

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

July 22, 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 July 14, 2009 Work Session and July 15, 2009 Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Thelma Bonar, 56734 Way Lane, Warren: She has three topics to discuss. The first is the hospital. She is very upset with this because the Board approved the hospital and the way they are doing business and therefore responsible for it.

Commissioner Bernhard clarified that the Board only approved it to be on the ballot, nothing more. The hospital group could have purchased the property for the hospital a long time ago, but didn't. There are problems with the land, the water, etc. The people voted for a critical access hospital and that is not what they're getting. Commissioner Bernhard stated that, if Thelma has concerns, she needs to be go to the hospital Board meetings.

Another issue is with the surface mining issue. The county has a depletion fee which was approved by the voters. Before giving the surface mining program to the State, this should have gone to the voters first because there are a lot of people out there that are upset about it. She doesn't know how it got to be such a problem for the county to handle this.

Her last comment is on the veteran's services. When she looked at the budget, it shows \$20,000 for the veterans services. They deserve to have more than that.

Commissioner Hyde stated that there is a full time employee staffing the veterans

services out of the CAT office and there is much more than \$20,000. However, he doesn't disagree that they can always use more and appreciates the interest in this issue because it's an important issue.

Erica Hall, 52563 North Road, Scappoose: She is here on a new issue in trying to deal with the one she lives next to, and that is that Animal Control will not process her noise complaints. She understands that is because the other party has hired an attorney and the DA has refused to prosecute the complaints unless there has been video, audio, witnesses, etc. Apparently, that has been changed this year to also include a noise meter. She has been told that Animal Control is purchasing a noise meter to try to pursue complaints and enforce the County Noise Ordinance. Commissioner Hyde explained that the reason the county has a noise ordinance is because the State didn't want it because it's hard to enforce and costly. Erica stated that she has been dealing with this problem for over 4 years. As a citizen dealing with dog noise for 4 years, she doesn't know what else she can do if Animal Control won't respond. Even with the money the county has put into the Kennel Ordinance, task forces, etc., nothing has changed, in fact, it has gotten worse. All her complaints are being ignored. In closing, she would ask that the Board put a moratorium on issuing any new kennel licences until the current kennel issues are dealt with.

Tammy Maygra, 34319 Cannan Road, Deer Island: She has notice a lot of garage sale type items around the Deer Island school. She first thought it was a fundraiser for the school. But it went on for some time. As a CPAC member, she received a letter from LDS about a conditional use permit applied for by the tenant of the school. It appears the county has allowed the tenant to move in all of their junk, fill the gym, a motor home to live in and semi trucks. When she contacted the LDS department, no one would admit to allowing this. However, she did find out that the county is allowing them to continue this operation until they received their permit, which was in the process. She finds that wrong and was upset about it. She strongly suggested that the Code Enforcement person go out there and get them off the property.

Commissioner Hyde reviewed the information he received this morning from LDS on this matter. This is currently an illegal use. Tammy understands that the current occupant was given until August 1st to vacate the building.

Tammy has an idea that would work for all and she is willing to work on this. She suggested using the school as a county museum. It's a major part of our history. Commissioner Hyde felt that is an excellent idea and should be pursued.

Commissioner Fisher would be happy to work with Tammy on this. The full Board agreed that this should be considered.

Peggy Crisp, 34571 Millard Road, St. Helens: She understands that the county will be closing the offices on certain days throughout the year and asked if there will be information put out to the public. Commissioner Hyde stated that press releases have been done and it has been posted around the courthouse.

ANNUAL UPDATE ON SCAPPOOSE BAY WATERSHED COUNCIL:

Janelle St. Pierre, Coordinator for the SBWC, 57420 Old Portland Road, Warren, came before the Board to give a annual report and update on the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council for 2008. Last year they spent a lot of time on planning and monitoring, along with their normal restoration activities.

- They have a completed geomorphology/ hydrology study of the conditions of S. Scappoose Creek, from approximately West Lane Road up Dutch Canyon. Some years back, the City of Scappoose had asked if SBWC could help out with some of the severe erosion concerns. Grant funds were received to conduct this study which identified about 15 years of projects.
- They have also obtaining funding from BLM to snorkel survey 55 miles of creek from the presence of juvenile coho and other salmonids. They have found populations of coho in N. And S. Scappoose Creeks, Milton Creek and connected tributaries. This information will help to prioritize future projects.
- Additional funding was obtained from the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership to continue the restoration of 30 acres of wetlands and two miles of Scappoose Creek in the Scappoose Bay Bottomlands.
- They have worked with the CRYC to monitor project sites, plant projects with native trees and shrubs and maintain projects. Also partnered with the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District to identify and manage non-native invasive weeds including Japanese knotweed and garlic mustard.

- With community involvement, they have partnered with the Port of St. Helens, Columbia River PUD, St. Helens and Scappoose high schools to hold an Earth Day Event at the Scappoose Bay Marina. They are working with school groups and community volunteers to monitor the sites for water quality and temperature. Working with the City of Scappoose to test for bacteria on select sites. They have also partnered with the BLM, Master Gardener volunteers, Columbia River Youth Corps and the Scappoose High School to provide local landowners with over 3,500 native trees and shrubs to plant along streams and wetlands. Volunteers also helped plant trees on a couple of private properties.

Janelle wanted to mention that, in 2008, the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council was able to successfully bring in \$319,229 in grant funds and community contributions.

About half of that funding went to support on-the-ground projects and a quarter on monitoring. The remaining funds are split between organizational support and community involvement.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- (F) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 7/21/09.
- (G) Cancel the Board and Staff meeting of July 29, 2009
- (H) Appoint Bob Young to the Unmet Needs Committee Board.
AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:
- (I) Amendment #76 to the 2007-2009 Intergovernmental Agreement #119925 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (J) Facility Grant Agreement #1393 with the Oregon State Marine Board for Beaver Landing Boating Facility Improvements and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (K) Facility Grant Agreement #1363 with the Oregon State Marine Board for J. J.

Collins Marine Park East Boating Facility Improvements and authorize the Chair to sign.

- (L) Opportunity Grant Agreement RVG#0151 with Oregon State Parks & Recreation for Big Eddy Park Paving project and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (M) 2009-2011 Intergovernmental Agreement #020-9188 with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for Sauvie Island Law Enforcement.
- (N) Hold Harmless Agreement with the Columbia Bible Presbyterian Church for use of Hudson-Parcher Park, July 28-30, 2009.

The motion carried unanimously.

FINAL EXTENSION OF IGA WITH DOGAMI:

Spencer explained that this amendment covers the gap between the end of the current agreement through 9/1/09 when DOGAMI takes over the program. With that, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve Amendment #3 to the Intergovernmental Agreement with DOGAMI. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard has been spending a lot of time with NOHA on the housing issues. At the last meeting, NOHA agreed to use \$79,000 of their reserve funding to pay the August rent for those losing their vouchers. They're just taking it a month at a time to resolve this problem. The hope is that these people will be back on the program by December.

Last Wednesday was the opening of the 2009 County Fair. She judged the talent show, the My Fair Lady pageant and worked the ticket booth both Friday and Saturday. She understands that Wednesday and Saturday were record turnouts. It was a very successful Fair this year and she wanted to thank everyone involved.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

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Commissioner Hyde also spent time last week at the Fair and was glad to see it so successful.

He attended the Homeland Security Emergency Management meeting last week. They are working on issues for the upcoming winter.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher spent a lot of time out at the Fair last week. It's always fun to see people he hasn't seen in awhile and everyone enjoying themselves.

He has been talking with PGE about the possible use of the Trojan site for school purposes.

He has been working on the museum issues and feels Tammy's suggestion is a great idea and will follow up with her on that. He feels that would be a terrific location for a museum.

Commissioner Fisher wanted to say that so many people complain about the government being in our personal life and it's happening more and more these days. However, people don't want to pay more taxes for needed services and those services are being cut. People that have the resources should step up and help those in our community and neighbors in need.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 22nd 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: _____

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Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____

Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary