

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

March 11, 2009

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Rita Bernhard and Commissioner Earl Fisher, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary. Commissioner Hyde was attending a NACo Conference in Washington, D.C.

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

MINUTES:

Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2009 Board meeting and March 4, 2009 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Jim Bach, 30 Cowlitz St., St. Helens: With the bad economic situation, the food bank is in desperate need. He believes there is a lot of county land and water available and a whole summer ahead of us. He would like to see the County endorse the use of this land for growing food for the food bank and needy citizens. He suggested that foods like Zucchini and winter squash are hardy, healthy and can produce a tremendous amount during the summer months. There is also a lot of food going to waste, such as fruit from the trees dropping on the ground and rotting. He is looking at a program to utilize these lands throughout the county to feed our people.

Both Commissioner Bernhard and Fisher felt this was good timing because they have both had some recent discussions about community gardens. Commissioner Bernhard spoke with Cheryl Young at the St. Helens Senior Center who will be doing a garden to grow food for both the senior center and the food bank. Jim agrees with the idea of community gardens, but he envisions something bigger. Perhaps there is land out there that can be managed by volunteers and even the use of jail inmates. Commissioner Bernhard stated that this is definitely something the County is seriously looking at through other agencies, however there are some issues that need to be looked at and addressed. The Board appreciates Jim bringing this idea to the county and feels this is something that can work.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 3/10/09.
- (B) Order No. 16-2009, "In the Matter of Appointing an Advisory Committee for the Columbia County Fire Arms Range and Adopting By-laws for the Conduct of the Columbia County Fire Arms Range Advisory Committee".
- (C) Order No. 17-2009, "In the Matter of Appointing Members to the Homeland Security Emergency Management Commission".
- (D) Appoint Jeff Dickerson to the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council to complete the term of Phil Derby.
- (E) Approve the request from the Road Department for a waiver of the \$375 fee for a "Determination of Similar Use Application" on county owned property.
- (F) Approve the 2009 Liquor License Renewals for:
 - Multnomah Channel Yacht Club;
 - Jay Dee Tavern;
 - Scappoose Creek Inn;
 - Yankton Store

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (G) Amendment #4 to the Personal Services contract with Community Action Team, Inc., for Healthy Start.
- (H) Amended and Restated Personal Services Contract by and between Columbia County and Community Action Team for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program Grant Administration.
- (I) Flood Mitigation Grant Agreement with OEM for 4 elevation projects and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (J) Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Oregon, Military Department to update amateur radio operations.

The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST TO WAIVE SOCIAL GAMING FEE:

The Board received a letter from the St. Helens Moose Lodge requesting a waiver of their Social Gaming Fee of \$510, citing that they are a non-profit agency. Under the ordinance, there is language that allows the Board to waive the fee at their discretion. Commissioner Bernhard stated that the Social Gaming Ordinance is very old and in need of updating. She would suggest that the ordinance be looked at and possibly updated before taking any action on this request. After some discussion, the Board directed Jan to contact the Moose Lodge to inform them that, at this time, the Board is denying their request for a waiver and that the annual fee needs to be paid to keep their license current. It was stated that if there is a future decision to waive this fee, the County would reimburse the Moose Lodge at that time.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard attended the Police Academy Alumni meeting at the Tech Center last night. The Fire Marshall was there to give a presentation.

Yesterday, she attended both the MHAC and LADPC meetings. A lot of discussion was held on the stimulus package and if it will be helpful to these groups.

On Monday, she attended the Chamber forum at Bings. There was discussion on the Palomar pipeline, the line route, impacts, etc. The LNG proposals were also discussed. There was a very good turnout and a lot of good questions.

She attended the Fair Board meeting Monday night. They are excited to get a new member on board and start working on the upcoming fair.

Last Thursday, she attended the NWACT & NOHA meetings in Tillamook. More discussion on the stimulus package and distributions.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Not present.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher attended the Transit meeting in Clatskanie on Thursday. Many questions and concerns were addressed. As always, financing is an issue.

He attended the Chambers Koffee Klach last week, which was very well attended.

On Monday he was in Salem attending an AOC meeting and also meet with some of the legislators.

Yesterday, he met with ESD - as with everyone else, funding is an issue. Senator Johnson and Representative Witt commented that it doesn't sound good about where we are going to be in the future.

He wanted to compliment Jim Bach for coming to the Board with such a good idea on something that will help out our citizens in need.

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There was no Executive Session held.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 11th 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

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Recording Secretary:

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh

By: Not present

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner