Audit Study Group Minutes

Lane County Medical Society

8/21, 5:30-7 pm

**Members present**: Marty Wilde, Norma Grier, Janet Calvert, John Barofsky, David Fidanque, Joshua Skov, and Tai Pruce-Zimmerman.

**Members absent**: Bobby Green, Brittany Quick-Warner, Phil Carasco, Ryan Moore and Emily Mooney

**Guests:** Bonny Bettman-McCornack and Bob Cassidy

**Public Comment/Announcements**

Using the matrix posted on the website, Bonny Bettman McCornack noted the modifications box as it refers to Eugene’s measure does not properly note the provisions on page 2 of the proposed measure. The auditor also does not make decisions alone about what to audit, because there is input from the public on the website and via a hotline. The yellow book also requires a risk assessment and there are opportunities for public input on the plans as well as public hearings. The city council and city manager can also request audits. She thought not all the provisions noted in the “unusual” box are unusual.

**Introductions** – none needed

**Approval of Minutes** – deferred to next meeting

**Work Session on Current Matrix**

The members updated the group on their research for their selected city. Denver’s city council views the elected auditor as a check on the power of that government’s strong mayor. Josh was interested in learning if the Boise city council sees its appointed auditor as a check on the power of its strong mayor. Dave’s description of Phoenix’s program, because it is so new, revealed some points that may be of interest to Eugene’s city council as a new program gets established here. Phoenix also works to fill only 85% of its capacity in the audit plan so there’s 15% wiggle room for unanticipated needs. The study group noted variety in how audit committees are established and what capacity they may or may not have to serve as a check on the powers of the executive authority within a governing body. Another discussion point centered on the protections the auditor’s budget has from cuts. Phoenix used to follow up on the auditor’s recommendations and reports once a year, and then it switched to every six months and is now every quarter. Of note, Lane County’s auditor position has gone unfilled for periods of time. It would be helpful to note if there are residency requirements for elected auditors in other cities. An elected auditor can promulgate her or his own policies and procedures; an appointed auditor may need to make sure missing or strengthening provisions are promulgated by the authorizing entity. Having the matrix note whether authority rests in the charter, code or policy manual is helpful.

**Next Meeting** – the group is skipping its meeting the week of September 18. Emily needs to help set the date for the week of September 25 as soon as possible.

**Public comment**

Bonny asked why the city staff is not conducting this research and questioned whether the group’s work is public or private. She covered a number of points about the details of the Eugene proposal that were part of her presentation several weeks ago or are in the measure.

Notes taken by Norma Grier