

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

March 18, 2009

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Rita Bernhard, Commissioner Anthony Hyde and Commissioner Earl Fisher, together with Sarah Hanson, 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 March 11, 2009 Board meeting and March 11, 2009 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Jean Lewis, 2600 Gable Road #55, St. Helens: Jean came before the Board along with two high school students who are members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board, which is now up and running. They wanted to address the Board on the idea of a community garden. Students, Conner Freeman and Crystal Kistner are interested in helping run the community garden at the St. Helens Senior Center to help the center, food bank and those in need. They are also looking for a garden site in Scappoose. They already have someone who will do the tilling at no cost and the students will also be going to local businesses looking for donations of seeds, etc. Another

project they are working on is the Senior Prom for the elder seniors in the community.

Commissioner Bernhard explained that the community garden will be a topic of discussion at the staff meeting today at 2:00 with the different agencies in the county. There are some issues that need to be addressed prior to moving forward with this, but once these issues are addressed, the project will be opened up to the public for more input. The Board appreciates their interest in the project and are impressed with the students commitment.

Guy Letourneau, 56930 S. Morse Road, Warren: He has 3 patents on bladeless turbines and information is available on his website at Bladeless.com. He is considering developing and manufacturing these and currently has someone to fund a prototype if he can find someone to provide him steam, natural gas or propane. In short this provides rotary power. He explained the process on how this systems works. Commissioner Hyde will get Guy the contact information so he can get in contact with Dennie Houle at the State regarding this proposal.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 3/10/09.
- (B) Order No. 18-2009, "In the Matter of Conveying to the City of St. Helens a Portion of County-Owned Real Property Known as Tax Map ID No. 4N1W03-BA-07600".
- (C) Quitclaim Deed transferring a portion of Tax Map ID No. 4N1W03-BA-07600 to the City of St. Helens.

- (D) Appoint Steve Simpier to the Columbia Drainage Vector Control District Board to complete the term of Jimmy Wolfenbarger, term to expire 12/31/09.
- (E) Approve the 2009 Liquor License Renewals for:
 - St. Helens Golf Course

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (F) Local Agency Agreement with ODOT for Canaan Road Guardrail project.
- (G) Amendment #60 to the Intergovernmental Agreement #119925 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (H) Amendment #61 to the Intergovernmental Agreement #119925 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (I) Amendment #62 to the Intergovernmental Agreement #119925 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (J) Amendment #63 to the Intergovernmental Agreement #119925 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (K) Amendment #64 to the Intergovernmental Agreement #119925 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (L) Amendment #65 to the Intergovernmental Agreement #119925 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.

The motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATE:

Jean Ripa, Human Resources, came before the Board to give an update on some projects Commissioner Fisher is working on with regards to Information Technology. Meetings have been held with the NW ESD to look at the county's IT system and possibly working together and sharing resources. Gloria and Jim are doing an onsite visit to ESD to look at their security system. Jean talked about the county's equipment replacement schedule. Some talk has also been held on our website and Jean would suggest that the website be developed by someone on the outside instead of depending on IT to do it when they have time. The department simply doesn't have the time to do it. Other topics discussed were fiber optics, internet access, piggybacking on some of ESD's contracts, etc.

Commissioner Fisher talked about working with other districts to the benefit of all. There is also some stimulus money available for expanding broadband out to the rural areas which will help our citizens access the internet.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard was excited to see the article in the Chronicle about Erin, County Sanitarian, and her work with a disabled citizen in the county. With her work, the man and his family are now able to stay in their home. Sometimes people aren't aware of what the county does to help citizens.

The Board will be meeting with agency people this afternoon regarding a community garden

She attended the Parks meeting last night. They seem to be staying focused and will continue to operate by stretching what dollars they have. There was some discussion about the gate out at Dibblee Beach and they will have a proposal about that property to the Board sometime soon.

On Saturday night, she went to the employee bowling event. She didn't bowl but cheered everyone on. It was a lot of fun and a good turnout.

On Friday she was in Salem all day for an AOC Human Services meeting.

Friday evening, she attended the Empty Bowls event to benefit the food bank. There was a very good turnout and Commissioner Fisher represented the Board by serving soup.

On Thursday, she was at the United Way meeting. They did their allocations with the money received during the campaign. With all the layoffs happening throughout the county, they saw a drop in donations so resources were limited.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde spent the last week in Washington, DC for a NACo conference. He had the opportunity to meet with Oregon legislators and talk about issues facing the State and Columbia County. A lot of work was also put into the re-authorization of the timber funding and a lot of discussion on the stimulus funding.

Commissioner Hyde introduced Martia from Denmark. He is a foreign exchange student attending Vernonia High School this year. He is shadowing Commissioner Hyde for the day.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher wanted to thank everyone who attended the Empty Bowls event Friday night. It was a great success and they raised a lot of money for the food bank. He also wanted to thank the many local restaurants who donated the food. It was a great opportunity for citizens to come together and feel the sense of community.

He has spent some time with other counties seeking information and pleased to see how other counties are so willing to share experiences, needs, etc. One idea is to possibly share resources for codifying county ordinances. Commissioner Hyde informed him that AOC has a communications committee that deals with this type of thing and suggested Commissioner Fisher contact AOC about serving on that committee.

Commissioner Fisher has met with ESD, Board chairs and financial people to look at budget cuts facing the schools. There will be some significant reductions in these budgets that will severely

effect services. There are some very good programs out there that will have to be eliminated. People need to hear this and be informed that there is just not enough money.

He has also been working with KOHI to look at broadcasting the Board meetings live on the radio. This will help get information to the public. He appreciates the work on KOHI's part to help get this done.

There was no Executive Session held.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 18th 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

Recording Secretary:

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh