

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

October 22, 2008

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

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

MINUTES:

Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2008 Work Session and October 15, 2008 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Stephanie Kleipel, 34067 Sykes Road, St. Helens: It is her understanding that Rick Swart has resigned as a member of the Fair Board. She has submitted an interest form and is requesting that she be appointed to fill that position. Commissioner Bernhard explained the process for appointing members to the various committees and will forward this request on to the Fair Board for their consideration.

HEARING: PROPOSED FARE INCREASES FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY RIDER:

This is the time set for the public hearing to consider proposed fare increases for the Columbia County Rider.

Janet Wright explained that CC Rider has never had a fare increase, in fact there has been no fare increase for 15 years, even when COLCO was in service. The county is in the process of conducting a study, to look at the fares. However, until that study is complete, something needs to be done to offset the increased costs in operations. The Transit Advisory Committee has reviewed this request and voted unanimously to recommend an \$.80 fare increase across the Board, effective November 1, 2008. Again, this is a temporary fix until the study is complete.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

Jessie Smith, 622 SE Mill Street, Portland, OR 97214: He asked if this increase affects the cost of the monthly pass. Janet stated that the pass would increase from \$90 to \$106. Mr. Smith works in the engineering department at the City of St. Helens and takes the bus from Portland every day. With everything involved, it may be more cost effective to drive his car. He has checked around and \$90 is higher than Tri-Met, Seattle, Salem and Eugene transit systems. This could be a reason to not ride the bus. He would propose some type of discount for employers. He also suggested there could better use of stops only 2 in Scappoose. In the past three months, he has only seen one person get on the bus from the two stops in Scappoose.

With no further testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed for deliberation. Janet responded to Jessie's comments. The county is always looking at ways to improve services and appreciates comments from the public. She will meet with Jessie after the meeting to get more information. There are certain things that only the riders may know comments and suggestions may help increase efficiency. She noted that they do encourage employers to purchase monthly passes with pre-tax dollars. She can check with the City of St. Helens to see if this is something they may be interested in doing as part of their benefit package.

Although additional changes may be needed, Janet feels that an immediate increase is necessary to address the rising costs of operations. Commissioner Bernhard was at the Transit meeting and it was very clear that an increase is necessary now. With the increased trips to Portland, it has also increased the fuel costs.

After discussion, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to tentatively approve the fare increase for CC Rider and directed staff to prepare a Board order. The motion carried unanimously.

DELIBERATIONS: ADOPTING THE COLUMBIA COUNTY KENNEL ORDINANCE:

Spencer reviewed the notes taken during the hearing held two weeks ago. Todd has also suggested adding an emergency clause to this ordinance. Spencer explained that, under Section 12 - Existing Kennel Operations, it basically allows for a grace period for kennels to continue operations under the old kennel license, and gives them an opportunity to renew once under the old kennel licensing. Because of that wording, an emergency clause would not have much effect. He explained

this to Todd who now agrees that the emergency clause is not necessary. Spencer then went through the substantive changes to the ordinance as discussed during the hearing. He then gave the first reading of Ordinance No. 2007-7, by title only. The second reading will be held in two weeks, after which the Ordinance can be adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Hyde read the consent agenda in full. With no changes/additions, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 10/21/08.
- (B) Order No. 81-2008, "In the Matter of Authorizing Columbia 911 Communications District to Construct a Gate in the Right-of-Way of Bridge Street".
AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:
- (C) Offer and Acceptance of Award Amendment for EDA Award #07-79-06071 and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (D) Amendment #2 to the Personal Services Contract with CASA for Court Appointed Special Advocate Services.
- (E) Amendment #3 to the Personal Services Contract with Community Action Team, Inc. for Healthy Start.
- (F) Amendment #1 to the Personal Services Contract with Columbia Community Mental Health for the Teen and Family Transition Program.
- (G) Approve the Oregon Public Works Emergency Response Cooperative Assistance Agreement and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (H) Oregon Emergency Management FY 2009 Certificate.
- (I) Award Contract for Old Courthouse Re-Roofing Project to Carlson Roofing Company, Inc. in amount of \$43,970.00.
- (J) Approve Contract between Columbia County and Carlson Roofing Company, Inc.

for Old Courthouse Re-Roofing Project.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Last Wednesday, Commissioner Hyde attended a candlelight vigil for victims of domestic violence. This was sponsored by the Women's Resource Center who was there to speak about domestic violence. It was a very emotional event.

On Friday, he was in Salem to attend a Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee meeting. They discussed the harvest management plan for the State forests. Harvests are down and the revenue is below what was anticipated.

From last Sunday through today, there is a Pacific Rim RC&D conference in Portland. He was there Monday to give a speech on resources that are available to RC&D's.

Yesterday he was in Clatskanie to speak at the Kiwanis Club meeting. This morning he met with Congressman Wu at CRF&R to thank him for his vote on the funding bill, which means about \$238 million to Oregon annually.

COMMISSIONER CORSIGLIA COMMENTS:

Not present.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard spent last Thursday and Friday at the Workforce Investment conference in Burns. There are going to be some substantial changes at the State level in regards to the State Workforce Board, which may filter down to local Boards. She spoke with Representative Brad Witt and told him that, whatever happens, the local Boards need to be involved.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 22nd day of October, 2008.

BOC Minutes

10/22/08

Page 5

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

Recording Secretary:

By: _____

By: _____

Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

Jan Greenhalgh