

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

April 29, 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 April 22, 2009 Board meeting and April 22, 2009 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None.

MTC & EMPLOYMENT DEPT UPDATE:

Joyce Aho and James Penley with the Employment Office and Julie Gassner and Karen Miller with MTC, were present to talk to the Board about the work force programs and services they provide, along with the stimulus funding now available. Julie shared information about the stimulus funding, aka ARRA, they have received to stimulate the work force. Along with the regular formula allocation, MTC has received an additional

\$361,000 for the region, basically doubling their funding. MTC will be targeting 2 populations. The first is at-risk, low income eligibility youth, ages 16-24. They will be employing 134 youth in the three counties, of which 75 will be from Columbia County. In May, they will be enrolling youth and matching them with employers. The other focus is the adult population, adults and dislocated workers. The region has received an additional \$151,000 for the adult population, of which about 50% of that will come to Columbia County. This will provide about 15 additional scholarships for people to go into short term training. For the dislocated workers, they have received an additional \$264,000, of which about 50% will come to Columbia County. This will provide another 27 scholarships.

Joyce is receiving additional funds through ARRA in three areas. The first is increasing unemployment benefits by \$25. The money also allows an extension of benefits up to 79 weeks as opposed to the normal 26 weeks. A part of the stimulus package is that, for qualified applicants, an additional 6,000 would now become eligible for benefits. The Employment Office will also be adding 50 full time employees statewide.

Karen addressed the rapid response services for businesses such as Stimson Lumber, Cascade Grain, and some other small businesses who have had to do layoffs. They will also be working with the schools due to the pending layoffs there.

Commissioner Bernhard stated that during the Workforce Conference, Judge Steve Grasty, from Harney County, challenged the other Commissioners to go to the employment offices and actually go through the process of filling out an application, filing for unemployment benefits, etc. so they know what our citizens are going through. She plans to meet that challenge and will be visiting the Employment office very soon.

James went over the process on what people have to do when looking for work. Their office helps with resumes, classes, interviewing techniques, the whole gamut of information the job seeker will need.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Bernhard read the consent agenda in full. With the highlighted changes in Item (F) and (H), Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 4/28/09.
- (B) Letter of Support for the CDBG Regional Housing Grant for the City of Cannon Beach.
- (C) Order No. 22-2009, "In the Matter of the Adoption of an Early Retirement Package".
- (D) Resolution No. 24-2009, "In the Matter of the Application of Columbia County to Participate in the Assessment and Taxation Grant".

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (E) Amendment No. 3 to Commission on Children and Families 2007-2009 County Intergovernmental Agreement 0709COLU and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (F) Ratify the Right of Entry Permit for NW Natural. **(PULLED & HELD OVER)**

GRANTS:

- (G) Grant Award Conditions and Certifications for the Oregon Military Department Office of Emergency Management State Homeland Security Program - CFDA #97-073.
- (H) Approve the 2009 State Homeland Security Grant for: FY2009 SHSGP Communications Interoperability and Redundancy; FY09 SHSGP Critical Infrastructure Protection; FY09 Citizen Corps **and Homeland Security Planning Initiative.**

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The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard attended the Democratic Central Committee meeting last night. There was a very good presentation on the fishing industry and the legislature.

The Board reviewed the Rail Corridor study yesterday at the work session. This study has been in the works now for about a year.

On Monday, she attended the Community Action Team meeting. They continue to see an increased demand for services with the resulting increases in their case loads. They also discussed the recovery efforts for housing.

She attended the Master Gardeners plant sale on Saturday at the St. Helens High School. There were over 6 thousand tomato plants sold that day.

A meeting was held with a couple of different agencies regarding the Community Garden project. To date, there will be a community garden at the St. Helens Senior Center, one at the Scappoose Senior Center and one at the County Jail. All three sites have started planting.

On Friday she spoke to the civics class at the Scappoose High School. She is always amazed at the knowledge and awareness of the students.

She attended a United Way meeting Thursday night. They are also seeing an increased need with less resources.

She also attended the Regional Workforce Investment Board meeting Wednesday afternoon in St. Helens.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde will be in Anchorage, Alaska next week to attend a Regional FEMA meeting. One of the main topics of discussion will be on preparedness.

He sat on an Immigration panel in Portland last week.

On Thursday, he was in Portland to attend an OECDD meeting.

He had the pleasure of sitting as a Judge for Vernonia High School Senior projects. This is a pass or fail grade and could make the difference between graduating or not. He has done this for a number of years and believes this was the best group of kids yet.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher has been in discussions with the Maintenance Department about getting some stimulus money for a new roof for the Courthouse.

He also attended the Master Gardeners sale on Saturday. He spoke with one person that bought a lot of the tomato plants because he and others are doing their own community garden.

While he was in Astoria last week he stopped by the Clatsop County Courthouse to see how they put their budget together. He found it quite different from ours and found some things to learn from.

He attended the Senior Centers 5 area luncheon this week in Clatskanie. He sees a growing need for senior services in this county.

On Monday he attended the Oregon Cultural Trust meeting. He appreciates all of those who give their time to participate on this committee. He noted that anyone interested in the arts can contact him for more information.

There was no Executive Session(s) held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 29th day of April, 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: _____

By: _____

Jan Greenhalgh

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

