

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

July 7, 2004

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Rita Bernhard and Commissioner Anthony Hyde, together with John Knight, County Counsel, and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary. Commissioner Corsiglia was not present.

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting to order and led the flag salute.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2004 Board meeting and June 30, 2004 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None.

PUBLIC HEARING: FORMATION OF THE NEW COLUMBIA HEALTH DISTRICT:

As scheduled, the public hearing, "In the Matter of Initiating the Formation of the new Columbia Health District", was held.

The Board held the first hearing on this matter on June 2, 2004 and adopted Order No. 36-2004 which approved the formation of the health district. This is the second hearing in this proceedings as required by statute. John gave some background on this matter and reviewed the statutes which are somewhat unclear. The Board needs to consider the issue of a permanent rate limit. Up to this point, the Board has not adopted any position with regards to a permanent rate limit. The Hospital Coalition has proposed a permanent rate limit of \$.38 per \$1,000 of assessed value. As of this hearing, John is not aware of any written request for an election on the tax rate. Unless a request for an election is presented today, there would be no need to hold an election. If after hearing testimony today and the Board wants to consider a permanent rate limit, then they could, by Order, which would call for an election on that issue and the issue of formation.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

PROPONENTS:

Skip Baker, 274 Cowlitz St., Co-Chair of the Health Coalition. He respectfully requested that the Board consider the tax rate of \$.38 per \$1,000 assessed value for the District. The purpose of this money is to obtain a loan. The value of what they are proposing to do is about \$10 million in construction costs with an additional \$2 million for start costs, working capital and reserve, which would be amortized over a 10 year period.

Karen Punch, Scappoose, Chair of the Columbia Health District Board of Directors: Karen presented more specific information on the breakdown of costs, i.e. land purchase, construction, staffing and administration. This is not only a health care benefit to the community, but also an economic benefit to provide family wage jobs.

No opponents came forward.

With no further testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed.

John Knight reviewed the options before the Board. The first option is for the Board to elect not to put a permanent rate limit on the election ballot and because there were not requests for an election, the Board could form the district today. He would not recommend this because the Board would be creating a district that has no ability to operate and there would be an existing district authorized to perform the same functions. The second option would be to put a permanent rate limit on the ballot of \$.38 per thousand and also put the question of the formation of the district on the ballot. Although the order before the Board is a draft, because of the time frame, John would recommend the Board approve this order today. John reviewed the order.

After discussion, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve Order No. 55-2004, "In the Matter of Calling an Election on the Question of Formation of new Columbia Health District". The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bernhard commented that at the CEPA meeting yesterday, the St. Helens Police Chief mentioned the fact that in order to qualify for a Critical Access Hospital, you have to have had a hospital that failed. She found that an interesting fact.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Bernhard read the consent agenda in full. John pulled Item (D) for separate discussion. With that, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 7/6/04.
- (B) Ratify Partitions Plats for: Asset Construction, LLC and LRS Architects, Inc.
- (C) Public Event Permit for Hood-to-Coast Relay August 27-28, 2004.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (D) Intergovernmental Agreement by and between Columbia County and the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. ***PULLED FOR DISCUSSION***

- (E) Amendment #20 to the 2003-2005 County Financial Assistance Contract #05-001 with State Mental Health.
- (F) License Agreement between Columbia County, Morse Bros., Inc. and Double Tee Concerts.
- (G) Sublicense Agreement between Columbia County and Double Tee Concerts.
- (H) Web Services Agreement with the Association of O&C Counties.
- (I) Community Wildfire Protection Plan Rapid Assessment Web Services Agreement with O&C Counties.

The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM (D) - IGA WITH DOGAMI:

Sarah is still waiting to hear back from DOGAMI on the attachments to this agreement. She doesn't foresee any problems or changes, so she would prefer that the Board approve this subject to County Counsel review and approval. Todd was present and stated that there is a time crunch on this and would like to see it approved today if possible. Carla Cudmore is no longer the Surface Mining Administrator so the county is without one right now. After discussion, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement by and between Columbia County and the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, subject to review by County Counsel. The motion carried unanimously.

AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF PORTLAND & WASHINGTON COUNTY:

John is not yet ready for Board action on this and asked that it be held over again. The Board agreed.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard will be attending a meeting tonight in Clatskanie at the health clinic to discuss the future of this clinic. They are looking at forming a 501c3. There has been a number of problems with trying to provide services, economically as well as staff shortages. With the proposed development at Port Westward, there is a great deal of interest in keeping this clinic open, as well as meeting the needs in the community.

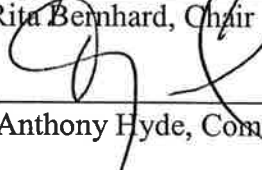
She commented on her 4th of July and the number of events she attended in Scappoose, St. Helens, Clatskanie and Vernonia. It was a very busy day and she enjoyed herself.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 7th day of July, 2004.

NOTE: A tape of this meeting is available for purchase by the public or interested parties.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: 
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: Not Present
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: 
Jan Greenhalgh