



Linn County NEWS



Contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email: apaul@co.linn.or.us

First Time Youth Wage stipend will be \$5 per hour

ALBANY — Linn County will partner with the Willamette Workforce Partnership to increase the hourly stipend paid to local employers who hire young people for their first jobs, from \$2 per hour to \$5 per hour this coming summer.

Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker approved changes for the Linn County First Time Youth Wage Grant Program's 16th year at Tuesday mornings board meeting.

The program will continue to operate through the Linn County Board of Commissioner's office.

Linn County will be reimbursed by the Willamette Workforce Partnership for 50% of expended funding at the end of the summer season. The money comes from federal workforce program.

This year's program will be for young people ages 14 to 19 years of age. Employers can hire up to four youth and have a maximum reimbursement of \$6,000.

In 2021, the program temporarily increased the hourly stipend to \$4 per hour and reimbursed \$70,770 to 28 companies that employed 61 young people. The young people logged almost 18,000 hours of work experience.

The young people received a broad range of work experiences, from restaurants to farming.

To learn more about the program, contact Administrative Assistant Heather Gravelle at 541-967-3825.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Were informed by Administrative Officer Darrin Lane that contracts have been approved with the Linn County Juvenile Detention Workers

Association and the Linn County Deputy Sheriff's Association. Lane said the contracts share much common language, which has been a goal in recent years. The deputy's bargaining agreement's major components include a 5% COLA and 3% market adjustment in year one; years two and three include a 2 to 3% COLA based on the Consumer Price Index. The JDWA contract's major components include a 5% COLA in year one; years two and three include a 2 to 4% COLA based on CPI. A third longevity step of 2.5% will be added at 20 years of service.

- Were told by Fair & Expo Center Director Randy Porter that the addition of new fiber optics at the facility is nearly done and he is seeking bids for a Wi-Fi provider. He said events are picking up and ticket sales for the main stage acts at the July county fair are strong.
- Approved an agreement with William and Mary Brock to purchase rock from the Brock Quarry near Scio. It is for six years with an additional six years extension if there is sufficient aggregate available.
- Approved a Declaration of Necessity as a prerequisite to developing a right-of-way for the Seven Mile Lane Selmet Entrance Improvement Project. Funding is by the Oregon Business Development Program and will include widening, adding a center turn lane and realignment of a driveway access to address safety concerns.
- Approved purchasing a self-propelled sweeper from Pape' Machinery for the Road Department

for \$87,439.

- Approved the following actions within the Linn County Department of Health Services: The Department of Corrections to provide a half-time Probation Officer Liaison, transitional housing, transportation assistance, DMV ID assistance and shelter services noted to exceed \$385,907; a student affiliation agreement between Linn County and Samford University College of Health Sciences to provide unpaid internships to students in the Master's Degree level mental health programs; a personal services agreement with Casa Latinos Unidos for \$110,000 to provide a bilingual/bicultural staff member to conduct outreach and service coordination to the Latinx community in Linn County. The commissioners also appointed Kami Beard and Emma Deane to the Linn County Mental Health Advisory Board.
- Were asked by former County Commissioner Cliff Wooten if the refuse transfer station near Lebanon will open again. The commissioners said the issue has been discussed by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, but there has not been any movement on the issue.

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