

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

EMERGENCY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

December 23, 2008

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners called an emergency meeting at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 23, 2008, held in the Riverview Meeting Room, Columbia County Courthouse, 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, Oregon. Present were Commissioner Tony Hyde and Commissioner Rita Bernhard together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, Vicki Harguth, Emergency Management Director, Dave Hill, Public Works Director, Lonny Welter, Transportation Planner and Cynthia Zemaitis, Acting Board Secretary. Commissioner Joe Corsiglia and Janet Wright, Commissioners' Assistant, were present by teleconference. Deputy George from the Sheriff's Office joined the meeting late.

Commissioner Hyde called the emergency meeting to order, as allowed by ORS 192.640(3). The purpose of the meeting was to address the immediate emergency needs of the public due to the snow and ice caused by protracted 2008 snow storms.

- Commissioner Hyde indicated that he had talked with the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department (OECDD) concerning the County's declaration of emergency, and was assured that the Governor intended to sign the declaration. The State will loan equipment to deal with this emergency. OECDD needs our estimate of damage as soon as possible.
- Vicki Harguth has requested the State send two plows – one for the County and one for the City of St. Helens. She has received several calls from the military, who are setting up at the armory to be available if needed.
- Commissioner Hyde stated that the first two priorities is to develop the loss we have suffered, such as overtime and increased expenses. It was decided to use the pay given to employees when the courthouse was closed in the ratio of damages. The other priority is to determine our immediate needs.

- Commissioner Hyde indicated that an amendment to the declaration of emergency will be needed, and that someone needed to talk to the City of Scappoose about declaring an emergency. Sarah Hanson indicated an amendment was not needed, since a separate declaration can be done for the additional cities.
- Vicki Harguth confirmed that her department has been touching base with all the cities in the County.
- Sarah Hanson reminded everyone that a formal declaration of emergency would be needed from each of the cities.
- Vicki Harguth stated that she will contact the power companies and the Cities' public works department and ask them to send over their damage figures. She has already received the estimate from the Sheriff's office.
- Commissioner Bernhard questioned whether O&C funds could be used for this emergency. Commissioner Hyde said Title III funds are for search and rescue and for keeping federal

- lands open. Perhaps some of the funds could be used for this event, he will look into it.
- Vicki Harguth indicated that she has been getting a lot of calls from people who want to volunteer to help and wondered what she should be telling them. Commissioner Hyde stated that the Unmet Needs Committee cannot be relied upon for this event; they are still working on numerous issues from the 2007 flood. Sarah Hanson pointed out that the Board would have to formally expand their responsibility if they are going to take on this event as well.
- Commissioner Bernhard suggested using the CERT teams in each City to help the elderly, people with medical needs, etc. Vicki will contact them. Commissioner Hyde indicated that the CERT teams need to be very structured and remain that way.
- Deputy George indicated that the Sheriff's office is using the SUV from the Road Department and three other 4-wheel drive vehicles, which is all they have. The Deputy bought chains himself for the car he is driving. Deputy George also stated that they have been handling odd incidents, such as looking for a lost man. He believes the Title III search and rescue funds could be used for these types of activities.
- Dave Hill indicated there is a need to close many roads to heavy loads to prevent extreme damage once the thaw begins. It was agreed that Counsel's office would prepare an order for approval of the Board when of this meeting is reconvened. Commissioner Hyde asked Janet Hyde to be proactive on getting press releases out about why we have to institute weight restrictions on the roads.

The Board recessed the meeting at 1:15 p.m. and reconvened at 2:30 p.m. with Commissioner Hyde, Commissioner Bernhard, Sarah Hanson, Spencer Parsons, Assistant County Counsel, Lonny Welter, Vicki Harguth, Deputy George, Cynthia Zemaitis and Judge Steven Reed present. Also present were Sgt. Eagle and Staff Sgt. Kendel from the Oregon National Guard and Ron Youngberg, CRF&R. Commissioner Corsiglia and Janet Wright joined via teleconference.

- Judge Reed indicated that he has a problem because his staff cannot get paid past 16 hours for closures of the courthouse, and they are already there. He was his staff to be able to work if they want to, even if the courthouse is closed. Commissioners Hyde and Bernhard indicated that no decision had been made on whether the courthouse would be closed the following day, and that they would wait to see what it looked like in the morning. Commissioner Bernhard suggested that Judge Reed work with Bill Potter to be sure his staff can get into the courthouse when it is otherwise closed.
- Vicki Harguth confirmed that they are working on getting as much data as possible to the governor, and that the calls from people needing medical assistance and other help are increasing. Janet Wright indicated that the people needing assistance should be told to contact the Columbia County Rider. Ron Youngberg stated that the fire district can also help transport true emergencies.
- Spencer Parsons presented the order posting weight restrictions on certain roads, indicating that it was similar to what the Board approved last year. With little discussion, Commissioner Bernhard moved to approve Order No. 87 - 2008, In the Matter of Closure of Certain County Roads to Heavy Hauling; Limiting Maximum Weight To 10,000 Pounds. Commissioner Corsiglia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 23rd day of December, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____

Tony Hyde, Chair

Recording Secretary

By: _____

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By: _____
Cynthia Zemaitis

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: _____

Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner