

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

July 8, 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 Cynthia Zemaitis, Acting 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 July 8, 2009, regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Bernhard announced that Item (D) was being pulled, to be discussed next week, then read the consent agenda in full. With no further changes or additions, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 7/7/09.
- (B) Order No. 46-2009, "In the Matter of Amending the Columbia County Enforcement Ordinance, Incorporating Position and Personnel Changes".
- (C) Order No. 47-2009, "In the Matter of Granting Permission to Kristen Willis to Serve Alcohol at her Wedding to take place at Camp Wilkerson on August 1, 2009".
- (D) Order No. 48-2009, "In the Matter of Transferring Certain Access Approach Deposits from the Columbia County Treasurer's Deposit Fund to the Columbia County Road Fund". **(PULLED AND HELD OVER.)**

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (E) Hold Harmless Agreement with Kristen Willis for Wedding and Alcohol Use at Camp Wilkerson on August 1, 2009.
- (F) Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between Columbia County and UASI Countywide Sub-Recipient Agencies and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (G) Intergovernmental Agreement #25597 with ODOT for Canaan Road Guardrail Right-of-Way Services.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION:

Sarah Hanson asked that the Board approve the Hold Harmless Agreement for the use of Big Eddy Park by the First Baptist Church of Forest Grove from July 10 to July 12, 2009. With little discussion, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the Hold Harmless Agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard commented that she has spent quite a bit of time with the Northwest Housing Authority on housing issue. She attended the NOHA meeting last week, who will work with CAT to try to assist all those with different needs who have lost funding, and to work with HUD to make needed changes. Commissioner Bernhard is pleased the budget process is over and the Commissioners can now move on. They will re-address the budget at the end of this year and continue to work with the Sheriff to beef up his programs. She attended the Scappoose Little League for the beginning of their tournament – her husband was honored with a plaque for his involvement with Little League for 50 years.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde stated he, too, is happy to at least temporarily put the budget behind him. He was exhausted, and took the 3 day weekend off after this grueling time. He met with the superintendent of the State police to discuss the importance of budgetary issues around his department. With a lot of very clever political maneuvering by him, public safety came out fairly well in the process. He also attended the annual builders round table, where they discussed the current state of the economy and any ways the County might be able to assist. He reminded them that the County will need time to ramp up the staff once the economy improves.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher attended some good events over the 4th, serving chicken at the Kiwanis' booth. He has been working on the museum project – starting Monday, we will have folks who will start moving and separating the artifacts in storage. He has met with the Historical Society president and is looking forward to a quick solution to this problem.

Commissioner Fisher has also become very interested in the lack of any ability in this County to get a GED. Portland Community College sends our folks over to the Cascade campus in NE Portland; for those with problems in transportation, that's a problem. The ESD does not provide services in the summer time. He is taking on this problem to see if he can find some solution. Commissioner Bernhard stated that a few years ago they had meetings with PCC due to the lack of GED programs here, but not much came of them. She suggested that they try to arrange for training at MTC and have someone from PCC come out for the testing. Commissioner Fisher feels this is an important issue for the citizens.

Commissioner Fisher also agrees it is good to have the budget over with, but the fat lady hasn't sung yet. Senator Johnson suspects the legislature will be back in session in January to deal with the budget issues. What happened with the sheriff's office was only the tip of the iceberg - it will not be any better next year. The stimulus money is a one time shot to fill the budget – we need to figure out how to replace that next year. He feels that we need to start re-thinking how we provide services, there's going to have to be some big changes. He wants the citizens to know that we need to look down the road to the time when we have even less money. Commissioner Hyde stated he would like to explore a stakeholder task force within the next couple weeks to take a comprehensive look at what we can do in terms of law enforcement and public safety across the board.

Commissioner Fisher extended thanks to the people in the transit area – he has noticed that the Clatskanie and Rainier transit centers have been painted with the help of some good folks in this County. We need to continue to find ways of people working together in the community to help each other and stop looking to Salem to fix our problems.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 8th day of July, 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: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Cynthia Zemaitis, Acting Board Secretary