

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

February 12, 2008

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

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting to order.

CONTRACT FOR PORT WESTWARD - PHASE 2:

Dave Hill, Public Works Director, came before the Board regarding the contract for the Port Westward Phase 2 Road Improvements (Hermod Road). After receiving and reviewing 16 bids, the lowest bid came in at \$6,188,372.60 from Tapani Underground, Inc., which was considerably lower than the engineer's estimate. Tapani is a very reputable company and has done this type of work before. At this point, Dave would recommend that the county award the entire contract to Tapani Underground, Inc.. He will work with John Knight to prepare the contract for final approval. Dave noted that he will not issue the Notice to Proceed until the actual funding is secured. The Board agreed and added approval to the consent agenda.

CORNELIUS PASS SAFETY ISSUE:

Commissioner Bernhard brought up the issue of the safety concerns on Cornelius Pass Road which was discussed at the City/County meeting last week. There has been a number of different agencies who have passed a resolution supporting Multnomah County making some safety improvements. Commissioner Hyde spoke with the Multnomah County Board Chair and he understands that there is a lot of concern with this from Columbia County. They are conducting an expedited safety review and should have the results by June.

After discussion, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to send a letter to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioner's supporting their efforts to make safety improvements to Cornelius Pass Road. The motion carried unanimously.

LAW LIBRARY OVERSIGHT:

Jim Huffman, local attorney, approached the Board regarding the oversight of the law library. Currently, Steve Atchison, District Attorney currently has that

position. There is a lot of work and responsibility involved with this and it is very time consuming. It has been difficult in the past to find staff that is willing to work the hours necessary to keep the books and paperwork current. He is not here to criticize Steve, but because Steve is so busy and the time is not being directed towards the library, books are outdated, and other areas are lacking. Jim stated that he is willing to take over the management of the library. Michael Sheehan and John Salisbury have agreed to be on a three member committee, under the supervision of the Bar Association, to help operate the Law Library. Jim feels there is probably enough money to hire someone for 10-20 a week to maintain the materials. Commissioner Bernhard asked if the Bar has weighed in on this? Jim stated the Bar seems to be agreeable with this.

Steve Atchison, DA, joined the meeting and agreed with forming an oversight committee. One of the problems keeping up on this is that the State keeps cutting the funding. The only funding is 5% of the filing fees through the state courts and book prices continue to increase. Steve would like to see a lot of the information be put on-line, however, IT doesn't have the time to put into this.

After discussion, the Board agreed with the concept and suggested that Steve meet with Jim Huffman to work out the details and bring a recommendation back to the Board.

DAVE MALONEY - PUBLIC ROAD VARIANCE:

Dave Maloney, 53363 West Lane Road, Scappoose: Dave presented a packet of materials to the Board, regarding his complaint with being denied an access permit on Cedar Springs Drive in Scappoose. Dave referred to photos, maps, prior permits, etc. to explain the situation. Dave has property in the Chapman area in Scappoose. Using the map, Dave explained that he has constructed Cedar **Springs Drive** to 20 feet wide and the Road Department will not approve the road because it doesn't meet their standards, however, the fire department has approved it. Since 1998, Lonny Welter and Dave Hill have approved 4 access permits on Cedar **Creek Road** and even waived the \$50 fee on one of them, yet it is only 12 feet wide. He does not understand how the county can approve 4 access permits on a road that is only 12 feet wide and has no fire turnouts, when Dave's road is 20 feet wide with a turnout. Dave is here today to see what can be done about this.

Dave Hill explained that the Road Standards were updated in 2005 and how this effected Dave Maloney's property. One home would not be an issue, however, it becomes an issue when partitioning the property because it puts more traffic on the road.

Also, the Road Department does not have the authority to override conditions put on an application by the Land Development Services Department. As a solution, Dave Maloney could probably go through a Road Modification process.

Dave Maloney stated that he is not doing any more work to that road and, if necessary, will file a suit against the county. This is an issue of fairness.

After discussion, Commissioner Bernhard suggested that Dave give the Board an opportunity to take another look at this. Perhaps Dave Hill, Lonny and County Counsel can work on some other options to get this approved.

PROPOSED JAIL EXPANSION REPORT:

Sheriff Phil Derby and Jim Carpenter, came before the Board to give an update on the proposed Jail Expansion project. Phil has been in contact with the Federal Marshall's office in Washington, DC and they have requested that the County raise our rates from \$65 to \$85 per day because we haven't raised our rates for years.

The last contract with them was signed in 2001. Part of their reasoning is because if they do a long term contract with the county and then costs increase over the years, there won't be such a huge jump in costs. We should have an agreement within a week and then we would start getting paid the \$85 per day.

Regarding the expansion project itself, Jim addressed the wetlands issue. There is one area in the back that is deemed a wetland, however the person involved with wetlands mitigation did not feel this should ever had been given that designation and that all we would have to do is clean it out and enhance it with some plants.

The area is far less than 10% and Jim received a letter from the government that they didn't even want to deal with anything that is less than 10%.

While present, Phil informed the Board that it looks like it will cost more than anticipated for the FBI firing range and that more money may be needed.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 12th day of February, 2008.

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: _____

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____ Not Present

Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

Board Secretary:

By _____

Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

By: _____

Jan Greenhalgh