

Commissioner Minutes

January 21, 9:32 a.m. – 9:39 a.m.

MEETING TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATED TO COUNTY ASSISTANCE

Commissioners Leslie Van Beek, Brad Holton and Zach Brooks

Case Manager Kellie George

Director of County Assistance Yvonne Baker

Treasurer Jennifer Watters

Chief Deputy Treasurer Steve Onofrei

Deputy Clerk Diana Hoffman_____

MEETING TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATED TO COUNTY ASSISTANCE

The Board met today at 9:32 a.m. to consider matters related to County Assistance. Present were Commissioners Leslie Van Beek, Brad Holton, and Zach Brooks; Case Manager Kellie George; Director of County Assistance Yvonne Baker; Treasurer Jennifer Waters; Chief Deputy Treasurer Steve Onofrei; and Deputy Clerk Diana Hoffman.

Consider approval/denial of decisions and signing of liens:

Case No. 2026-9 Ms. Baker stated her office received the application on January 12 from the decedent's stepdaughter. The decedent passed away on January 12. They resided at Canyon West of Cascadia in Caldwell for more than 30 days prior to passing, establishing residency. Income included SSI benefits, with the majority going toward the cost of care at the nursing home. The decedent received \$30 a month for personal items. There were no assets, including no vehicle. The decedent meets the criteria of being indigent.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Van Beek and a second by Commissioner Brooks, the Board voted unanimously to approve Case No. 2026-9 as presented.

Case No. 2026-10 Ms. George noted that the decedent passed away on December 9, 2025. County Assistance received the application on January 12. The applicant was not married and had three adult children. The decedent lived with her daughter in Caldwell and received hospice care there, establishing residency. The Daughter reported that the decedent's personal possessions were cleared out of her previous apartment and donated. The decedent's personal vehicle was towed away per the daughter. The daughter was not able to access the bank account.

The investigation identified personal property in the form of a registered vehicle and a US Bank account. The registered vehicle does have a lien holder. The children provided statements regarding their lack of ability to pay for cremation services. Income (\$945) and expenses lack the means to cover the cremation.

Commissioner Van Beek mentioned the flow chart created for Indigent Services by the Board, which clearly states that if a family members confiscate identified assets, it disqualifies constituents from participating in this loan program. Without the missing financial information, Commissioner Van Beek stated she cannot support this case.

Upon the motion by Commissioner Van Beek and a second by Commissioner Brooks, the Board voted unanimously to deny the request for cremation assistance on Case No. 2026-10, as the county is not the payer of last resort and the applicant has resources that were accessible.

Upon the motion by Commissioner Holton and a second by Commissioner Van Beek, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 a.m.