**BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM OF OREGON BECC Special Meeting**

**Thursday, September 7th, 2023**

**2:30 PM – 4:30PM**

OREGON COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

This meeting will be held by videoconference. Attend the meeting using the Zoom.com platform or by telephone.

• Any agenda item may become an action item.

• Any of these items may be a conflict of interest.

AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order- Chairman Hauth.
   1. Roll call.
   2. Adoption of past meeting minutes.
2. Public Comments.
3. Committee reports.
4. New Business
   1. Camp Rilea bid announcement.
   2. VFM’s repair process.
   3. Complaints.
   4. Appropriate resources and equipment for vending routes.
5. Old Business.
   1. Rules & Regs, Active Participation.

Adjournment

**Transcript**

A Stevenson: Okay, I'd like to call the, this meeting of the Elected Committee to order. And Carole?

Webber: Uh huh?

A Stevenson: Yeah, would you help me with the agenda as we go along? I, I know the first stuff, but...

Webber: Of course, of course.

A Stevenson: Call Derrick and tell him to get on the meeting. Okay, sorry about that. I'm having Niki calling Derrick to remind him about the meeting. He's got a lot on his plate right now, cause like I said, he had, there was a death in the family.

Wolff: Sorry.

A Stevenson: And so, yeah, his mind may not be ordered. Alright, the meeting's been called to order. Okay, I would entertain a motion for the last meeting so we could get that out of the way.

Webber: I make a motion that we accept the minutes for the last meeting.

A Stevenson: Do I have a second?

Jackson: I'll second.

A Stevenson: Okay, Steve seconded it. Moved and seconded that we do that. And so, all those, all those in favor say aye. Aye.

Webber: Aye.

Jackson: Aye.

A Stevenson: Opposed? Motion carries.

Wolff: Hey, Art?

A Stevenson: What?

Wolff: Can you take, can you take roll, since we got it recording? So, I'm sorry.

A Stevenson: Okay.

Wolff: That'd be great, just so we get on record who's here, because I just, didn't start recording until I thought everyone was here. So, let's just make sure.

A Stevenson: Okay.

Wolff: Sorry about that.

A Stevenson: Okay, most. No, that's fine. That is fine. Okay, so, anyways, minutes have been taken and now we'll do a roll call. Obviously, Carole's here. Steve is here. Randy is here. I'm here. From the Elected Committee, Derrick's not on yet. And just so everybody knows, Lewanda, since she isn't here, is not going to be on the meeting today. She has had a medical emergency with her son, Brandon. And everybody, say a prayer for our buddy Brandon. A lot of us have met him. He's like part of the family. And, and he is having emergency surgery today, so, everybody do that. Lewanda is excused from this meeting because of that medical emergency. Okay, let's do a roll call. Celyn Brown's here.

Brown: Yes.

A Stevenson: Yeah, Celyn Brown's here, any other managers from Portland on the line? No? Okay. Any managers from Salem on the line?

Jackson: [inaudible] Carole. Did you mention her name? I guess you said that she's there.

A Stevenson: Who was that? Any managers from Salem other than the Elected Committee on the line? No? Okay. Any other managers from the outlying areas on the line? Okay. Is that okay, Michael, or do you need names?

Wolff: Looks like we've got, I want to confirm that Michael Babcock's on the call.

Babcock: Yup, Michael Babcock is here.

Wolff: Okay. Thank you. And then, Art, it looked like one more person joined just now, too.

A Stevenson: Who just joined us? Was that you, Derrick?

Ted Hughes: Do you want to tell them about us? No?

Gary Hughes: Non-manager, Ted.

A Stevenson: Oh, okay. Okay, that was a visitor. A member of the public, Michael.

Gary Hughes: Legal genius, legal genius.

A Stevenson: Yeah, Ted, Ted Hughes and his son, Gary. Very dear friends. Welcome, guys, glad you're listening today. Okay. And welcome to you, Michael.

Wolff: Thank you.

A Stevenson: Glad, Michael Babcock. But glad to have you on the line today, Commissioner. Really do appreciate it. Okay, next on the agenda is public comment, correct, Carole?

Webber: Yes.

D Stevenson: Derrick's here.

A Stevenson: Hey, there we go. Alright. We definitely got all but one and Lewanda's been excused. Okay, want to open it up for any public comment. Let's do this kind of, anybody from Portland have a public comment?

Hauth: Yeah, Art, I have…

Webber: Actually, I do, Art.

Hauth: Go, go ahead, Carole.

A Stevenson: Hold on.

Webber: Are you sure? Okay.

A Stevenson: Ladies first.

Hauth: Ladies, ladies, first.

Webber: Okay. I just wanted to make a comment here. I know there's not hardly anybody on this call, but I'm hoping that people do listen to recording and Kathy has sent out a survey about our In-Service training and I urge everyone to please comment. You know, answer the questions, and send that survey back. It is important. And I urge everybody to do so. Thanks.

A Stevenson: Good comment, Carole.

Webber: Thank you.

A Stevenson: All right, Randy, you're up.

Hauth: All right, all right, all right.

A Stevenson: You're up.

Hauth: Yeah, nice, alright. Yeah, nice, nice, comment, Carole. As you notice within the rules and regulations and governances it does empower the Elected Committee to formulate these trainings with the assistance of the agency, and so, over the years sometimes there's been a lot of apathy where people either don't take the time to participate or don't have the time to participate or whatever it is. So, it's gone back and forth where the Elected Committee has established trainings and then a couple of times the agency basically took it over and, you know, put forward their agenda, but, you know, if you don't speak up and recommend training items then we don't really have anything to complain about. So, please be part of it, and so… But I did want to say, as Art mentioned earlier, you know, so, I've been the Chair as, off and on for a number of years and I know Art has served as my right-hand Vice Chair, supported by the Elected Committee. So, usually the Chair runs the meetings, but you know, it seems that no matter what and when we schedule these meetings, I'm always either in the car with Linda or I'm at a [sic] appointment and so, this meeting was requested by Art, and so I couldn't confirm that I would be participatory in this meeting. Luckily, I am here, but I'm just here to listen and the Vice Chair is gonna run the meeting and I'll make comments as appropriate. One thing I did want to mention, and maybe Michael Wolff can share this with us as we go along. I mean, obviously, it's baptism by fire, right? OJT, on the job training. And I'm not sure of, Michael, how familiar you were with the program, and I'm not sure how familiar you are still with the program, if you're gonna be here for three months or three years, you know. So, we're all trying to kind of navigate that change in directorship. I believe most everybody on this call is happy that we have, hopefully, a new direction with the program and new leadership. Again, if you're here temporarily or permanently, right, we're not quite sure. But the question, the long way around that question is how in the world, what, how, how in the world is it that you're gaining information? Like, are you…? If you have a question that you don't quite understand, are you going to the Attorney General's office, are you going to Dacia Johnson, are you going to Ben or Teresa? Cause I know the Elected Committee and you haven't had a lot of interactions as of yet. So, that was just what I was pondering, how you're formulating your knowledge base and understanding of the program. So, you know, you can answer that now or you can answer it later, but it would be nice to know, so we can, you know, engage with you, as well. So.

Wolff: Yeah, let me put that down and I will answer that later, okay?

Hauth: Sure, you bet.

Wolff: Thank you, Chairman.

A Stevenson: Alright, so, Randy had public comment. So, anybody else from Portland, and, and anybody else from Portland have a public comment? Okay, let's move to the outlying areas. Anybody in the outlying areas have a public comment? Nobody takes. Okay, anybody from Salem have a public comment? No takers. I may have a public comment, but I'm giving everybody first turns, so, just because I live in Salem doesn't mean I'm not gonna make, I might make one. Okay so, anybody from the public? Well, let, let me. Take that back for a second. Mr. Babcock? As a Commissioner, who we appreciate very much because you take the time to listen about, listen to our meetings, participate in our meetings sometimes when you've got questions and stuff, and truly speaking, I am very, very pleased that at least one Commissioner takes the time and the effort to learn about the vending program. And so, Michael, if you don't have a comment that's fine, but I wanted to give you an opportunity because I want to say we appreciate you, because you're actually doing your job as a Commissioner.

Babcock: Well, Art, I appreciate that and thank you. I want to start out by letting people know that, you know, I, I understand there's a lot of concerns and problems that I have struggled to understand over the last four years as a Commissioner. I hope that I'm doing my best to be able to answer questions that people bring up to me and I will conclude this, this brief public comment with saying, if any manager or any member of the Elected Committee wants to call me, ask Art, I probably won't answer your text messages, but call me. Art has my phone number. I have no problem with talking to people and I am ultimately willing to listen. I, I tell people I definitely cannot guarantee a change will be made. But I'm open to listening and supporting how possible. The biggest question that I want to ask any individual when you reach out is what is it that you want to see happen. And I've heard a lot of what I want to see happen and those are reflected on the, on the, meeting for Commissioners. So, appreciate the time, Art, and I have no additional comments.

A Stevenson: Michael, thanks, but I think you might have an additional comment. Just so everybody knows, Michael is the ACB representative on the Commission board. The NFB has a representative and the ACB has a representative. And Michael isn't something coming up here in the near future that you might want to, well, obviously, take a second to promote your organization, but also talk about your training or something you got coming up next month? That people might be interested in gaining some extra knowledge and expertise?

Babcock: Maybe? I, I don't know if we're talking about the same thing there, Art, but I, the thing I know coming up next month is ACB does have our conference and convention coming up in Coos Bay at the Mill Casino. And it's a great opportunity for me to get to know other, other blind and sight impaired individuals throughout the state and that invitation to come down to that conferencing convention is definitely extended to anyone even if you aren't necessarily affiliated with ACB of Oregon, because there's nothing like connections that can be built in-person. I had the honors of meeting Michael Talley last summer in Omaha, Nebraska. And him and I sat down and, and had some very down-to-earth conversations and it was well worth me going there for that, especially since I was able to learn more about not only Oregon's program, but the rest of the programs throughout the United States. Is that what you were talking about, Art, or is there something else I'm supposed to know about?

A Stevenson: Yeah, no, no, no, no, you're, you're, you’re, you're that's exactly what I wanted you to talk about, Mr. Babcock.

Babcock: Thank you, Art.

A Stevenson: And, obviously, yeah, well, let me just say, okay, that the ACB of Oregon has a long history with the vending program and has done a lot of things for the vending program. They, the man by the name of Wally Menning actually, you know, got the mini–Randolph Sheppard Act introduced here in the state of Oregon. And so, we all have to thank The ACB of Oregon, for their proactiveness at making the vending program here in Oregon better, more opportunities for blind persons to get, to have jobs. And fort, the Fort Rilea thing is a perfect example of it. So, anyways, on that, is there any other public comments? Okay, moving right along, next on the agenda I bet is committee reports, isn't it?

Webber: Yes, sir.

A Stevenson: Oh, by golly. Hey, alright.

Webber: Probably the only time you hear it, Art. So, love it.

A Stevenson: Wha, wha, what, what was that, Carole?

Webber: I said, that's the only time that you're gonna hear it, sir.

A Stevenson: Oh, okay, okay. I, I enjoy it. Okay, we got committee reports. First of all, would be the Vending Facility Development Committee, which unfortunately at this time only has one person on the committee, which is actually a shame, and that person happens to be me. And so, I would like to report that the vending facility development in the state of Oregon, needs to more inclusive of the Elected Committee. The laws and rules and regulations stipulate, okay, that the Elected Committee be involved in program development. And vending facility development is most definitely, definitely, program development. There is no doubt about it. And quite frankly, there hasn't been a good job done by the agency embracing the Vending Facility Development Committee and the Elected Committee in the development of vending facilities, which obviously, is a violation of the laws and the rules and regulations of our program. Perfect example, who is that? There's a heck of a noise there that's very distracting, can you please put yourself on mute? Most appreciate it. Thank you. Okay, back to the report. The law requires that the Elected Committee be involved, and we are not being involved. And part of the reason I believe that a couple of people that were on the vending facility committee resigned.

is because they're tired of beating their head up against a brick wall and being ignored. And nothing truthfully getting done in a collaborative way. Very sad to me, because obviously, managers are out there in the trenches and spend a lot of time trying to improve their units, definitely learn new trends and stuff like that, and so, the collaborative effort must start. Things that are not occurring now, is that we're not involved in making surveys and determining whether a location is going to be feasible or not feasible. And our knowledge and expertise in making the decisions whether we move forward with something or we don't, is critical in the success of this program. I'm going to give you a quick, quick example of lack of participation and lack of actually listening to the Elected Committee and the Vending Facility Development Committee, when they give advice, needs to be done. And the perfect example of a location failing when the Elected Committee, in all actuality, recommended that that, that particular facility not be started, and sure as heck, it went belly up, and it lost money. And I'm not sure because we don't get access to all program relevant information, but I also think that there might have been set-aside owed that wasn't paid, which definitely hurts the program. So, in conclusion, active participation of the Elected Committee and the vending facility committee is crucial to our success. That's why the law says it's supposed to happen. And so, hopefully, we're in a new day and we are going to be included in surveys. I know Lewanda has constantly requested program relevant information be supplied to us, and it hasn't been. And it's required by the law, like the monthly reports from vending. And, also, when surveys are done, we're supposed to receive copies of those surveys so we could look at it and see if facilities are feasible or not feasible, and too often, there has been things established that aren't very profitable and, you know, the managers tend to be working for free or pennies. And that's just absolutely wrong. So, in conclusion, I'm hoping changes will be made and

we will definitely start receiving the program relevant information that we need in order to make sure that our program runs like other states. Because I know these successful states that have a positive relationship are a lot better programs than what ours is. Okay, my report is over for now. Any other, oh, Lewanda is gone, and she's in charge of the In-Service training committee. And so, let me say Carole mentioned that we need your input. Which is a definite, in order to have successful, successful In-Service trainings. And God, I'm sorry, Lewanda couldn't be here, but that's a quick r--, that's almost the end of the report, cause I'm, I’m kind of involved with Lewanda in the In-Service training stuff. We talk about it a lot. We interact back and forth. However, since I'm giving this report on the In-Service training thing, I would like to make a motion. As Randy had mentioned, you know, we're, we're really supposed to be, the Elected Committee, is supposed to be intricately in charge of putting together the In-Service training, along with the assistance of the Commission for the Blind. And so, I will, am going to make a motion, that we have an in-person training in Salem, Oregon on, on the date that we decide, that is, it's going to happen. And I believe it's in November, but anyways, I make the motion that we have it here in Salem, Oregon, and that it'd be an in-person In-Service training. Do I have a second on that motion?

D Stevenson: I second.

A Stevenson: It's been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion on the matter?

Webber: Yes, sir, I have a discussion on the matter. Carole.

A Stevenson: Okay, Carole.

Webber: I am not against having in-person In-Service. However, Kathy has already sent out a survey asking the managers what they would like to do. And I think, personally, I think each manager should have a right to tell what they, what they feel. Do they want it In-Service? Do they need to do it virtually? So, you know, I'm looking forward to the In-Service. But I still think that, I think that all the managers should partake in what happens with that.

A Stevenson: Thanks, Carole. I appreciate that. Now, let me say, every In-Service training that we've had in-person is in-person and virtual. And therefore, if a manager doesn't want to come, they can call in and do it virtually. And so, the reason why I made that motion, this motion, was that we need the camaraderie. We need to get back to the camaraderie that we have with in-person In-Service training. We get to socialize, talk about our successes and failures. And therefore, I believe it is critical to have vote, both, it shouldn't be just one or the other. It should be both. And therefore, I, I appreciate what you said, Carole, but I've been around for a long time and the program flourishes better when we have in-person, person, In-Service trace, training and the socializing. But the managers get to choose. Okay, any other comments? Okay, we're voting to have the In-Service…

Webber: No, can you reinstate your vote, Art, please, how you want, could you reinstate it?

A Stevenson: Restate it? I, I'm going to.

Webber: You said, you said that the motion you were making was that we have an In-Service program, In-service training with everyone attending in-person.

A Stevenson: I did not say that.

Webber: You said in-person. So.

A Stevenson: Okay, okay, but, but...

Webber: Have the choice of virtual, or, or in-person.

A Stevenson: Okay, okay, okay, point, point well taken, okay. I assumed, Carole, that it would be run just like every in-person In-Service, which we've had for years and years that it would be both. And so.

Webber: You have to dot your I's and cross your T's, Art. So, yeah.

A Stevenson: Okay, okay. I want to restate my motion. I withdraw the motion, and I want to reshape my motion. I make a motion that we have a [sic] in-person training with the opportunity for those who don't want to come to do it virtually in Salem, Oregon. Okay? So, now that I've restated it, can I have a second?

Jackson: I think you did that, need to call the vote, I think. Or did you?

A Stevenson: Can I have a second to the new motion?

Jackson: Me.

A Stevenson: Okay, Steve seconds it.

Jackson: Yeah.

A Stevenson: Is there, is there, any, any other further discussion on this matter? Okay, we'll take a roll call vote on this one. Steve Jackson?

Jackson: Yes.

A Stevenson: Derrick Stevenson?

D Stevenson: Yes.

A Stevenson: Randy H?

Jackson: He's out to lunch.

A Stevenson: Ra--, Ra--, Randy? Okay, Carole?

Webber: Thank you for restating that, Art. And I will vote yes.

A Stevenson: Okay. Randy, going once, going twice, and I vote yes, as well. So, the motion carries. Alright, so, I think... Oh, one more thing. Committees! Randy and I talked and we are going to establish a new committee called the Compliance Committee. So, so we don't take up a lot of time, I will be calling all the managers and let them know what this Compliance Committee is about. I will be chairing that committee and we want to get participation. But the thing is we have huge major problems with compliance in this program. And we need to make sure that compliance is adhered to and all the rights and responsibilities of all of us are followed. So, there's a new committee, the Compliance Committee. Stay tuned, each manager. I'm the chair of it. I will be contacting you to talk about it. Okay, committees are done and over with. What's next on the agenda?

Webber: Okay, we're into new business and the first one is Camp Rilea, Rilea, and its bid announcement.

A Stevenson: Okay. I'll start this out. As you all know, was quite surprised to have a bid announcement come out for a location without, without any knowledge to it. And I'm talking about the Elected Committee, or the managers, any knowledge about it. Which is a violation of the law and is completely wrong. The Elected Committee definitely needs to be involved. And there were a lot of concerns and a lot of questions as you all know, cause we had a meeting with the people at, on that day that we had the meeting with them to get more information and stuff. But there was no, no active participation in the development of this facility. And, as you all know, there were some real great concerns and a lot of questions that needed to be asked. And, you know, I can say personally, that I'm still very, very concerned about, you know, making this a location that could be the best it could be. My first concern was that in the bid announcement was a restaurant. A cafeteria. A cafeteria, but I can tell you, okay, the cafeteria market is dying out there. If you look at the whole country, cafeterias are being eliminated, that's eliminated. And I got the facts to back that up. What? We're going to establish a cafeteria at Camp Rilea, and I can tell you right now, there's going to be some problems. Especially with the fact that they have military dining at Camp Rilea, which means people that are there get free food every day when they're in training, free food. Oh, how can we think when they get free food, that they're going to come flocking to a restaurant or a cafeteria and spend their money there? It's just not going to happen. However, this can still be a winning situation at Camp Rilea if it's done appropriately and we think of what we're doing and we do it right. And, and, and so, we have to do that because we have to help our new manager who's getting his first facility be successful. And I want him to be successful. Are you on? Is he on the line? Has he come on the line yet? Cause I want to congratulate him if he is. And let him know that the Elected Committee is going to bust our rear ends to make sure that this is one of the best facilities in the program. It has potential. Potential, especially if the manager who has it gets the military dining contract when it comes open. And I haven't got the information yet on when it's going to happen. But we, we have the right to bid on military contracts. And if we do it right, as long as we're in the competitive range, we win that contract, and we could definitely do it with a teaming partner like the current organization that's in there, which is FSI. And so, we, we got to do everything that's possible. But I'll be danged as a member of the Elected Committee and the vending facility committee, that we're going to make this facility something that it shouldn't be and to have it fail. Have it fail. And nobody likes failure. But just remember guys, cause some of you were here, some of you weren’t, what happened with L & I and Joseph Becker, when we warned that no, this isn't going to do it, it isn't going to make it. It shouldn't be a facility. And lo and behold, what happened? It went belly up, and he left the country, Oregon. I don't know where he went to. So, anyways, Director Wolff, no fault on yours at all about Camp Rilea, not at all. But the Elected Committee is going to make sure that everything is done possible for our new manager to maximize his vocational potential, which is the law. And that this is a great success story, like Silver Creek Falls was and is. Okay, so, Director Wolff, I look forward, okay, for you and the Elected Committee, which is required to make this facility one of the best facilities that we have in the program, and I know that you're going to let us actively participate so that we make sure we don't make [inaudible] mistakes, which has really already been done in this, but it can be fixed. But it has to be fixed now. Okay. I make a motion that Director Wolff and the Elected, well, Director Wolff and any other potential director, work on making Camp Rilea a very successful facility by us jointly making decisions, as we go forth and, and do the things that we're doing to, you know, the, the eating area and all that kind of good stuff. Do I have a second?

D Stevenson: I second.

A Stevenson: Open for discussion.

Hauth: Hey, Art, this is Randy. So, yeah, I wanted to jump in and just share my hopes and desires going forward without, you know, belaboring the bid announcement that came out. I know that was in creation before Michael stepped into the BEP directorship. I think Mr. Wolff bringing forward the meeting and sponsoring and supporting that, there was a lot of questions asked and answered. So, that was a good thing. I don't think over the last 10-11 years there's been a lot of outreach seeking the Elected Committee’s, you know, expertise or advice or, you know, thought processing. I think a lot of things have been just done in a bubble, personally. If that's right or wrong, that's what I feel and I know that other managers on the line and committee members have felt the same. With that said, going forward the only thing I can ask and encourage as Chair of the Elected Committee, is that the agency prior to sending out a bid, you know, bring this information to the Elected Committee. When the bid announcement came out, again, no fault of Mr. Wolff's, but really there wasn't proper financial information. There wasn't really information about lodging. There wasn't information about, you know, I mean, like employment and, you know, the struggles or challenges that that opportunity there was facing. It wasn't really made known that there wasn't, that I recall, that there wasn't any lottery machines on site, even though there could be. Maybe that, maybe I missed that. But all that said, it sure shouldn't hurt prior to a bid going out for the Director to reach out and say, okay, this is what we're thinking about. What are your guys’ thoughts? What are your, you know, are, are we missing something here? Do you have anything to add? So, I just hope that, forward that is what, what happens. So.

A Stevenson: Might I… Thanks, Randy. I appreciate that. Might I say, that the competition as I mentioned earlier, the military dining, and establishing a cafeteria, when you have that kind of competition, it's just, it’s just crazy insane and you're right, it was not Mr. Director Wolff's fault. And, and there is, there is no blame here. But what we need to do is fix it, okay, because I see, I see great potential here, if we do the right things. I see great potential of minimizing the amount of employees this place has to have by using new technology in, that I know is available, because I've been to, I've, I’ve been to Nevada and seen innovative equipment that is self-service and does things like cooking pizzas and all sorts of stuff, that would make this facility, okay, very, very, very, very successful. With, and none of that stuff was discussed. None of it.

Hauth: Yeah, yeah, let me...

A Stevenson: But, but... Okay.

Hauth: Art, let me, let me add in just a couple of quick other items. So, as we all know, Lin Jaynes ran the coastal route and prior to COVID and then of course, obviously, COVID impacted it and also forward there's still a lot of challenges with that route that Lin operated. I'm not sure if the federal prison, Sheridan Federal Prison has reopened yet or not?

A Stevenson: It hasn't.

Hauth: Maybe Michael Wolff can, okay, yeah, so anyway, but my thought was this, okay, if there is a dining agreement, dining contract there at the, at the base, let's find a way to look into the opportunity for the agency and this manager to get that contract, right? Has that been offered? And if not, why not? And what do we need to do to engage with that? Also, what about the other vending machines out there that were part of the coastal route? Why aren't those going to be, you know, all of those being assigned to help support this? Unless the person that was there previous wasn't reporting properly their income, that facility is doomed to fail. Everything I know in my 30 plus years looking at it, it's doomed to fail unless there's something there that I'm missing. So, I'm glad that you know, Robert Levick [sic] felt compelled to bid on it and I wish him nothing but the best and I hope I'm wrong, but it looks like a real challenge. I just hate to see the agency spend a bunch of money, program money, and I hate to see a manager set up to fail. So, let's try and brainstorm and see how to make sure that that doesn't happen. So, that's enough out of me. So, thank you.

A Stevenson: Hey, Randy, thanks, thanks for that. And, and as we, as we explore, on making this facility the best it could be, that'll be one thing that we most definitely look at as we put together, you know, the best plan possible in order to make this a viable facility. And we’ll, we’ll definitely, you know, do that as, as we move along, however I, I think, you know, we need to do a little more digging before we make solid decisions on what we do and what we don't do, on that, because there definitely is other people who unfortunately are suffering financially, that may need some assistance, too. And we want to be fair and equitable, as we move on. Okay, so, is there any other further comments about Camp Rilea? Oh, we didn't vote yet, did we? So, let's take a roll call vote on, you know, that, we definitely have active participation here in addressing our concerns and making this a viable facility. So. Any further questions?

Webber: Art? This is Carole.

D Stevenson: Re--, restate it? Ha ha.

Webber: Yeah, I need you to restate the motion. Please.

A Stevenson: Okay, we're… Okay. You would do that, wouldn't you? Okay, the motion was that the agency work with the Elected Committee in addressing issues to make this a viable facility. Now, that's a little different than what I said, Carole, but I can't repeat it.

You know, I didn't, didn't write it down. So.

Webber: No, I heard that. I understand that. And that's actually good. Okay. Thank you.

A Stevenson: Okay, do I have a second? I did, I did, I did get a second, no. Did I get a second on that?

Webber: Yes, we did. Derrick.

A Stevenson: Alright. So, take a roll call vote on this. Derrick Stevenson?

D Stevenson: Yea.

A Stevenson: Carole?

Webber: Yes.

A Stevenson: Steve?

Jackson: Yes.

A Stevenson: Randy?

Hauth: Yes.

A Stevenson: And I vote yes, as well. Passes unanimously! Michael, we look forward to working with you and, and helping our new manager, our new, yeah, because he is a manager. He was a licensee. I'm kind of disappointed he's not here at his very first meeting, I hope that he is going to get more involved, because we can really help him a lot. Okay, what's next on the agenda?

Webber: Complaints.

A Stevenson: What was that?

Webber: Complaints. I don't, it doesn't specifically say anything. It just says complaints.

A Stevenson: Okay, okay. Okay, complaints. Have a couple of complaints flying out there that really concern me, and it's the role of the Elected Committee, okay, to be aware of complaints, but also work hard when necessary to try and make sure that we don't have expenses and that the agency in good faith negotiates with the manager who's filed the complaint in finding resolution and, and really do it in good faith. No, ifs, ands or buts about it. And, and so, that's one of the things about complaints. Now, recently because I was considering filing a complaint, I went to our website and saw the complaint form, which I think is very, very unaccessible [sic], especially to totals. And in fact, because I think our whole website is very unaccessible [sic] to our totals, very hard to navigate and it's just crazy. So anyways, number one, we need to resolve the issue of this doggone complaint form being too complex. Too ridiculous. In fact, there actually was no active participation in developing the form. It was just developed by the agency and put up there and said, you're going to do this. Again, violation of law. And golly darn it, these violations got to stop. We got to work together collaboratively. We have to quit having a poisonous, noxious relationship. I don't care who's at fault. It needs to change. And so, we also, you know, definitely need to work on the complaint process which includes the full evidentiary hearing. Because right now, the full evidentiary hearing is a farce. It isn't a true full evidentiary hearing when the agency, the agency gets to issue the final order. That's not justice. It's a sham. That's like saying the criminal gets to decide what their sentence is going to be. As if they're guilty or not guilty. It's a sham. And it needs to stop. And, and so, I make a motion that the complaint form be changed in order to make it more accessible for the blind licensed manager, and isn’t so complicated. What time did this happen? What time did that happen? What time? That's ridiculous. I can't exactly remember every day that something happens. But it happened. And that's why we need to make everything that is in the program more accessible. Also, went to the website to look at the state statutes. And my God, it's a nightfair [sic], nightmare for a toyable [sic]. You got to go get, scroll down to a section. And then when you find the section, you got to double tap on it and if you're lucky, it will let you in, but if you're not lucky, you'll stand there for, or sit, whatever you're doing and try to get into the dang thing. Ridiculous. Used to be, okay, that the rule book was one document. You could read it with a screen reader. You can't do that now. And the same thing with the laws and the rules and regulation. It's just incredible. And obviously, there was no active participation in making these changes, they were just done by the agency, and I can tell you, it's ridiculous. So, anyways, complaint process is flawed, and we need to fix it. So, I make a motion that we revisit the complaint process, that is, the Elected Committee, and make any changes in order to make it comply with the law, but also make it accessible especially to totals. Can I have a second?

Webber: I'll second that.

A Stevenson: Thank you. Been moved and seconded. There any discussion?

Hauth: Art?

A Stevenson: Yes, sir!

Hauth: Hey. So, I dropped off for just a second, but I do want to just weigh in here. So, you know, for a little bit of background, I know, I can tell you about two years ago in 2000 and 21, September, I was one of the managers, one of the first managers, disciplined, taken through progressive discipline. Because I wasn't out servicing 50 machines and I had not provided, from what the agency said, I had not provided my list. And so, just so you know, prior to Covid, I provided my list of all the machines I was going to self-service, even though I objected to it. I don't believe in it. I was still complying because I knew the agency was going to take a heavy-handed approach here. So, prior to COVID, I sent everything to Morris. During COVID, the agency tried to force me out and I said, look it, buildings aren't even open, you know, long story short. And then, during that time I came down with osteoarthritis, severe in my left hip that I was trying to get processed through Kaiser, and back then, if you guys remember, you couldn't get appointments. It was like just hell. It's still kind of that way, but fast forward in September of 2000 and 21, I believe it was, I was disciplined by the agency, and so, I was disciplined once and then I went through an administrative review. I was told by Director Johnson that the ADA didn't even apply, didn't really matter, fast forward, Disability Rights got involved and they said, oh yes it does. And so, then we were trying to work through in a business sense and also trying to process through and get my medical condition taken care of, but it didn't really matter to the agency, they then disciplined me again, second discipline, right? And so, in March, I proceeded forward, but during that time, I, when I was interacting with the agency, I said, so, what do I do to address this? Oh, just file a complaint. Okay, so, then you file a complaint, cause that's always been the agency's go to, file a complaint. But then when you file a complaint, you're a troublemaker, right? And so, what I can tell you is going forward, I believe I'm [sic] been one of the only managers in the last couple of years that has received discipline and that has been forced out. But also, then part of that whole thing was, the, I asked where this discipline was being stored at, right? Where is it being retained? And Morris said through the agency, it's being retained in your, in your manager’s file. So, then when I asked for a copy of my manager's file, couldn't find it in there. So, then we brought it to the attention of the agency, said, look it, this isn't in there. Oh, well, we're going to put it in now because that was a mistake we made. And I said, okay, well, part of that manager’s file also, I should have the ability to put a rebuttal in or put other documentation in that shows my arthritis and shows the efforts that I went through to try and work with you. And they said, nope, denied. And so. What's my option? I filed a complaint. So, there was one complaint that was filed about the agency not allowing me to rebut what was put in my file. So, then the other complaint was when the agency forced me out into the self-service. There was about $30,000 of indebtedness that they put on me, right? Because I didn't have the need when I was going through the subcontractors, I didn't have the need to retain that inventory, but doing a self-service initiative, I had to, right? I didn't have $30,000 laying around. I said, so, what's the option? Well, we're going to provide it to you in a loan repayment. I said, what funds are you going to pay with? We're going to use federal funds to pay with that. And I said, well, you can't do that. Oh yeah, we can do it. And so they set me up with, I mean, I needed, you know, they were going to try and take my license. I mean, we all know how the agency sometimes works. And so, I really didn't have any choice. And so, I needed to get out and do that, short of the agency trying to take my license. And so, I said, I don't approve of it, I don't believe it, but I do need the products to fulfill the self-service initiative. So, it was about 30 some odd thousand, $40,000, I don't know, with all the coin and what the inventory and the warehouse inventory, right? So, I asked them, where did you pay for this? They said we paid for it with federal money. And again, I said, you can't do that. And they said, yes, we can. So, then when RSA weighed in and said, you cannot, you cannot do that, then the agency came back and said, oh, we paid for it with other funds. So, they, I think they changed, you know, the, the makeup of that. And so, there were some other things, as well. I asked for documentation and information. They denied providing that to me even though it was program relevant. Said no, we don't have the resources, we don't have the time. Basically, go away. And there were some other issues that were related to that. So, my option, what was my option? File a complaint, right? I don't have any other option other than to grin and bear it or file a complaint and try and advocate and address it, right? And so, then the other matter was, here I was put out and I was forced to hire an employee because I don't drive and, you know, the 50 machines and the whole thing. And I ended up losing machines and so, I went back to the agency, and I said, hey, now that I've lost machines, and you've put me into this situation and I rely on the money coming in to at least offset my employee, there's a list of unassigned vending here. The agency has a bigger route than any of us, right? They're collecting and bringing in all this unassigned vending, keeping it away from the blind vendor. So, I said, okay, there's some locations here that probably most likely should be mine. I have the service area in the Clackamas, and Multnomah and TriMet. So, there's two machines right here next to one of my TriMet locations that I lost. So, how about if I take those over? And they said, no. How about if I take over the Clackamas Aquatic? Nope. And how about, what about that machine, the candy machine next to my snack, next to my soda machine that you guys are servicing in my facility? And you guys are collecting the money on it. How bout if that? And they said, nope. So, with all that shared, that's a little bit of background, but the three complaints that I have pending between the Office of Administrative Hearing. I also have a case that was mooted, ruled mute by the AG through the agency saying, no, it doesn't really matter anymore. Even though the agency told me, signing the document under duress then, you know, you can do it that way, you need to sign the document, you know, to see sign, but the agency through the AG mooted that complaint. So, that's possibly pending with arbitration. And the other complaint I filed was identifying through the agency that our motion, our motion to have the agency stop using federal money and set-aside money on litigating against the manager like RSA has identified. When they denied our motion, I filed a complaint to address that and the director came back, Dacia Johnson, came back and said it doesn't really matter if you filed the motion, a motion and we denied it. That's not an action because you already knew about this years ago, right? So, I mean, it's clear that that whole thing was being manipulated and I'm going to wrap up here by just saying that's the general background of what's going on. I do have legal representation at this point in time. Robert Parker is going to engage with me and notice the hearings, the Office of Administrative Hearings that he's going to be representing me. My desire is to sit down with the agency and try and work out a resolution. It cost the agency $35,000 over the whole case that they, you know, we went through the case where they disciplined me and they forced me out into the, and it cost over $30,000 for them to, to fight against that complaint, and it could go on further now. So, if each one of those complaints are going to cost the agency that kind of money, wouldn't it be better to sit down and try and work that out? So, what I can tell you is we are going to try and sit down and work out a amical [sic] resolution and that doesn't mean that the agency just gets to say no to my proposal, right? They don't get to say make a proposal. Now we say no. Go away. Right? Go to your room. So, that's what this is about. I know Art's been familiar with it and if the agency wants to advocate or support that in connection with my attorney or however that would work, that's, that's, that’s a good thing, the way I see it. So, hopefully, hopefully in the near future we'll be able to say, hey, look it, we sit down, I gave a little, they gave a little. And we're gonna work forward better together. So, that's my hope. So.

A Stevenson: Thanks, Randy. I definitely appreciate that. It was a very good recitation about how dysfunctional the rules and regulations and stuff are. And as a matter of fact, the Elected Committee voted unanimously not to accept the rules for lots of specific reasons. And I'm not going to hash out all the specific reasons. But I will quote the state statutes again, because I've done it many times. It says the agency only has the authority to promulgate rules to ensure the proper and satisfactory operation of the vending facilities and for the benefit of the blind licensed managers. Obviously, ‘scuse the laugh, because it if I don't laugh, I'll cry. Because the agency would rather fight than collaborate, okay, and that is a true shame. But it is going to change because we will not stop until it's done correctly. Maximum vocational potential, equal treatment. You know, all of those things are not addressed in the handbook and then the agency does exactly what they want to do, and therefore, I'm going to make a motion that the agency immediately assign, what was the name of that location, Randy? The one that's right next to yours? Well, anyways, I make a motion that the agency immediately assign to Randy the vending that really should be his, because it's where his other machine is. And, you know, the law definitely says that a manager shall operate. So anyways, my motion is that the agency immediately assign the location that Randy talked about and comply with the law, which says a blind licensed manager shall operate, says nothing about the agency operating. Do I have a second?

D Stevenson: I second it.

A Stevenson: Moved and seconded. Any comments?

Webber: I have a comment.

A Stevenson: Yes, ma'am. Go ahead, Carole.

Webber: Okay. Number one, I have nothing against Randy getting extra machines to compensate for the ones he lost. Okay. I do, however, think that that's going to be between him and, now it looks like, Director Wolff. And also we're getting some feedback on, I don't know how to put this nicely. Let's see. The feedback that I have received says something to this effect. It's not for word to word. That every time we have a meeting, and someone says that they want another machine, that you make a motion that they get it immediately. So, I am not for this motion. I'm sorry.

A Stevenson: That's fine. Okay, it's been moved and seconded? Any other comments? Roll call vote, Derrick Stevenson? Derrick!

D Stevenson: Yea.

A Stevenson: Steve? Steve Jackson?

Jackson: I vote yes. Yes!

A Stevenson: Okay. Randy H? You got a conflict.

Hauth: Yeah, conflict of interest, but I'll vote yes.

A Stevenson: Carole Webber?

Webber: No.

A Stevenson: And I vote yea, as well. So, the motion carries. Now, one more quick motion, as far as vending machines go. We voted last meeting that the vending that Steve currently has be assigned to him permanently, instead of temporarily. And kind of crazy that it's still temporary. I know Carole has vending assigned to her permanently and other managers have vending assigned to them permanently. However, when it comes to Steve Jackson, it's not permanently. Managers are supposed to be treated uniformly in this program. It's stated in the law, okay. And so, I again say, the vending that's currently assigned to Steve be assigned to him permanently and not temporary, because there's lots of managers that have vending that are assigned permanently, but only Steve has to be temporary. That's wrong. And it needs to change. So, again, I make the motion that the vending currently assigned to Steve temporarily be assigned to him permanently. Do I have a second?

D Stevenson: I second.

A Stevenson: Okay. Any discussion?

Webber: I have a question.

Jackson: I'd like to say something, Art, if I could.

A Stevenson: Oh, okay, Carole, go ahead.

Jackson: Oh, go ahead, Carole first, go ahead.

Webber: Steve doesn't have any vending that is assigned to him, is that what you're saying? No?

Jackson: No, that's not what I was saying. Saying it's what's assigned to me temporary will be assigned permanently. Which Eric has denied twice.

Webber: I'm sorry, I, I didn't hear you, Steve. Can you repeat it?

Jackson: I was saying that the vending that we've talked about is the unassigned federal vending that was assigned to me temporarily because of COVID, and nothing is really changed. And.

Webber: Okay.

Jackson: It's, it's, just to be completely honest, it's not even that much money. It wouldn't make anybody's payroll any big of a difference. You wouldn't be bumped into a different tax bracket or nothing. I'd just like to say even with this vending, I'm still below the average of what we used to have. I'm making a third of what I used to make. So, whatever you guys used to make, imagine making one third of that. That's, that's kind of what I'm dealing with, and I'm struggling to pay bills at work and at home. So.

Webber: I'm right there with you, Steve. So, I understand that.

Jackson: Okay. So, you know.

A Stevenson: Okay.

Jackson: It's not like it… Yeah.

Webber: But the vending that you had, the vending that you had, is just the temporary vending? You don't have other vending, I thought you did? But ap--, you're saying you do not.

Jackson: No, that's not. No, no, I'll tell you exactly everything I have. I have vending machines in the Bonneville Power Building, there's about eight of them. There's a bunch of racket going on here. Maybe Randy's on, not on mute, and sounds like he’s working. Anyways, I, I have one building with vending, and then the Portland State Office Building has two vending machines. Which competes with my own micro-market, but it actually makes money because it's in the lobby. Besides those vending machines, I'm talking about a small route that's by the IRS federal building downtown. There’s one, there's a Bonneville, there's like, it, it adds up to about 400 bucks, the extra money that's on top of what I already am doing. So, that's, that's the bottom line, is I'm asking not to be, not to have that money taken away from me in the future.

Webber: Okay. Separate assigned.

Jackson: Cause it's separate unassigned federal vending. Yeah, no problem, it's separate unassigned federal vending that no one has been assigned to for years. So, but it would be greatly appreciated if, if it was permanently, because then I could, you know, continue to do what I'm doing and try to come up.

A Stevenson: Thanks, Steve. Now, I'd like to add something too. RSA came out here long, long time ago and audited the Commission. Okay. And they said that the agency should assign vending to blind licensed managers in need, to make a decent living. And recommended to the agency that they do so. I was at that meeting. I participated in that meeting, in that audit. And in all actuality, it, it should be done when there is a need. As you know, I don't know if you heard, when Celyn, I talked with Celyn briefly at the beginning before the meeting started and said we needed a request for an assistance so that we could address her income matters. And she has agreed to send that request for assistance, because, dang it, I don't want to see, I don't want to see managers bust their rear ends, and not make a decent living. And I, and I know, Carole, you’ve got several locations and everybody else does and, and this is just the right thing to do. So, any other comments?

Hawkins: Art? Art?

A Stevenson: Yes?

Hawkins: I don't know if I can comment at this time of the meeting, it's, Char. I think we're a little unclear as to assigned and the ones that were present when the bid was, just like your prison, you know, that was kind of assigned to you after your location, but Carole's wasn't assigned. It came with the location that she bid on. We're talking two different things being assigned or, or as part of the thing you bid on and I think there's a real difference there that we all need to remember, that to, like when you were saying, Carole got, well, Carole bid on that and got what was there, at the time of the bid. Steve's asking for something different. He's asking for some more or something different than what he bid on.

Jackson: No, I'm not asking for more. I'm asking for...

Hawkins: [inaudible] No.

Jackson: I'm not asking for more.

Hawkins: Okay.

Jackson: I'm asking for what's assigned to me to be assigned permanently.

Hawkins: But it wasn't, it wasn't what you bid on originally anyway. That's well, I was just making the distinction. Two different things.

Bird: Jerry.

Hawkins: Of how, I'm not, I'm not thinking you shouldn't have more, Steve. I just was saying when Art was saying, well, Carole had this, but that was what she bid on. And, and got and... You bid on something and got that and now obviously, we all need more stuff. We do, and, but there's a difference, and I just want people to remember that.

Webber: Thank you, Char.

A Stevenson: Go ahead, Jerr.

Bird: Yeah, I'd like to say a small comment. I've been just listening, but when you do have a place and you bid on the facility, and I think what Char's trying to say, you have vending machines attached to that facility. And the reason for that, it's to bring your income up, it's supposed to bring you up to the minimum of the managers, or they get paid out of set-aside. And that is only, stop the agency for giving un--, places that are not viable or do not bring, make you at least the average. Instead, and if no one else wants to take it, they give it to the blind. We don't care if you make any money or not. And my other comment is, when they add some other vending to your, to your regular route, or not route, or facility, they are doing that because you're not making good money. When they add something, it's added, and it should be at a permanent basis. So, for, for you to say that well, it wasn't there when you bid on it. Well, come on now. That's just a bunch of baloney. They add it for a reason to bring people up. For, to income or they have to pay out of set-aside. And my other question, or is, a property is not supposed to be in direct competition with a blind manager in that property. So, what I'm saying is if Steve is selling pop or candy in his vending machines and another place that isn't ours, or it could be ours, another blind vendor’s in direct competition, they cannot be in direct competition. They'll have to direct them if they need a pop or candy to go over and use that vending machine. You know, we, we have these laws, the Randolph Sheppard Act to protect us. And we have an agency that does not protect us and all they want to do is keep the machines for theirselves [sic] and everyone needs some income, especially with COVID. And then you're all complaining about, well, should you get that one or two machines, or, or would it just be better for the agency to have it? I mean, I, I just can't believe some of this stuff I've been listening to, and I'll just leave it at that. Thank you.

Hauth: Yes, hey, Art?

A Stevenson: Yeah, Randy?

Hauth: Yeah, I just want, I just want to make a comment kind of based on what Jerry said. I can't believe it either, when people would rather argue why a manager shouldn't receive income or machines. This is about maximizing income and potential. I hear people making comments against managers versus making it against the agency who is actually collecting $25,000 a quarter in unassigned vending and keeping that money away from managers. So, why aren't those managers sticking up and standing up and saying, listen, that's wrong.

Jackson: That's probably what I make a year! Sorry.

Hauth: You know, you know, why, why isn't, why isn’t a manager taking action to advocate on getting those priority incomes back to the managers? That's what really kind of the mind boggling for me.

A Stevenson: Randy, I appreciate your, your candor.

Jackson: Can we just call the vote? Can we call the vote, because...

A Stevenson: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yep, yep.

Jackson: It's going to be up to the vote, and up to the Commission. And anybody can say what they want, that's fine.

A Stevenson: That's right, so. Anyways, the motion's been made. Seconded. I will make one more comment as this goes along and, and of course, Director Wolff is going to have to do things. The law specifically says that the agency can only provide for the continued operation of a vending facility if a blind licensed manager isn't available for assignment. And by golly, Steve's available, we're making the motion, we're going to pass this and the agency needs to comply, comply with the law. And your comments were well taken, Randy. It's just ridiculous that anybody isn't pro every manager.

Jackson: What the heck is going on?

A Stevenson: Because, because that is what the Elected Committee's fighting for. For everybody to make a decent living, everybody, no exceptions. So, if you have problems, let us know. Celyn's writing the Elected Committee request for assistance. And by golly, we will address it at the next meeting. Period. Okay.

Jackson: Can we please call the vote.

A Stevenson: Calling for the vote. Calling for the vote. Derrick Stevenson?

D Stevenson: Yea.

Jackson: You're off I think now, Derrick. Oh, yeah.

A Stevenson: Yeah, Carole, Carole, Carole?

Webber: Yes, we’ve voted on this before, but I will again say yes.

A Stevenson: Randy?

Hauth: Yes.

A Stevenson: Steve Jackson? Conflict of interest.

Jackson: I, thank you. I have a conflict of interest, but I vote yes.

A Stevenson: And I vote yes, the motion carries unanimously. Okay…

Webber: Art, I passed up one of the items of business today accidentally. We have one, that's the VFM repair process. I'm sorry, I, I.

Jackson: I can't hear you, Carole.

A Stevenson: Carole, speak up there, darling.

Jackson: Somebody's doing work, too.

A Stevenson: Mute, mute your phone, people.

Webber: Okay. I accidentally skipped an item for our business today. I, I apologize. I just noticed it a while ago. It was right before the complaint. It's VFM repair process.

A Stevenson: Okay, oh boy.

Jackson: Good job, Carole, for noticing that. Good job.

A Stevenson: Good job. Come on, mute! Whoever you are! Mute!

Jackson: Somebody's doing some carpentry or something.

A Stevenson: Mute! Mute! Oh, I think it's muted. Okay. Okay. The repair process seems to be having tremendous problems. One of our managers recently lost $40,000 worth of inventory. It was either 30 or $40,000 worth of inventory, because they had a freezer go down and the agency did not address the issue immediately. And therefore, the manager lost all that product. Absolutely disgraceful and we got to make sure that this changes. There was a person available to call to start addressing the issues immediately. And the agency said, no, you can't use that person, because he's not on our recommended repair list. Repair person list. And the reason he wasn't on that repair list is because he would not get vaccinated for COVID. Which is another matter. But the simple fact of the matter is, the rules used to say, and we actually wanted it to say, an emergency is occurring, the manager has the right to address the emergency and get it taken care of. But no! That got deleted out of the rules, even though we wanted it. And now we got a manager that lost all that money, which is just disgraceful. Disgraceful, disgraceful. I can tell you, I've had machines, okay, that have been down for up to a week and not repaired because of this stupid and I'll say it again, it's stupid, repair policies of OCB. And by golly, we, our profit margin, okay, runs on a slim line. And if we leave, lose four or five days of a machine, depending on where the machine is, or you know, like in this other case it was a freezer. You know, it costs a whole heck of a lot of money, and it's got to stop. We got to go back to the old way. The old way, where repairs are handled in the most expedient way. Because they’re critical, it's critical.

Wolff: Mr. Vice Chair, can I ask a question? It's Michael.

A Stevenson: Go ahead, Michael.

Wolff: What, what, can you just for my own knowledge, what, you’re talking about the old way. What was the process before?

A Stevenson: The old way was if there was an emergency repair needed, the manager handles it. They don't, they didn't have to go through this dang bureaucracy of getting three bids, and blah blah blah, and meanwhile, the manager is either losing product or losing income. And it's just wrong, and we fought like hell to keep that in our rules. But no! Our expertise was not listened to. And now we got a manager that lost $30,000. $30,000, Michael, of product. You know how that kills, that kills the manager?

Wolff: Well.

D Stevenson: This is Derrick.

A Stevenson: It kills us.

Wolff: Mr. Vice Chair, when I, when I talked to Saul [sic] I think he reported to me $4,900 in the freezer, of product. So, it's still a loss and I don't know which number is accurate. I'd love to confirm that. But either way...

A Stevenson: I don't either.

Wolff: Either, either, either way, a freeze, either way a freezer going down is a freezer going down. So, I don't want to lose the point on that, for sure.

A Stevenson: Okay, I'm only repeating what I saw. In fact, I asked Salvador to give me a list of the product. He hasn't come through yet, so Michael, if I misspoke, I misspoke, I'm still collecting evidence, but hey, $1,000 is a lot of money for a manager to lose. I mean, five days worth of sales, in the right machine, can be very detrimental to a manager’s monthly income. I mean, I have some machines that do, you know, $1,000 a day in sales. So, that's, no matter what, it's critical that we have to go back to the old way and be able to address, okay and, and quite frankly, I'll tell you, alright, cause I investigated it this a little bit. And I, I knew, see, I know cause I used to use the guy who Salvador wanted, I'm forgetting his name right now. Having a brain fart, but…

Hauth: I think it's Randal’s.

A Stevenson: I... Yeah, Randal's, yeah, Randal’s. Yeah, it was Randal’s, okay, but I did a search. Okay, I did a search, Michael, I mean, Director Wolff, of all of the commercial refrigeration repairs places in Salem. And there was six, seven, eight, of them, I can't remember the exact number. But okay, the agency should have contacted each and every one of them, until somebody could have got out there right away and started the process of doing it! And besides that, the agency should have helped get that product somewhere so it wouldn't have been lost. Whether it be a temporary refrigeration place that you could rent a freezer space to get the product in until the other one's up for repair, or, or whatever. But this whole process was handled terribly. Because when you, when you get something going down and you're losing product, it's got to be fixed temporarily, if it can, to get it up and running and then permanently, and I, and I know that these repair guys can do that because I used to do it, where they would repair it temporarily until they could get all the new parts and stuff that they needed to make sure that it was fixed permanently. But the simple fact of the matter is, this never should occur to any manager and the process has to change. And we've been talking about it for too long. We brought it up in several meetings and we have been ignored. And every time we get ignored and people lose money, it is very frustrating, whether it's me, Salvador, you know, any manager. It just shouldn't happen. Okay, so anyways, I'm off my horse here, but it, it kind of gets me emotional when we know...

D Stevenson: This is Derrick.

A Stevenson: Things could be changed and made po--, made positive and it isn't. Go ahead, Derrick.

D Stevenson: Yeah, the main thing here is, the, the Commission for the Blind made a, made a huge error. If they, they weren't going to allow him to use that person they should immediately gone out and found somebody that would fix it, they should have not just dropped the ball and wait till all his product goes bad. I mean, I don't, I, I don't understand why they didn't take steps to get that fixed, soon as possible. That employee did not do their job.

A Stevenson: It was very incompetent. You're, you're true, you're right on that. They, they did not do their job because it needed to be addressed, and addressed, and, and kept being addressed, until it was, it was resolved. It was an emergency. Okay. So, did I make a motion that the process needs to change? Remind me here. Hey, would you mute!

D Stevenson: Kind of hard, Art, cause you’ve said a lot. So, ha ha.

A Stevenson: Okay, I make a motion, okay, that the repair process, needs to change and be like it used to be, that a manager in an emergency repair situation needs to be allowed to handle it, not to rely on somebody else. So, that's my motion.

D Stevenson: I second.

A Stevenson: Moved and seconded, any re--, further discussion? Roll call vote, Carole? Carole? Okay, Steve?

Webber: Sorry, I couldn't get off mute and my answer is yes.

A Stevenson: Okay, Carole?

Webber: Yes.

A Stevenson: Okay, Steve? Steve? Derrick?

D Stevenson: Yes.

A Stevenson: Randy?

Hauth: Yes.

A Stevenson: I vote yes as well. Going once, going twice, Steve. Okay, the motion still passes. Let's move on.

Webber: Okay, appropriate resources and equipment for vending routes.

A Stevenson: Well, I think it was supposed to read “for vending facilities”.

Webber: It, it says, vending routes. I'm just reading what it says. Yeah.

A Stevenson: Okay, okay, thank you for that.

Webber: It should be vending facilities though.

A Stevenson: Yeah, it should be. I'm sorry I didn't catch that, but you know, we're all human. Okay, I'm going to start this. I recently learned, okay, that one of our managers was having to run around and get product every day, because they didn't have appropriate storage and stuff to run their facilities. And also, they weren't being provided appropriate equipment, even though they requested that OCB provide appropriate equipment. And this is very, very inappropriate. The law specifically states that the agency is supposed to provide appropriate resources and equipment. And if they don't, the manager has the right to purchase those things and deduct them off of their set-aside. It's written in the law. The law. And if, if you can all review it, but I know that it is. And this manager was told no, even though his request was asking for stuff that other managers were provided. Which is wrong, the law says that all managers will be treated in a uniform manner and if you give one vending facility something and then turn around and tell another manager that no, you can't have that, or no period, it's a violation of law and this kind of stuff needs to stop. That's one of the reasons why we're starting this compliance, Compliance Committee. Because it does need to stop. Managers are being treated differently, and I might even go as far to say bullied, because they don't want to cause waves. And, and that's just plain wrong. Just plain wrong, okay. So, I make a no--, motion, okay, that the Elected Committee send out notice to all the managers that if they have an equipment need, that they inform their rep and we will take appropriate action to make sure that they're treated equally and uniformly, which is what the law says. That's my motion.

D Stevenson: I second.

A Stevenson: Any discussion, anybody? I'll, I'll, I’ll further say this. It's doggone ridiculous, and it's hard anyway, for us blind licensed managers to run our facilities because we're blind. And if the agency does not provide the appropriate equipment to make sure that the manager is successful, and if they say they can't afford it, then the manager has the right to purchase it and deduct it off their set-aside. And that's the, on--, that's the way it needs to be done. And so, that's my comment. Is there any further comment on that?

D Stevenson: Yeah, this is Derrick.

A Stevenson: [inaudible] Go ahead, Derrick.

D Stevenson: I just kind of needed some clarification on whole, this whole thing because I don't know what, you can't do it. Never mind. I'll. I lost my train of thought. Must be getting old.

A Stevenson: It's okay, it's... Well, let, let me, let me tell you, Derrick. Okay, let me explain it a little further. Maybe this will clarify it. Okay. You know, a manager is supposed to have, supposed to have the equipment necessary to run their vending facility efficiently and effectively. We all do. If we don't have it, then we fail. And it's the responsibility of the agency, to either provide what is needed to the blind licensed manager or the manager purchases it himself or herself and then deducts it off their set-aside. And so...

D Stevenson: That's it.

A Stevenson: Yeah.

D Stevenson: That's the part. What does that, what does that mean? It means if they owe 500, they just don't need to pay that back? That gets to go towards what he spent, what they spent or what?

A Stevenson: They deduct it off their set-aside, until the piece of equipment becomes vested, it's been paid for, and then the equipment becomes the property of the agency. But you know if, if the manager has a need for a piece of equipment, Derrick, and it's essential to make sure that they can run their, their facility efficiently and effectively, then they need it. And the agency should not deny them that that right under the law. That's why that law was put in the Randolph Sheppard Act, okay?

Wolff: Mr. Vice-Chair, this is Michael.

A Stevenson: Go ahead, Michael.

Wolff: Hey, we're just up against it. We're past 4:30 right now. So, I wanted to give you time if you wanted to...

A Stevenson: Wrap it up. Okay.

Wolff: I think, well, I think that's motion number six. I just want to make sure you get, because I don't think you completed the motion. So.

A Stevenson: Okay, okay. Okay, so, we're closing, we're closing this and we're taking a vote. Carole?

Webber: Yes.

A Stevenson: Derrick?

D Stevenson: Yes.

A Stevenson: Steve? Steve? Randy?

Hauth: Yes.

A Stevenson: Steve, going once. Going twice? Gone. Pass, the motion passes. Is there anything left on the agenda?

Webber: Yes, it's rules regs, active participation, but we don't have time for it, it's over.

A Stevenson: Okay, we haven't got time to discuss this.

Webber: No.

A Stevenson: We will schedule another meeting to address this in the very near future.

Hauth: Hey, Art, I did want to say something before we leave. Anyway, I do apologize. I had a new headset on tonight and I was trying it, was probably me making the background noise. I was trying to mute it and, and anyway, if that disrupted anybody and if it was me, I do apologize. Before we leave, and Michael, I appreciate, Director Wolff, I appreciate you saying we, we've got a hard stop. I, I just hate that. That's such a, that's such a kind of agency terminology. So, I'm glad you say we're up against it. That's even better, more palatable, but I don't know if you can close out by just letting us know like, kinda, you know, how, you, how things have been going and how you're trying to get accustomed with, you know, your new job and, you know, anything would be helpful. So.

Wolff: Yeah. Yeah, of course, Mr. Chair. I just, I want you all to at least understand that my learning process is certainly through meetings like this, understanding the background, the history. How things have gotten to a certain point. I'm certainly learning from the people around me here that have been working with the program as well, but through the conversations I have with Saul [sic]. I talked to Steven yesterday about what was going on, you know, at his facility. Those conversations are really helpful. So, all of those things are contributing to my learning and my process. Transparently, I'm still offloading work from my other responsibilities. So, I'm still balancing both, but I do appreciate the candidness and the time and just the space people are giving me to ask them questions when I've got them on the phone. So.

Hauth: Yeah, and thank you Michael and you know, I personally understand the challenges that you're facing and again, if you're here for, you know, three months or three years obviously, that's kind of above and beyond our, you know, current understanding, but we do remain positively optimistic. I've heard some good initial comments about, you know, people who have spoken with you. So, let's continue that process going forward and best of luck. So.

Wolff: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I will get back to you, I believe, on six motions from today's meeting.

A Stevenson: Okay, and Director Wolff, use us, okay, we are a resource. If you have any questions about anything, about laws, rules, regulations, past experiences, past rulings by arbitration, and stuff. Because we are a wealth of knowledge and if you don't use us, then, you know, it's gonna be a lot more difficult for you. Truly, because we would rather explain and let you know and let you know the reasons why. And then, you know, maybe we'll have smoother ground as we move forward, which is what I have always wanted as a manager and strive for it. So that being said, this meeting is now adjourned. We will reschedule the rest of it because it's very, very important. As soon as we can talk to the Director and see what his schedule is. And we do have to have nominations also, so, maybe we can coordinate it together. Alright, everybody, meeting adjourned. Good night.

**Motions passed.:**

1. **“…that BECC approve last meeting’s minutes**

Proposed: Webber. Seconded: Jackson. Passed. Yes: A Stevenson, Jackson, Webber (Hauth on call, did not vote) Absent: Miranda, D Stevenson

1. **“…that Fall In-Service be offered both in-person and virtual**

Proposed: A Stevenson. Seconded: D Stevenson. Passed. Yes: A Stevenson, D Stevenson, Jackson, Webber

1. **“…that Director and Elected Committee work together to make Camp Rilea successful**

Proposed: A Stevenson. Seconded: D Stevenson. Passed. Yes: A Stevenson, D Stevenson, Webber, Jackson, Hauth

1. **“…That the BE complaint form be made accessible.**

Proposed: A Stevenson. Seconded: Webber. Passed. No. Never voted.

1. **“…That Randy be assigned locations he talked about. (for context, TriMet and Clackamas Aquatic Park)**

Proposed: A Stevenson. Seconded: D Stevenson. Passed. Yes: A Stevenson, D Stevenson, Jackson, Hauth No: Webber

1. **“…That temporary assigned sites to Steve be permanently assigned to him**

Proposed: A Stevenson. Seconded: D Stevenson. Passed. Yes: A Stevenson, D Stevenson, Jackson, Hauth, Webber

1. **“…That BE managers be allowed to address emergency repairs on their own**

Proposed: A Stevenson. Seconded: D Stevenson. Passed. Yes: A Stevenson, D Stevenson, Hauth, Webber

1. **“…That BE managers notify BECC Rep of equipment needs, so BECC can advocate for them**

Proposed: A Stevenson. Seconded: D Stevenson. Passed. Yes: Webber, Hauth, A Stevenson, D Stevenson