

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

June 24, 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 Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2009 Board meeting; minutes of the June 17, 2009 Staff meeting; June 17, 2009 Budget meeting; and June 18, 2009 Budget meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Jeff Dotter, 116 "F" Street, Vernonia: He is here today in support of the 80 plus disabled people whose housing vouchers are being terminated by HUD/NOHA. In the past, he was responsible for a multi-million dollar budget for a very successful company. The first place they looked when cuts had to be made was administration, office supplies, etc. That was done before any consideration was made to cut services. He has reviewed NOHA's budget and the money is there to help these people. The NOHA Board members are responsible for this budget and should be finding a way to help these people

Commissioner Bernhard explained that she sits on the NOHA Board representing the Columbia County Commissioner's. The NOHA Board has been spending a lot of time on this issue to see what can be done to help the residents who are losing their housing.

Tammy Wilson, 2405 Columbia Blvd. #3, St. Helens: There are many people that are being kicked out of their homes that shouldn't be. She read a letter to the Board explaining her personal situation, health problems and the need for companion to help her with daily life. She received a letter from NOHA stating that she cannot have companion help. She is begging for help for herself and all of the others being effected by this.

Guy Roberts: A couple of years ago he became disabled with multiple disabilities and was accepted by NOHA for help with housing. He is unable to work and after receiving the eviction letter, he has no where to go except under the bridge. Many of these people have been mentally and physically damaged by this information. He is asking for any help the Board can be.

Janet Thompson: She has been on NOHA since 2003 and is a good tenant and pays her rent on time. This is a very emotional thing to deal with and she will have nowhere to go if she is kicked out of her home. She has a lot of medical issues, bad heart, diabetic, high blood pressure and cholesterol. She is not lazy and would work if she could. There are many others even worse off than herself and she is begging the Board to do what they can.

Kerry Stucker, 3587 Roberts Lane, St. Helens: She is a recovering drug addict and a single parent of a 2 year old. Before getting help from NOHA, she had lost her children and her husband is in prison for life. She has turned her life around and is currently a volunteer at the women's drug

court. Because she volunteers, she gets no paycheck. After hearing the Board speak today, she is confident that they are working on this and trying to do something about it. She wanted to thank them for that.

Margaret Black 255 N. 17th St., St. Helens. She was homeless for 2 years. When she went into CAT and met Martha, she secured housing. She has been on NOHA for about one year and she knows that she can't make it without NOHA. She wanted to thank CAT for all they have done for her.

Pamela Howell, Rainier. She is legally blind and has emphysema. She waited three years to get on NOHA. She can't drive or do a lot of other things without help. Her daughter can't live with her because of the NOHA rules. If there is something being done, the people need to know what that is and soon. Commissioner Bernhard stated that final word should be received in the next couple of days on available funding. She recommended that anyone needing help to contact their local CAT office.

Clifford Aldridge, 29063 Hirtzel Road, #8, Rainier. He is a landlord through NOEA and did some checking on this problem. It took about an hour for him to find the money to fix the financial problem. It can be done. Commissioner Bernhard suggested he contact Carol Snell at NOHA and give her this information.

Steve Cline, 2545 Columbia Blvd., St. Helens. It appears we have reached the point where we're going over the same issues. Most of the people here today are at the bottom of the social ladder and share many of the same problems. He wanted to thank the Board for listening and doing what they can. This is a bad place for many of us to be in.

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The Board thanked everyone for coming in to share their personal stories and stated again that they are working on this.

HEARING: FY 2008-2009 COLUMBIA COUNTY SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET:

This is the time set for the public hearing to solicit comments on the supplemental budget for Columbia County's FY 2008-2009 budget.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

With no testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed. Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve Resolution No. 33-2009, "In the Matter Authorizing Supplemental Budget Adjustments for the Columbia County Rider Fund". The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

With on correction on Item (M), Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 6/23/09.
- (B) Order No. 35-2009, " In the Matter of the Distribution of Forest Trust Land Revenues [2009 Distribution]".
- (C) Order No. 36-2009, "In the Matter of the Distribution of Proceeds Under ORS 275.275 [2009 Distribution]".

- (D) Order No. 37-2009, "In the Matter of Reimbursing the Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District Pursuant to ORS 275.275(2) [2009 Distribution - Mist Gas Field Revenues]".
- (E) Order No. 38-2009, " In the Matter of Reimbursing the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District Pursuant to ORS 275.275(2) [2009 Distribution - Mist Gas Field Revenues]".
- (F) Resolution No. 39-2009, "In the Matter of Adopting the Columbia County Community Corrections 2009-2011 Biennial Plan".
- (G) Approve renewal of workers compensation coverage with SAIF Corporation for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 and authorize Jean Ripa, Human Resources Director, to sign the Notice of Election.
- (H) Authorize the Purchase of a Transit Vehicle from the State Vehicle Price List, authorize an exception to Local Rule No. 4 and authorize Janet Wright to obtain a County Purchase Order number and authorize the Chair to sign the State PO as authorizing agent.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (I) Amendment #72 to the 2007-2009 Intergovernmental Agreement #119925 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (J) Amendment #73 to the 2007-2009 Intergovernmental Agreement #119925 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (K) Amendment #74 to the 2007-2009 Intergovernmental Agreement #119925 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (L) Amendment #75 to the 2007-2009 Intergovernmental Agreement #119925 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (M) 2009-2011 Intergovernmental Agreement with DHS for the Financing of Community Mental Health Developmental Disability and **Addiction** Services #127291 and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (N) State Grant Agreement #25636 with ODOT, Public Transit Division for \$296,395.00.
- (O) State Grant Agreement #25720 with ODOT, Public Transit Division for \$577,500.00.

- (P) State Grant Agreement #26037 with ODOT, Public Transit Division for \$132,656.00
- (Q) State Grant Agreement #26038 with ODOT, Public Transit Division for \$14,042.00
- (R) GIS Data License Agreement with Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (S) Amendment #3 to the Oregon Commission on Children & Families 2007-2009 County Healthy Start - Medicaid Administrative Activities Intergovernmental Agreement COL0709 and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (T) LOIS User Agency Agreement with the Oregon Department of State Police and authorize the Sheriff to sign.
- (U) Amendment #2 to the Public Services Contract with Community Action Team, Inc.
- (V) Amendment No. 1 to Personal Services Contract by and between Columbia County and Columbia Community Mental Health for Skills Trainer.
- (W) Amendment No. 3 to Personal Services Contract by and between Columbia County and Columbia Community Mental Health for the Teen and Family Transition Program.
- (X) Amendment No. 4 to Personal Services Contract by and between Columbia County and CASA of Columbia County for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Services.
- (Y) Amendment No. 6 to Personal Services Contract by and between Columbia County and Community Action Team, Inc., for Healthy Start.
- (Z) Mineral Lease with Kerr Contractors, Inc. for Goble Quarry.
- (AA) Collection Franchise Agreement with Waste Connections of Oregon Inc., dba Hudson Garbage Service.

The motion carried unanimously.

“NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK”:

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After Commissioner Bernhard read the proclamation into the record, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to proclaim June 21-27, 2009 as "***National Lightning Safety Awareness Week***". The motion carried unanimously.

CONTRACT FOR DEMOLITION OF WEST STREET PROPERTY:

After review of the information submitted by Cynthia Zemaitis, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to authorize staff to proceed with the demolition of the structure at 751 West Street, St. Helens, OR, and award the contract for an asbestos survey to Certified Environmental Consulting and the contract for demolition to Dan Reihl Excavating, accept Dan Reihl's \$15,000 CCB bond and thereafter place the property on the market for \$60,000. The motion carried unanimously.

ASBURY ACRES FOR FAIR USE:

Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to authorize the use of a portion of Asbury Acres for the 2009 Columbia County Fair. The motion carried unanimously.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH OREGON SOLUTIONS:

Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve the Cooperative Agreement with Oregon Solutions. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard stated that the Board has been spending a lot of time on budget and housing issues.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

No comments.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

No comments.

The Board recessed the meeting at 11:00 a.m. to attend a Oregon Solutions Team meeting in Vernonia with Senator Merkley.

The Board reconvened again on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioner Bernhard, Commissioner Hyde, Commissioner Fisher, Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting back to order.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- (A) Resolution No. 40-2009, "In the Matter of the Adoption of the Columbia County Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and the Appropriation and Levying of Ad Valorem Taxes".
- (B) Resolution No. 41-2009, "In the Matter of Transferring Appropriations within the Various Funds of the 2008-2009 Columbia County Budget".
- (C) Resolution No. 44-2009, "In the Matter of Adopting the 2009 Columbia County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update".
- (C) Authorize Ronda Courtney to send Fair tickets to all county employees, as part of the county compensation package.
- (D) Approve the Public Road Event Permit for Cascade Bicycle Club, Seattle-to-Portland Bicycle Classic.
- (E) Accept Dedication Deed from Columbia Health District for additional right-of-way to Millard Road.
- (F) Access Agreement with Enerfin Resources for seismic studies, Mist Gas Field.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (G) Personal Services Contract with Columbia County Title & Escrow, Inc.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJUSTMENTS TO COUNTY BUDGET:

Commissioner Hyde briefly commented on the budgets within the Sheriff's Department. Collectively, some dollars have been moved around and the Board was able to reallocate enough money to buy back approximately 6 deputies, which includes the marine patrol. At a point, we have dipped into the reserve so much that, if next year is as bad as this one, it's going to be even tougher. If revenue comes in from any outside sources, such as the US Marshall, we need to reimburse the reserve account. With many unknowns at this point, he would recommend that

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the Budget Committee get together in 6 months to look at each individual line item to see where we're at and where we're going.

Commissioner Fisher feels we need to look at how we deliver services or not deliver services with reduced dollars. We may have to start saying no on some services. People have to start understanding that times are changing and it's getting tougher.

Commissioner Bernhard stated that there has been discussion on the possibility of closing the courthouse on certain days, but the Board is still waiting to hear from the unions.

Commissioner Hyde feels that the Board needs to thank our rank and file for understanding and stepping up to work with the county on this situation. Commissioner Bernhard and Fisher both agreed the staff has been proactive in helping balance this budget. The Board will be sending a letter of thanks to the unions to thank them.

JOE SCHULTZ - COUNTY INSURANCE:

Joe Schultz, Pieper-Ramsdell Insurance, addressed the Board on the current figures for insurance renewals for the Property & Liability Policy and the Docks & Piers Policy. The rates are basically the same as they were last year. Joe went over some positive changes in services provided by CCI.

After review of both policies, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the renewal of the Property & Liability insurance policy with City County Insurance Services in their standard program at a premium of \$269,718.03 and keep the deductible at \$1,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Further, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the renewal of the Docks & Piers insurance policy with Empire Indemnity Insurance Company with the addition of the terrorism coverage. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(b) - BARGAINING:

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(b). Upon coming out of Executive Session, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to direct Jean Ripa to inform the Department Heads that the Board is considering closing the courthouse on the furlough dates submitted by the unions and will be asking for suggestions from department heads and State Courts on the details. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 24th day of June, 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

Recording Secretary:

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary