

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

March 4, 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 Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2009 Work Session, February 25, 2009 Board meeting and February 25, 2009 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**VISITOR COMMENTS:**

None.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2009-1**

At this time, Spencer gave the second reading of Ordinance No. 2009-1. With that, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2009-1, "In the Matter of the Application of Tim and

*Michelle Bero for a Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment and Zone Change for a Parcel Directly North and West of the Vernonia Airport". The motion carried unanimously.*

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2009-2:**

*At this time, Spencer gave the second reading of Ordinance No. 2009-2. With that, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2009-2, "In the Matter of the Application of Tim and Michelle Bero for a Goal Exception to Statewide Planning Goal 4 for a Parcel Directly North and West of the Vernonia Airport". The motion carried unanimously.*

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*Commissioner Bernhard read the consent agenda in full. Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:*

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 3/3/09.
- (B) Order No. 13-2009, "In the Matter of the Proposed Withdrawal of County Road Status from Portions of Kerry Road Near Woodson and Boeck Road Near the City of Vernonia".
- (C) Order No. 14-2009, "In the Matter of Leasing County-Owned Oil and Gas Rights for Exploration and Production [March 2009 Auction Date]".
- (D) Order No. 15-2009, "In the Matter of Leasing County-Owned Oil and Gas Rights for Underground Gas Storage in the Mist Gas Field [March 2009 Auction Date]".
- (E) Approve the 2009 Liquor License Renewal for Birkenfeld Country Store.

**AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:**

- (F) Amendment #8 to the Professional Engineering Services Contract with Parametrix, Inc. for Port Westward Road Improvement Project.
- (G) Approve AI's Pool Settlement Agreement with NW Natural.
- (H) Approve Impact Fee Agreement with NW Natural.
- (I) Amendment #2 to the Intergovernmental Agreement #90G000124 with the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Building Codes Division.

**GRANTS/APPLICATIONS:**

- (J) Approve the Boating Facility Grant Program Application for JJ Collins Marine Park improvements.
- (K) Approve the RAC Title II Project Application for Scappoose-Vernonia Road Overlay.
- (L) Approve the RAC Title II Project Application for CZ Trail - Alder Creek Bridge.

The motion carried unanimously.

**COUNTY WATER RESOURCES INVENTORY PROJECT:**

Todd Dugdale, LDS Director, along with Erin O'Connell, Environmental Specialist and Sanitarian, addressed the Board on the County Water Resources Inventory project. This is a staff level initiative that is aimed at addressing a need that they have identified. Currently, there is no state or local oversight for the use of exempt water rights. These are rights that are not directly regulated by the State Water Resources Department, i.e. individual wells used in conjunction with rural development. These wells could potentially impact the future availability of water resources in developing areas. LDS Staff, with the encouragement of the District Water Master, has formed a staff level Water Conservation and Protection Committee to discuss possible responses to this need. Todd has attached a copy of the informal committee roster to his memo to the Board, identifying those participating. The first issue was determined to be the lack of an inventory of ground and surface water. To date, there is no information of this kind available. With this information and related data analysis, the committee would be able to identify potential critical areas and to develop and recommend conservation and sustainability measures to the Board and participating agencies to ensure adequate water supplies for the county. The committee has identified potential stake holders and plan to invite them to participate in the efforts to ensure their concerns are addressed. Staff has submitted a pre-application to RC&D for assistance in obtaining funding for the cost of contracting with a technical consultant to perform data gathering and analysis for the study and to help defray county costs in implementing and managing the study.

Commissioner Hyde reminded Todd that all green sheets for funding must first be submitted to the Board for approval. Todd stated that was preliminary at this point and will submit the final application to the Board for approval.

Erin explained that this is something that the District Watermasters came up with. Exempt water uses are private wells up to 15,000 gpd. She referred to an oversized map outlining the major areas of development and the most concentration of wells. Because we don't know what we really have, as far as ground water, we don't know the sustainability or how it will impact others in the area. The first step in this process would be to find out what we have and, if need be, identify areas that are critical. Water is not a renewable resource and is something we all rely on. As stated earlier, the green sheet is preliminary and no one has been contacted as far as grants at this time. However, if this is something the Board wants staff to proceed with, it will take county staff time, but Erin will also be looking at outside resources to help conduct this study. Hopefully, grants can be obtained to cover those costs. Erin wanted to make it understood that the county is not going out there to find illegal activities, this is purely scientific to understand what we have.

After presentation and discussion, there was Board consensus that LDS Staff move forward on this project, noting that any grant application must first come before the Board.

#### **LETTERS OF SUPPORT:**

One is a letter to our legislators in support for the Cornelius Pass safety improvements. The seconded is a letter to ODOT in support of the 2009-2011 Growth Management Grant for our Road Department. With that, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve both letters of support as stated. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Bernhard attended the Traffic Safety Committee meeting this morning. A lot of discussion on the safety corridor in the Warren area to Gable Road. They have established a task force to look at these concerns. Also discussed was the Columbia County Safe Kids Oregon event. These events will be held throughout the county to help teach people on the proper use of car seats. Law enforcement representatives were there talking about the increase in crime in the area. Drugs are becoming more of a problem and it is thought that the economy has a huge effect on crime.

She attended the CEPA meeting yesterday. A lot of discussion was held on emergency management. There was a speaker from Louisiana talking about Katrina and the aftermath.

On Friday, she attended a Strategic Planning meeting at the St. Helens High School. They are looking at the possibility of going out for a bond measure.

On Wednesday, she was at the Port of St. Helens meeting. A lot of discussion on the Scappoose Airport, Port Westward, and the Scappoose Bay Marina.

On Wednesday, she attended an emergency management preparedness meeting in Scappoose. These meetings are being held throughout the county to inform people how to be prepared for emergencies. There was a very good turnout.

**COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Hyde attended a Town Hall meeting in Vernonia on Monday with the Oregon Solution Team to discuss the new school, site selection, etc. Hopefully a final decision will be made by next week.

On Friday, he was in Salem for the Council of Forest Trust Lands committee meeting.

He was a speaker at the Chamber meeting in Scappoose

On Wednesday, he was in Salem for the Oregon Solutions budget meeting.

Tomorrow, he will be traveling to Washington, D.C. for the NACo conference. Unfortunately, he will be missing a national broadcast on the Vernonia school district.

**COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Fisher also attended the Council of Forest Trust Lands meeting. He found it very interesting and saw the importance of this group for our area.

He wanted to take the time to compliment Todd Dugdale and his staff on how well they are addressing the concerns of our citizens and solving issues that come up.

On Sunday, he attended a town hall meeting in Clatskanie with Senator Johnson and Representative Witt. They had just come from Salem, with a balanced budget for 2009. They had some very difficult decisions to make. People need to know that there are no easy decisions in these current times.

Commissioner Fisher stated that ESD has visited the county IT department to look at the county's needs and how we can work together on information technology. Yesterday, met with people from the City of St. Helens to talk about website development. The County's website needs updating and some improvements.

He announced that the Empty Bowls event is going on this month. This is an annual fundraiser for the Columbia Pacific Food Bank.

He mentioned that he will be setting time to meet with Mike Dennis of Oregon Aero to discuss his suggestion made at last weeks Board meeting.

There was no Executive Session held.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

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Recording Secretary:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan Greenhalgh