

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES
October 25, 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 Hyde moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2006 Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Thelma Bonar, Way Lane, Warren, asked if the Board can do anything to get a traffic light at either Church Road and Hwy 30 or Bennett Road and Hwy 30. It's so hard to get out onto the highway from either of these roads and, sooner or later, someone is going to get killed. Commissioner Bernhard understands that ODOT has been discussing this for some time now but is not sure where it stands at this point.

Tammy Maygra, Deer Island, asked about the Summit Westward project. Is the coal coming in by rail or barge. Commissioner Hyde understands that the coal will be coming in by barge, but there is no set plan yet. Tammy then asked if a depletion fee would be charged on the coal. Commissioner Hyde stated that it would not be, the Board does not interpret the ordinance for that. The Depletion Fee ordinance was established to make competition fair for the surface miners in Columbia County.

PUBLIC HEARING: CHARLENE WASHBURN TEMPORARY USE PERMIT:

There was a Board consensus to reschedule this hearing to November 22, 2006.

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 follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 10/17/06.
- (B) Rescind 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".

- (C) Resolution No. 83-2006, "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".
- (D) Resolution No. 84-2006, "In the Matter of Approving a Tax Exempt Lease/Purchase Agreement dated 10/13/2006 with Key Government Finance, Inc.".
- (E) Order No. 85-2006, "In the Matter of Appointing the Administrator and Adopting an Application Form Under the Columbia County Outdoor Mass Gathering Ordinance".
- (F) Authorize the County Sheriff to fill one vacant Corrections Technician and one vacant Corrections Deputy positions.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (G) Amendment #44 to the 2005-2007 Intergovernmental Agreement #113022 with DHS.
- (H) Amendment #14 to the Agreement with CCMH to extend the date to June 30, 2007.
- (I) GIS Data License Agreement with The Nature Conservancy.
- (J) GIS Data License Agreement the Clatskanie P.U.D.
- (K) GIS Data License Agreement the Natural Resource Group.
- (L) GIS Data License Agreement Alpha Community Development.

The motion carried unanimously.

TAMMY MAYGRA & THELMA BONAR - HOSPITAL DISTRICT:

Tammy Maygra and Thelma Bonar approached the Board regarding their concerns with the Hospital District. Thelma presented an initiative to the Board that would dissolve the new district and eliminate the taxes being collected. They asked that the Board put this on the ballot for the voters to decide. John stated that there is a process built into the statutes to do this but he will need to review them before making any recommendation to the Board.

Thelma and Tammy went over their reasons for this request. Under federal law, a critical access hospital cannot be built within 35 miles of another hospital, using federal funds. Another issue is the Certificate of Need, which hasn't been filed.

Commissioner Bernhard asked both if they have been involved in the process since it started years ago. Yes, both before and after this went to the voters.

Moving on, Tammy stated her concern with the district collecting tax dollars from the citizens for something the district can't build. In all fairness, they should step up and state that they can't build the hospital, stop collecting the taxes, and start the process over from the start.

Thelma is not happy that the new district picked up the debt of the old district and understands from the statutes that they did not even have to form a new district, just used the old one. Commissioner Corsiglia stated that they may not have been required to, but could chose to. John felt their reasoning was to get a higher tax rate.

The land they are buying from the Port of St. Helens, with an assessed valued at \$970,000, will be somewhere between \$1.34 million and \$1.37 million to purchase. Tammy's point is that the cost is now up to \$15 million to build this facility, which is much more than they told the voters. The collection of these tax dollars need to stop now! This facility, even if it was built, would just continue to need more tax dollars to keep it operating.

Next is that election cost the county \$63,000, but the district only paid \$18,000 back. Commissioner Corsiglia stated that was addressed when the district came before the Board and there was an agreement to share that cost.

Another issue, the district is supposed to do an annual audit and submit it to the County Clerk and the State. There were a number of years that they didn't do this.

They didn't qualify as a low risk under federal rules.

The old hospital district sold the hospital in 1984 and, at that point, they were required to go through a process to change their name. They should have dissolved the district at that point and then form a new one and it would have had to go to the voters for that.

Thelma pointed out that, when this district was formed with the new tax rate, Skip Baker told the Board that he didn't care if they agreed with this or not, he just wanted it put on the ballot.

In summary, Tammy and Thelma stated that they are not opposed to good health care in this county and recognizes the need, but would just like to see this district start over and do it right.

The Commissioners would like to have copies of the paperwork from Tammy and Thelma so that they can review all the information that was discussed here today and get some answers to the concerns brought up.

Georgia Keiper, 34403 Sykes Road, St. Helens: She agrees with Tammy and Thelma and would like to see a deadline for this initiative so the collection of these taxes will stop. Also, as a voter, she cannot support any more taxes or closed door meetings.

COMMISSIONER CORSIGLIA COMMENTS:

Commissioner Corsiglia went to the Heart awards last week and a candidates fair. He also attended the Koffee Klatch at Creekside Studios on Monday put on by Garrett Marketing. Someone finally won the \$599 gift certificate.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard also attended the Heart Award for Marilyn Thomas, she was a very deserving candidate.

Yesterday, she attended the AOC District 7 meeting. There were a lot of good discussions on issues effecting the counties.

She attended the Emergency Fair at the LDS church. They gave a presentation on how to put together 72 hour kits and had items available there.

Last weekend, she attended the pumpkin festival up at Oregon Hill Farms. That was a great family event.

On Friday evening, she attended the United Way Super Supper in Rainier as a fundraiser.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde spent a long weekend visiting with his mother in California.

He attended the AOC District 7 meeting. It was a good opportunity to share issues with the other counties.

There was no Executive Session held.

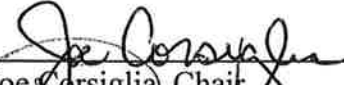
With nothing further coming before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

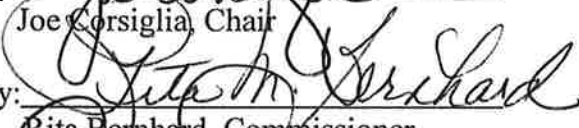
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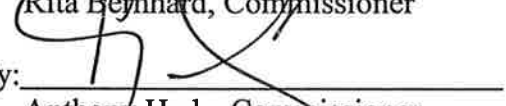
Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 25th day of October, 2006.

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, Chair

By: 
Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

By: 
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: 
Jan Greenhalgh