

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

October 28, 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, 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 October 21, 2009 Board meeting and October 21, 2009 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Tammy Maygra, 34319 Cannan Road, Deer Island: She has been coming before the Board for the past 6 years on the hospital proposal. As the Board is aware, the State has denied Certificate of Need. There is an appeal process, however, if the appeal is denied and the State stands with its original decision, that creates a problem. The Health District will still be allowed to collect the \$.38 per thousand from the 2004 ballot measure for a Critical Care Hospital. Tammy does not feel it is fair for people to continue to pay taxes for a facility that will never be built. Because the County Commissioners put a referendum on the ballot for this, she would request that the Board do a referendum to bring the \$.38 down to \$.00, for the benefit of the taxpayers. Once that is passed, then discussions should be held with Legacy to figure out something that is more financially feasible for health care in this end of the County. Perhaps enhance the current urgent care facility for less money and something the taxpayers can maintain. Because Public Health is under the umbrella of the Health District, it is not prudent for the money currently being collected for the hospital to be funneled into public health for their use and may not even be legal.

Commissioner Bernhard thanked Tammy for her comments, but because of the appeal period, the Board is not sure how this is all going to play out. There are also

a lot of legal questions that need to be addressed. Tammy agreed, however, the taxes should cease at this point, because once they are paid, the people won't get it back. Commissioner Hyde stated that it is still early and until it is all sorted out, the appeal process is dealt with and the legal questions answered, the Board can only wait and then act accordingly.

Tammy added a comment on the amount of money spent on the site improvements. She feels that a lien should be put on this property or sell it to pay back the taxpayers in the district.

Joe Crisp, 34571 Millard Road, Warren: He has heard the comments about the uncertainty of this situation. The ballot measure was very clear and specific and, now that the Certificate of Need has been denied, the district cannot deliver. It appears to him like a bait and switch - they can't deliver the health care facility, but still taking the money.

Peggy Crisp, 34571 Millard Road, Warren: She asked who is going to fix Millard Road. There is now only one lane in front of the hospital site at the top of a hill. It has created a very dangerous situation and she just wants to know who and when it will be fixed. There isn't even any warning signs. Something needs to be done before there is a head on collision. Commissioner Bernhard will contact the Road Department regarding this.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2009-9 - CITY OF VERNONIA ZONE CHANGE:

At this time, Spencer gave the second reading of Ordinance No. 2009-9 by title only and it is now ready for the vote. Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2009-9, "In the Matter of the Application of the City of Vernonia for a Major Map Amendment from Rural Residential to Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and Interim Zoning to Community Service - Institutional (CS-I)". The motion carried unanimously.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2009-10 - MIDWAY VET ZONE CHANGE:

At this time, Spencer gave the second reading of Ordinance No. 2009-10 by title only and it is now ready for the vote. With that, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2009-10, "In the Matter of the Application of Midway Veterinary Hospital for a Major Map Amendment from Rural Residential to Existing Commercial (EC)". The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 10/27/09.
- (B) Declaration of Surplus Property for 4 Sheriff's vehicles and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (C) Authorize the District Attorney to hire .6 FTE Deputy District Attorney.
- (D) Authorize Sheriff to hire two full time Corrections Deputy position for the period of time funded by the Mental Health Grant Agreement.
- (E) Order No. 70-2009, "In the Matter of Appointing Members to the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Commission".
- (F) Resolution No. 73-2009, "In the Matter of the Resolution Authorizing Columbia County's Participation in the Special Advocacy Fund".

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (G) Construction Contract with NW Kodiak Construction, LLC for the Beaver Landing Parking Lot Improvement Project.
- (H) Amendment #7 to the Personal Services Contract with Community Action Team, Inc., for Healthy Start.
- (I) Amendment #1 to Grant Agreement #25636 with ODOT, Public Transit Division.
- (J) Intergovernmental Agreement with the Association of O&C Counties for the Creation of a Special Advocacy Fund.
- (K) Letter of Agreement with AFSCME, Local 697.

The motion carried unanimously.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO FAIR BOARD:

Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to reappoint Henry Heimuller and Delores Bellingham to the Columbia County Fair Board. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard attended the Democratic Central Meeting last night. There was quite a bit of discussion on the possibility of County Commissioner positions becoming non-partisan. More discussion will be held on this topic at future meetings.

She attended the Community Action Team meeting on Monday. They continue to deal with increased needs in the community for housing and food services.

She attended the County Parks meeting last night here at the courthouse. There was a very good turnout and a lot of good discussion on the CZ Trail mitigation.

The City of St. Helens met with PCC who gave a presentation on their presence in Columbia County. There has been a lot of discussions throughout the years and hopefully this will finally

happen. Due to the amount of taxes the citizens pay, we should expect PCC to have a presence in Columbia County.

On Saturday evening she stopped by the Fairgrounds for Windermere's annual Masquerade Ball. There was a lot of people there and the costumes were great. This event is a fundraiser for school kids and the needy in the community.

The Board went to the Transit Center groundbreaking last week. A good turnout and everyone seemed to welcome the new center. She wanted to publicly thank Janet and Henry for all their hard work on this project.

Last week she was in Clatsop County for the Regional Workforce Investment Board meeting. There was a lot of discussion on the stimulus funding and projects.

On Thursday, she, along with the other Board members, attended RC&D's annual dinner meeting at Camp 18. This is always a very nice event.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde also attended the County Parks meeting last night. It was a very important meeting to talk about the mitigation issues for the CZ trail. There should be some fencing, sound barriers, etc. installed by next spring.

Commissioner Hyde briefly commented on the Vernonia School bond and that ballots have been sent out.

He also attended the RC&D annual meeting. These meetings are always

very important for all the stakeholders and a good way to share information within the various groups.

After this meeting, he will be leaving for Yachats to attend an O&C meeting.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher followed up on the PCC meeting just discussed. He noted that PCC will be awarding 7 scholarships at \$2,500 each. If anyone would like to apply, contact PCC or the Board office.

He will be attending a Port meeting in Clatskanie tonight and will report on that next week.

He attended the RC&D annual meeting and was impressed with the turnout and the commitment of the people involved and their willingness to participate to get things done. These people volunteer their time to do a great community service and they should be recognized.

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.

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Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 28th day of October, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____

Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary