

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

June 17, 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 amended minutes of the June 3, 2009 Staff meeting; minutes of the June 9, 2009 Work Session, June 10, 2009 Board meeting; and June 10, 2009 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Scott Groves, 57218 Old Mill Road, Scappoose: Scott presented a copy of a letter submitted to Judge Reed on a case against his neighbors Samantha Miller. Scott has some real concerns about how that case was handled and discrepancies in the testimony. Spencer clarified that when he tried to present this letter during the hearing. Judge Reed read it but declined to enter it into the record as evidence. Scott stated that he will be submitting a letter to the Circuit Court and asked that the Board of Commissioner's look into this. Scott was extremely disappointed with the outcome of this case. He begs the Board to not back burner this, because

this is an ongoing problem that effects not only himself but his neighbors on a daily basis and would appreciate some help. Another concern is that Robert Crain is the only county staff person to deal with code enforcement complaints, however, he is out of the office most of the time. Robert wasn't even present during the hearing. In summary, he would just like some help from the Commissioners to get this matter resolved.

Stephanie Klepel, 34067 Sykes Road, St. Helens: She is here representing the Food Bank and their booth during the County Fair. She asked if the Board members would be willing to donate a couple of hours during the Fair to man the booth. Commissioner Bernhard stated that she would be there to help out.

Phil Warner, 29681 Scappoose Vernonia Hwy, Scappoose: His only question is what is going to happen to Samantha Miller and the dogs. Commissioner Hyde feels the less said and the more done is better, however he stressed that this is not a back burner issue and will be dealt with. This situation is not acceptable. Phil stated that, since the hearing, the noise level has increased to intolerable.

Mike Chappel, 57221 Old Mill Road, Scappoose: He is a neighbor of Samantha Miller's. He feels this has just become a laughing matter and nothing is being done. All she gets is maybe a slap on the wrist. Where are the victims rights here? The neighbors waited to see what was going to be done and nothing has. This is unacceptable. The neighbors are extremely upset and want to see whatever can be done legally, be done.

Alta Lynch, 32961 Scappoose Vernonia Hwy, Scappoose: The Samantha Miller issue has been going on for a long time. This effects more than just the neighbors, it effects those who want to open a legitimate kennel, but because of the lack of enforcement, it makes it hard for everyone. This needs to be dealt with.

On another issue, she has heard that there is going to be a grand opening of the CZ Trail this month and the neighbors have not been informed of this. Commissioner Hyde also heard that and has made calls about this mis-communication. He confirmed that there will be no grand opening on Saturday and that it will not happen until the County is ready. Once that date is determined, it will be noticed and the neighbors will be informed.

**HEARING: COLUMBIA COUNTY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER CDBG
PROJECT:**

This is the time set for the public hearing to solicit comments on the Columbia County Family Resource Center CDBG project. This hearing is required under the CDBG program when closing out the grant.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

With no testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed. No formal action is required by the Board.

**1ST READING OF ORD #2009-4: AMEND CCZO SECTION 942 - AIRPORT
ZONE:**

The Board held a public hearing on this matter on June 10, 2009. After the hearing was closed, the Board made a tentative decision to approve the ordinance and directed staff to prepare the ordinance. Spencer has prepared the ordinance and with that, gave the first reading of Ordinance No. 2009-4, "In the Matter of an Application to Amend Section 942 of the Columbia County Zoning Ordinance in the Airport Industrial Zone", by title

only. The second reading will be held on July 1, 2009 at or after 10:00 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 6/16/09.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (B) 2009-2011 Individualized Services Agreement #11412 with the Oregon Youth Authority.
- (C) Juvenile Crime Prevention Basic Services and Diversion Services Intergovernmental Agreement #11429 with Oregon Youth Authority and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (D) Grant Agreement #25921 with ODOT, Public Transit Division.
- (E) Public Procurement Contract with Hanson Heidelberg Cement Group.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard commented on the budget issues and concerns the Board has been working on. It has required a lot of time and effort.

She has been spending a lot of time on the housing situation with HUD. There are approximately 125 people who will be losing housing through the HUD program. Private landlords, CAT, churches, and others have stepped up to try to keep these people in their homes. This is a very difficult time for a lot of people and hopefully something will be worked out. She stated that many others counties are facing this same problem.

The Board met with the Sheriff and local law enforcement agencies last week, to see how needed services can be provided and, hopefully, everyone can work together towards a solution.

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She has been attending her grandsons little league playoff games that past week. The Scappoose team came in 2nd place.

On Friday, she attended the AOC Human Services meeting in Salem. They are working on ways to become more efficient throughout the state.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde has been putting a lot of time and effort into the county's budget for FY 2009-2010. There are a lot of things happening in Salem right now that could also effect the county and he is keeping a close eye on that.

Last week, the Board met with all of the law enforcement agencies to discuss the shortfall in the Sheriff's department with the loss of the US Marshall money and what can be done to provide needed services.

Yesterday, he met with the FBI on issues surrounding the firing range.

He also attended a meeting on the CZ Trail to discuss where we are on that project, i.e. mediation plan, projected opening, etc.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher attended an ESD Board meeting. There are about 50 staff members who will be losing their jobs, some within Columbia County. The unemployment numbers went up this month and will most likely rise again as some public employees are let go.

At a previous meeting, the Board held discussions with the Sheriff about a fencing project at the Jail. He would like to know what the process will be for that, such as bidding the project, contracts, the costs involved, etc.

Commissioner Fisher stated that the legislature is coming up to their last week, which is the most important. A lot of things happen during that last week and it is in the best interest of the County to keep an eye on this.

Commissioner Fisher has been asked about the process for hiring people at the county. Who has the authority, what are the rules, etc. Jean responded that funding for positions have to be approved by the Board, however, the department heads have some flexibility when hiring temporary staff. Typically, the appointing person in each department is the department head, however they can formally delegate that authority to someone else. The ultimate accountability remains with the department head.

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Recording Secretary:

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner