

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

October 7, 2009

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Rita Bernhard and 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 September 30, 2009 Board meeting and September 30, 2009 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None.

HEARING: MIDWAY VETERINARY HOSPITAL MAJOR MAP AMENDMENT:

This is the time set for the public hearing, "In the Matter of the Application of Midway Veterinary Hospital for a Major Map Amendment from Rural Residential (RR-2) to Existing Commercial (EC)".

Spencer briefly reviewed the application by the Midway Veterinary Hospital, for an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Map Amendment, along with an exception to Statewide Planning Goal 14. No conflicts of interest or ex parte contact were declared. Spencer read the pre-hearing statement into the record as required by ORS 197.763, then entered County Counsel's hearing file into the record, listing all contents, marked Exhibit "1". This hearing is being held on the record of the Planning Commission unless the Board votes to open the hearing for additional testimony. Spencer noted that approval of this application will need to be adopted by Ordinance. Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to open the hearing for additional testimony. The motion carried unanimously. With the record open, Spencer entered a letter received from Mary

Miller, dated 10/3/09, as Exhibit "2".

Glen Higgins, Chief Planner, came before the Board to give the staff report. Glen submitted two aerial photos of the site and surrounding properties, marked Exhibits "3" and "4". The applicant has applied for a Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Map Amendment to rectify mapping errors that occurred with the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance in 1984. The property is currently zoned RR-2, but has been lawfully operating as the Midway Veterinary Clinic since 1982.

The applicant would like to expand the clinic to accommodate increased business.

Glen noted that said expansion would require an exception to Statewide Planning Goal 14: Urbanization. Expansion of the structure is further subject to a Type II Site Design Review and will be reviewed through a separate application process.

Glen then reviewed the applicable criteria. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on August 3, 2009 and felt that the concerns raised should be dealt with during the Site Design Review process. The Planning Commission and staff recommend approval.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

PROPONENTS:

Serah Overbeek, Angelo Planning Group, 921 SW Washington Street, Suite 469, Portland: She is here representing Dr. Lewis Fowler of the Midway Veterinary Hospital. She agrees with the recommendation by the Planning Commission and staff.

She presented a preliminary site plan into the record, marked Exhibit "5", which she feels addresses the concerns raised during the Planning Commission hearing.

After a review of the site plan, she asked that the Board approve this application.

OPPONENTS:

None.

With no further testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed for deliberations. The Board has no concerns with the application due to the fact that the applicant is working to address those concerns that have been raised.

With that, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to tentatively approve Application #PA 09-01/ZC 09-02 as presented with the recommended conditions and direct staff to prepare the appropriate Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

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:

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 10/6/09.
- (B) Ratify the request for Reimbursement of Funds for Flood Mitigation Assistance in the amount of \$62,892.17.
- (C) Order No. 68-2009, "In the Matter of Conveying Certain Real Property on Whitetail Avenue at its Intersection with Gable Road, St. Helens, Oregon to John and Miwa Acheson [Tax Map ID No. 4N1W05-CC-01803]".
- (D) Approve the request by the Women's Resource Center to use the Old Courthouse steps on October 27, 2009 for a Ceremony of Lights to acknowledge Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (E) Amendment No. 1 to Contract to Provide Food, Commissary and Laundry Services to Columbia County Jail and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (F) Amendment #4 to the Personal Services Contract by and between Columbia County and Columbia Community Mental Health for the Teen and Family Transition Program.
- (G) Amendment #5 to the Personal Services Contract with CASA of Columbia County for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Services.
- (H) Personal Services Contract with the Vernonia School District.

The motion carried unanimously.

2010 ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM FEES:

Todd Dugdale, LDS Director, approached the Board regarding the recommended program fee increases and additions for the Animal Control Program, attached to his Board Communication dated 10/1/09. The Board had previously reviewed the proposed fees together with comparisons with other counties. Staff is recommending that the

new fees, if approved, become effective upon adoption so that the annual license renewal notices can reflect the new 2 and 3 year license option. Spencer stated that because this is a fee increase, the Board would need to take comments from the public. If approved, Commissioner Bernhard strongly suggested that a press release be done to inform the public of the new fees. The Board then gave the opportunity for public comments. Hearing none, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve Order No. 72-2009, "In the Matter of Increasing Various Fees for Columbia County Animal Control Services". The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard attended the Traffic Safety Committee meeting this morning. A very light turnout at the meeting, however there was a lot of good information shared by the ODOT representative. While at the meeting, she commented on the great work done by our Road Department on the Scappoose-Vernonia Hwy.

She attended the CEPA meeting yesterday. The Red Cross was there to speak on emergency preparedness. The meeting was very well attended and there was a lot of good discussion.

Last weekend, she was in Vernonia for the Salmon Festival.

On Saturday evening, she attended the retirement party for Larry Weaver out on Sauvie Island. There was a very large group there to honor him and it was a very enjoyable evening. She presented Larry with a retirement plaque from the County.

On Thursday, she will be attending a NOHA meeting. Carol Snell, NOHA Director, will be retiring in July and they are starting the recruitment

BOC Minutes

10/7/09

Page 5

process to fill that position.

Ruth Baker, County Finance Director, retired last week and there was a nice retirement party held at the Courthouse for her. Commissioner Bernhard wanted to welcome our new Finance Director, Jennifer Celluer Smith.

She mentioned that she will be leaving tonight to attend a GOHBI meeting on Thursday and Friday in Astoria.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde stated that the Board is working to form a Law Enforcement Task Force Committee to look at the future of law enforcement in Columbia County and how to better serve the public with less revenue.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher recently met with an architect to look at what improvements can be made to the Courthouse building, should funding ever become available.

Commissioner Fisher suggested that the County start looking at the process to change County Commissioner positions to non-partisan. The Commissioners do not make partisan decisions and feels it would be best for the public.

BOC Minutes

10/7/09

Page 6

He attended the Koffee Klatch last Friday. This is a monthly event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and is a very good way to meet with the different businesses within the county. He was glad to see some new businesses moving into the county.

The Board recessed the meeting at 10:45 a.m. to meet with the Governor's Economic Revitalization Team.

The Board immediately reconvened the meeting in the Extension Meeting Room to meet with the Governor's Economic Revitalization Team to discuss economic development issues in Columbia County.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

NOTE: A tape of this meeting is available for purchase by the public or interested parties.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 14th day of October, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

BOC Minutes

10/7/09

Page 7

By: _____

Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary