

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

October 11, 2006

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner Rita Bernhard and Commissioner Anthony Hyde, together with Sarah Hanson, Assistant County Counsel, and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

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

MINUTES:

Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2006 Board meeting and October 4, 2006 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Fred Yauney, Chair of the Columbia County Republicans - He is here to discuss an issue that came up during the Oktoberfest at the fairgrounds. One of their candidates, Jeff VanNatta, had a campaign truck that was parked on the grounds and he was ordered to get it off the grounds. Why, he doesn't know. Apparently, Evelyn Hudson approached the driver and told him it would be a good idea to get the truck off the grounds. In the process of telling his driver to get the truck off, apparently Commissioner Bernhard came into the grounds and in some fairly harsh tones, ordered the parking personnel to get that truck out of here. First off, he thinks we've got a problem here with some constitutional rights that were violated, possibly with some other state laws. In relation to this, Jeff was not allowed to campaign on the premises with his truck. Apparently, Jeff had a truck with an oversized bumper sticker. Fred doesn't know if the County has any regulations as to what vehicles can be there or not.

Commissioner Corsiglia asked Mr. Yauney if the truck was in the parking lot area.

Commissioner Bernhard responded and stated that the truck was in the parking area. When she came into the parking lot, she noticed Jeff had the truck on the grounds. It has been a policy for a very long time at the Fairgrounds, that if there is political activity, you rent a booth. All the people rent a booth of some sort and they can disperse their political items out of there. That's been a policy at the Fairgrounds for a very long time and you (Fred) know that, you've been there because I have seen you the last couple of years at the Fair. So when she drove in there and saw that, she was quite surprised. She said to Jeff: "Jeff, I don't think this is appropriate." When she saw Evelyn, she asked her "what's going on with this truck here?" Evelyn said she had asked him to remove the vehicle. And that's pretty much what happened. When I walked through the gate, I said to Jeff: "You know, Jeff, I think you know better than this." He's been around here a long time; he's been involved in different things. I think he realized that this probably wasn't the best thing to be doing, and I'll tell you honestly, if I'd driven in there and seen any other candidate for any other office or any kind of signs for any of the ballot measures or anything like

that, I would have said basically the very same thing to them. It doesn't make any difference the fact that he's running for the same position I am. But there has been a policy at the Fairgrounds for a very long time, that you don't do that. You don't campaign on the grounds. And you know, just recently, there was an issue with one of your candidates, who was walking around handing out cards, and he was told at that point that that was not the policy of the Fair. I don't know how else to address this. You may have your feelings about constitutionality and all that, and your certainly welcome to pursue that.

Commissioner Corsiglia asked if Fred or anyone else in that position with the Democratic Party, Republican Party, or any kind of party, has ever been given a sheet that outlines political policy at the Fairgrounds?

Fred stated that he has never received any kind of policy from the Fair. What he doesn't understand is that a lot of people have bumper stickers on their vehicles, which can be business oriented or political. Now are you going to pick out people and say you can't come in and the others can?

Commissioner Bernhard stated that there is a difference between political and business. Fred asked what about bumper stickers? Commissioner Bernhard repeated, what about bumper stickers? That truck is the size of this wall, for heaven sakes. He asked if that is a policy or did Commissioner Bernhard just decide that. Commissioner Bernhard stated that she did not decide that and, again, that it has been a policy for a long time. Fred asked to see a copy of the policy on this.

Commissioner Hyde feels there is a need for a written policy from the Fair Board. If they're going to have a policy, then it needs to be in writing and it needs to be strictly adhered to across the board, so there is a level playing field.

Commissioner Bernhard understands that when someone rents a booth during the Fair, she believes there is a policy and that political groups are told at that time that they can have different materials in their booth and people can come up and pick it up from their booth, but they can't go around and advertise. It would be like anyone else standing out there with a political sign.

Commissioner Corsiglia feels that, in order to keep it a level playing field, the Fair Board should give each of the political parties a document each year that states policy, and have them initial that they have received it. The Board should look into what they are currently doing to address this issue.

On another issue, Fred understands that Commissioner Bernhard and Representative Witt were offered complimentary tickets for the Oktoberfest, however, none of the other candidates received tickets. Commissioner Bernhard stated that she did not take any complimentary ticket for the Oktoberfest. She attended both Friday and Saturday and paid her own way each time. Further, the Commissioners receive complimentary tickets for the Fair every year, however, she

has always paid her own way. She pays her own way everywhere she goes. She has never used a complimentary ticket.

Commissioner Corsiglia gave a brief explanation of how Fair Boards are run under a separate ORS and there is a recognized separation of powers in the ORS. The Board makes the appointments to the Fair Board, but does not have any authority over them. However, he feels that, as a Board, they should write a letter to the Fair Board and ask them to develop a specific policy with definite guidelines that will be given to all organized political parties once a year and strictly adhered to.

Tammy Maygra, 34319 Cannan Road, Deer Island, asked about the charges for her public records requests. It cost her \$22.00 for 5 pages of information and felt that was a bit much. Sarah explained that the cost includes staff time and that, for items that are not exempt, County Counsel's office needs to review that information before it is let out. Another issue, Tammy stated that she has been writing an editorial "Tammy's Take" on the St. Helens Update for about a year now. She reports on the County Commissioners' meetings, Port meetings and other things happening in the county or nationally. She considers herself a member of the press and should be able to sit in on Executive Sessions. She submitted a letter she received from the Attorney General's office. Commissioner Corsiglia was aware this might come up and therefore checked into criteria. He feels that Tammy qualifies as a press member and meets the criteria, however, this is something that needs further investigation and review by Counsel. They will keep her informed.

DELIBERATIONS: COLUMBIA HILLS ZONE CHANGE:

This is the time set for deliberations on proposed Ordinance No. 2006-6, "In the Matter of Amending Ordinance No. 21002-8, Approving the Application of Richard Recht for Columbia Hills Development Co., for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Zone Change from Rural Residential (RR-5) to Community Service-Utility (CS-U)".

Sarah stated that the title of the ordinance has already been read twice and it is now time for the Board to deliberate. The Board has been kept updated on this and, unless there are any questions, it is time to adopt. With that, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2006-6, "In the Matter of Amending Ordinance No. 21002-8, Approving the Application of Richard Recht for Columbia Hills Development Co., for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Zone Change from Rural Residential (RR-5) to Community Service-Utility (CS-U)". The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Corsiglia read the consent agenda in full. With that, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the consent agenda as amended:

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 10/3/06.

- (B) Order No. 75-2006, "In the Matter of the Claim for Compensation under Measure 37 submitted by Franciene Urban". (*Commissioner Bernhard abstained on this matter due to a possible conflict of interest*)
- (C) Order No. 79-2006, "In the Matter of Authorizing Filing a Civil Penalty and Fees against Wendy Hart in the Columbia County Lien Records for Failure to Pay".
- (D) Resolution No. 80-2006, "In the Matter of Authorizing the Issuance, Negotiated Sale and Delivery of General Obligation Refunding Bonds; Designating an Authorized Representative; Delegating the Approval and Distribution of the Preliminary and Final Official Statements; Authorizing Execution of a Bond Purchase Agreement; and Related Matters".
- (E) Take original jurisdiction over the land use actions for the FBI Shooting Range.
- (F) Approve addition of Anytime Fitness dues as an available payroll deduction.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (G) Personal Services Contract with Community Action Team, Inc. for administration of OHCS Grant #HC503.
- (H) Agreement with the City of St. Helens for Animal Impoundment Services and Reservation of Kennel Capacity.
- (I) Amendment #42 to the 2005-2007 Intergovernmental Agreement #113022 with DHS.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER CORSIGLIA COMMENTS:

Commissioner Corsiglia wanted to compliment Janet Wright on her work on the Cultural Trust project. The County just received another \$7,000.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard attended a presentation at the Tech Center this week. The speaker was from Lake Placid, New York and spoke on drug and alcohol treatment and use particularly in athletics. He travels around the US giving these presentations.

She also attended the Vernonia Salmon Festival last weekend. She was surprised to see that salmon dinners were not available.

Last week, she attended an LNG meeting in Kelso. It was mostly attended by people from Washington, but there were a couple of people from Oregon. It was a very informative meeting.

She sat in on a vocational rehabilitation orientation the other day. This program helps people get retrained and gets them into a position suited for them.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde reported on the O&C meeting he attended and gave an update on the reauthorization of PL 106-763. This means 2.4 million to Columbia County every year.

There was another very successful Salmon Festival in Vernonia last weekend. The weather was good and the salmon were running up stream, which is always awesome.

On Monday, Commissioner Hyde attended an AOC Legislative Board meeting in Salem. Earl Bloomenhauer was there for about an hour and a half interacting on the issues. Commissioner Hyde brought up his concern with the eroding of our emergency management money.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(1)(h)(e):

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(1)(h)(e). Upon coming out of Executive Session, no action was taken by the Board.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 11th day of October, 2006.

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: Joe Corsiglia
Joe Corsiglia, Chair

By: Rita Bernhard
Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

By: Anthony Hyde
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh