any surveys being done on anything, Eric? That, maybe it just slipped your… That just popped in my head, I'm sorry, but I just, you know…

Morris: Yeah, no, Art, we've, we've done a few. There hasn't been a whole bunch, but it seems like the last time I tried to push ‘em to ya, it bounced back. But that's been quite a while ago. But I'll make sure we collect them up and get ‘em pushed to ya. I, I, I think we may have stopped doing them. That may have just fell off the radar, but we can definitely start doing that.

A Stevenson: Okay, well, I was just, I was just curious about that, ‘cause I know that's one reason we have our person out there, and doing things, or going out and looking for stuff, possibilities or anything. Okay, well, thank you on that one.

Hauth: Okay, anything else from anybody? Anything else on the agenda, Lewanda, or was that it?

D Stevenson: This is Derrick.

Hauth: Derrick, go for it.

Miranda: Next after Derrick will be adjournment.

Hauth: Go ahead, Derrick.

D Stevenson: Yeah, I wanted to touch, I wanted to touch a little bit on the, the feasibility of self serving 50 machines and stuff, and the state, you know, forcing us to work a certain amount of hours. And, but, they want us to work the hours, but they don't want to guarantee that we're going to make a fair minimum, minimum wage in order to do it. So, basically you, you got a manager that's making a $1, $1 an hour and not making any money at all without any kind of relief for, you know, fair minimum return. I think that something has to be established so that the manager's at least making a minimum amount of money if they’re, if they’re self serving. So that's… I mean, feasibility is, is the key word, and if it's not feasible, you know, they should recognize that it's not feasible, and, and come up with a different idea on how to handle things. The law, you know, the state law says we can, we can, we can hire subcontractors and stuff, and if that's, you know, the only way we're gonna be able to make money, then they, we should be allowed to do that. That's all.

Hauth: Thank you, Derrick. Anyone else? All right, well, thanks everybody who joined in for joining in, and sorry about the horn honking in the background. But, Eric, thanks for being on here, as well.

Morris: Yeah, Randy. Everybody, everybody have a good night.

Hauth: Let’s go ahead and adjourn the meeting. You bet, you, as well.

Miranda: Thank you, bye.

**Motions Passed**

1. **“…that we adopt past meeting’s minutes.”**

Proposed: Lewanda Miranda. Seconded: Steve Jackson. Passed.