

**Travel Information Council  
Meeting  
Thursday, January 26, 2012  
Telephonically**

**Council Participating:**

Chair Drew Roslund, Hospitality Industry  
George Forbes, Hospitality Industry  
Tom Loun, Electrical Sign Industry  
Mike Drennan, Member at Large

Vice Chair Steve Peterson, Member at Large  
Sandy Flicker, Member at Large  
Paul Mather, ODOT

**Absent:**

Secretary Rod Miles, Outdoor Advertising Industry David Porter, Member at Large  
Maria Ponzi, Member at Large Bob Russell, Vehicular Services

**Guests Present:**

Craig Campbell, Lobbyist Rick Metzger, Public

**OTE Staff Participating:**

Cheryl Gribskov, CEO	Tim Pickett, CBO	Annie Von Domitz, CCAO
Jim Renner, CRPA	Madeline McGregor, CCS	Harry Falisec
Jenn Smith	Heather Swanson	John Hafner
Diane Cheyne	Tannery Cheyne	Ed Bengtson
Jason Nash	David Patton	Sarah Flores
Terry Hauck	Luc Rizzo	Sue VanHandel
Mark Grinde	Kevin Smolich	Nancy Rold
Grant Christensen	Joleen Odens	John Tucker
Norm Nelson	Jeff Wherry	

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Chair Roslund called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM. He then welcomed council members and staff.

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**Introductions:** Gribskov informed the group the Craig Campbell, Lobbyist and Rick Metzger, interested member of the public, were joining the meeting. Roslund recognized the Rest Area staffs that were present from Manzanita, Boardman, Santiam, Ontario and Baldock.

**Public Testimony**

Roslund asked if any of the guests would like to testify; noting no requests, Roslund stated there would not be any public testimony.

**Executive Reports**

- A. **Approval of December 9, 2011 Minutes:** Roslund requested a motion that the December 9, 2011 minutes be approved. Loun made a motion to approve; Flicker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. **TIC Financials:** Drennan told the group the dates being reported are for month ending December 2011 and the 6 months prior. Based on Bengtson's report, the agency had \$27,000 cash available in unrestricted funds; part of that dollar amount, however, is in the Roadside Council fund and rather than spending it, the goal is to build it up. On the rest area side, things are going well and the fund is built up to \$300,000. For calendar year ending 2011, OTE ended with a surplus of \$112,000, however most of that will be used to bring down the payables.

Drennan informed the group that it has been discovered that OTE did not pay all that was required for the PERS pension bonds for 13 months. He said staff will start paying the required amount going forward. It is not yet

clear whether or not OTE will have to pay the months missed. If it is decided OTE will need to pay back those months, it appears it will be able to make payments.

Drennan told the group that there were bonuses paid in December, however they were much less than last year.

Regarding accounts payable, Drennan said there are two large amounts; a portion of that to Coral Construction and the remaining to ODOT.

Drennan praised staff on the collection of the accounts receivable. There are only a few in the over 90 days category.

Drennan told the Council that the Finance Committee is keeping a close eye on the cash flow in addition to meeting once a month. Bengtson & Pickett have done a good job of keeping the committee updated regularly.

Drennan expressed some concern due to the December loss and the overall year-end loss. The Finance Committee is working to bring the income and expenses in line with each other. However, some of that will depend on what happens during the upcoming legislative session.

Drennan said the Finance Committee was somewhat surprised about the over in payroll. However that was accounted for due to the heavy traffic and vacations at the rest areas.

Loun asked if the Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts line item was actual or budgeted. Pickett explained that it is an accumulated allowance not an actual loss. The number is subject to review based on sales reporting and could go down.

Loun requested reporting show year-to-year comparison. Pickett said in time that would be possible, however, it will take some time.

Mather questioned whether or not bonuses had been an historic practice. Pickett said that yes, it has historically been a tool of compensation.

Drennan made the motion to approve the financial report; Forbes seconded. Motion passed.

## **New Business**

- A. Government Camp Rest Stop:** Gribskov reported OTE has an agreement with ODOT to manage Government Camp rest area until March 31, 2012 in partnership with Clackamas County. ODOT has offered to take over the rest area April 1, 2012.

Mather clarified that because of pressure from the Governor's office, ODOT will be taking the rest area back and running it as before.

Drennan questioned how OTE's budget and staff is handling the extra load the rest area is adding. Pickett told the group that the plan that was designed with rest area staff has been implemented. This included taking two of the experienced ground staff from the Baldock rest area and having them work the Government Camp rest area 10% of their time.

In regard to costs, based on the report given OTE by ODOT, the assumption was the monthly cost would be \$7500.00. This has been the case and OTE has been paying about ½ of that monthly cost, with Clackamas County covering the remaining in the form of utility costs.

Pickett advised the committee of some of the challenges staff has encountered at the rest area. These include massive amounts of snow, use of facilities as a lodge, parties, etc. Another unexpected challenge was the necessity of front-loading some of the supplies.

On a positive note, Pickett told the Council about the positive input received by the Veterans that use the facility on their trip to the VA hospital in Portland from Bend. The comments were directed to OTE staff and their willingness to help make sure the Veterans are able to safely use the facilities.

The bottom line is the impact is not significantly different that what was planned, but we will not be able to sustain the use of the Baldock work force.

Drennan asked why the date of April 1, 2012. Mather advised that is the terms of the interagency agreement.

Gribskov advised that OTE has not had any conversations to change the agreement with ODOT or Clackamas County. She suggested that as long as there isn't any significant impact, we continue to move forward as agreed.

**B. Legislative Concepts:** Campbell gave an overview of the LC 64. The bill would adjust some statutory council language. A lot of the language is not longer consistent with the agency. Mostly because of the rest areas and the economic development associated with them.

The bill will also change the council make-up. It would change all members to be "At Large" except the ODOT position. The rest of the council will be selected based on their knowledge, experience or interest in economic development, travel within Oregon, recreational opportunities in Oregon, Oregon's history or Oregon's natural history.

The third thing the bill will do will transfer the management of a number of rest areas from ODOT to OTE. These include the remainder of rest areas on I-5, I-84, Government Camp and Highway 97.

Mather noted that ODOT is very interested in having conversations about transferring of the rest areas.

Campbell said the one big issue is how the running of the rest areas is paid for. The one way to do it is to pay for the rest areas off the top of the Highway fund, which is how the first 10 rest areas were funded. Another option is to wait until after cities and counties receive their portion of the funds and then go to them for funding. If the second option was chosen, it would all have to come from the ODOT portion of the funding.

The feedback received from the cities, counties and legislators was they did not want to go with the first option. Part of the reason for this is because ODOT is already receiving less money from the Federal Highway fund.

In light of that, other funding sources may be options. The first is to phase in the rest areas between now and 2014. The second option will be to approach Parks for some funding because of the similar mission OTE has with them. The funding conversations with Parks and ODOT will be considered a temporary funding solution, with the understanding that when the new transportation funding package is designed, some of those funds will be directed to OTE's management of the rest areas.

Phase one in discussion of the bill will be the policy aspect and getting buy-in. Campbell reported that the legislators they have had conversations with are pleased with the work OTE has done with the rest areas and are encouraged about the idea of giving OTE more.

The second phase will be funding. Specifically which rest areas OTE takes and when they will come on.

In addition the bill will request rule making authority over the rest areas. The bill will adopt the rules already in adopted by the Transportation Commission.

Drennan asked about the ownership of the rest area property. Campbell replied that yes, in fact the ownership would be transferred to OTE, specifically in regard to the Government Camp rest area building. In order for us to have an agreement with the Forest Service, OTE must own the building.

Forbes asked Rolund if this LC was an action item, Rolund replied it was and requested a motion to approve LC 64 as written.

Mather requested clarification of the rest areas on Highway 97 and Ashland. Campbell referred to page 13 of the LC to indicate the rest areas on Highway 97 were included.

Drennan inquired as to how the dollar amount in the LC was determined. Gribskov replied that it was based on the research Pickett and Renner have been compiling based on our current rest area stats. Campbell clarified that funds shown in the LC are restricted by the rules stated in the Highway Trust Fund. Things such as economic development cannot be taken out of these funds.

Flicker made a motion that the Council support LC64 as written; Forbes seconded. Motion passed with Mather abstaining.

Roslund thank Campbell for his hard work and effort on the LC. In response, Campbell acknowledged the support of Senator Courtney and Senator Thompson, among others.

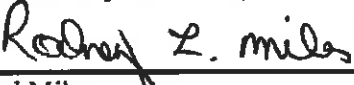
- C. **Next meeting:** Roslund asked if there was any new information in regard to the March 1-2 meeting. Smith reported that we have decided the place for dinner (Amadeus Café), but the details are still in the works. She let the Council know that as soon as the details are know, she will pass them along.

#### **Adjournment**

Roslund asked if there was any business for the good of the order; hearing none he thanked Gribskov and Campbell for all of the hard work they have put in to get OTE to this point with the legislation.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Rod Miles  
Council Secretary