

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

January 21, 2009

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Rita Bernhard, Commissioner Anthony Hyde and Commissioner Earl Fisher, together with Spencer Parsons, Assistant County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

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

MINUTES:

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2009 Work Session; January 14, 2009 Board meeting; and January 14, 2009 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None.

HEARING: ED BERGMAN APPLICATION FOR SURFACE MINING PERMIT:

This is the time set for the public hearing, "In the Matter of the Application by Ed and Ethel Bergman for a New Surface Mining Operating Permit #05-0082".

Regarding exparte contact, Commissioner Fisher had a conversation with a couple of the neighbors in Clatskanie but made no comments regarding this application. Commissioner Hyde had some conversations with a few Clatskanie residents, but they were prior to this application. Commissioner Bernhard also had some discussions with residents, but prior to this application. Spencer clarified that there has been no substantive contact. The Board stated no conflicts of interest. Spencer then read the pre-hearing statement into the record as required by ORS 197.763. He entered County Counsel's hearing file into the record, marked Exhibit "1", and listed all contents.

Todd Dugdale, LDS Director, came before the Board to give the staff report.

Mr. Bergman obtained a Conditional Use Permit for surface mining on May 8, 1998 and had applied for an operating permit but had not completed the application process in 1999. Todd noted that a small portion of the site had previously been mined as a forest practices pit. The application is now deemed complete.

Bob Brinkman, DOGAMI, Surface Mining Administrator, had previously submitted his report and asked if there were any questions on the report or conditions. He briefly summarized his report, the finding and recommended conditions. Based on the finding, he would recommend approval of the Surface Mining Permit with the 11 conditions as listed in the report.

Commissioner Bernhard asked if Bob has seen the three letters in opposition. Bob has not. Commissioner Hyde has read the letters and it appears that the concerns have been addressed in the conditions. Todd reviewed the letters and agreed that the concerns have been addressed.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

PROPOSERS:

Edward Bergman, 16901 Howard Drive, Clatskanie: He is the applicant for this surface mining permit. He is here to answer any questions by the Board. The pit is located on a corner and he has removed some of the material so that visibility is better and the traffic is very minimal. Any heavy traffic would be for very short periods of time. Commissioner Fisher asked about any homes up above the property who may have concerns with slides. Mr. Bergman stated that he is the one that lives up above and is not concerned.

Bill Eaton, PO Box 448, Clatskanie: He lives up above Mr. Bergman. He understands that a concern is with the traffic at the intersection of Hwy 47 and Orchard St. That area is not even close to where Mr. Bergman's mine is located and shouldn't be a concern. In fact, Mr. Bergman has cleared away some of the growth on his property, which has improved the visibility.

With no further testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed for deliberation. Commissioner Bernhard feels that most of the concerns have been addressed except for the one about the road. She would suggest that ODOT take a look at the intersection of Hwy 47 and Orchard for any safety concerns. Todd stated that he would contact ODOT. After some discussion, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to tentatively approve the application by Ed and Ethel Bergman for a Surface Mining Operating Permit #05-0082, with the 11 conditions as listed in the staff report, and direct staff to prepare the final order. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Bernhard read the consent agenda in full. Item (H) was pulled and carried over to the Staff meeting. With that, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 1/20/09.
- (B) Ratify the letter from Jan Kenna to the St. Helens School Board authorizing line item budget amendments.
- (C) Resolution No. 4-2009, "In the Matter of a Resolution Supporting the Fair Housing Program".
- (D) Order No. 5-2009, "In the Matter of Approving Bereavement Leave Benefits for Non-Represented County Employees".
- (E) Reappoint Diana Shrewsbury to the Mental Health Advisory Committee for a three (3) year term.
- (F) Reappoint Don Roppel to the Columbia Drainage Vector Control District Board.
- (G) Approve Personnel Actions implementing the Classification and Compensation recommendation.
- (H) Authorize Janet Wright to attend the PIO Training Course in Virginia on July 13-16, 2009, costs to be reimbursed by the State of Oregon. (***PULLED AND CARRIED OVER***).

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (I) Amendment #1 to the Personal Services Contract with Parametrix, Inc. to extend the completion date to June 30, 2009.
- (J) GIS Data License Agreement with the University of Oregon Libraries.
- (K) Approve Amendment #22 to the Agreement between Columbia County and Columbia Community Mental Health, Inc.

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The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON ADDING MEETING VIDEOS ON WEBSITE:

Commissioner Hyde addressed a matter that was discussed during the facilitated meeting, which is to get the Board meetings on streaming video for the county's website. He will be looking for the money to fund this project and, once that is done, will direct Jan Greenhalgh to research costs and equipment.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Fisher addressed another issue brought up at the facilitated meeting, regarding updating the county's way of educating the public on what and why certain things are pursued.

Commissioner Hyde commented on FEMA's potential refusal to meet our match. There are CDBG grants available for that match. CDBG grants are going to be one way that the federal government plans to disburse the \$825 billion stimulus money.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard attended the Senior Centers group meeting last week. This takes place once a month with all centers gathering. Due to on-going financial concerns, they are looking at ways to keep the meal programs going. They also discussed some of the problems that occurred for the seniors during the recent bad weather. Commissioner Bernhard will be contacting Vicki Harguth to see what can be done to address those problems. CAT has a group that works on the vulnerable population during weather type emergencies.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde was in Salem last week to attend an O&C meeting. There was a lot of discussion on what the counties can and can't do with Title III monies. Early in February, we need to certify to the federal government that the money has been spent as required.

He was at the capitol last week to testify on emergency management and spoke about our recent weather event and that of last year. The State needs to be more prepared and more money needs to be put into training for emergencies.

On Thursday, he attended an Oregon Solutions team meeting where they talked about the Vernonia School project and where we are with that. It looks like it's down to two sites.

On Friday, he spoke at a couple of civic's classes in Vernonia.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

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Commissioner Fisher met with the School Superintendent last Thursday. He offered to work with the districts to help bring interns into the county to work with the schools. They also talked about what is needed to get the schools off the state system.

Last week he attended the AOC County College in Salem. It was very interesting. They talked about a lot of different subjects, i.e. the stimulus package, county needs, etc. He can see a big problem with our State and Federal tax structure and it needs to be addressed. He feels very strongly that the current way of doing things is not working and it is the job of every elected official to change things for the positive and educate the people. It will be interesting to see what the new political structure will bring.

Commissioner Fisher commented on his discussions with ESD about information technology and the possibility of shared technology.

He stated that he has some interest in our public records laws and will be working with Sarah on this. This moved to discussion on putting more information on the website and getting our ordinances re-codified and put on-line.

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There was no Executive Session held.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 21st day of January, 2009.

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: _____

Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: _____

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Recording Secretary:

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner