

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

March 16, 2011

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Anthony Hyde, Commissioner Earl Fisher and Commissioner Henry Heimuller, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting to order and led the flag salute.

**MINUTES:**

Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2011 Work Session; March 9, 2011 Board meeting and March 9, 2011 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**VISITOR COMMENTS:**

*Chuck Ramsdell*, former owner of Pieper Ramsdell, wanted to give some input on the Agent of Record the county is considering. Joe Schultz, the County's current AOR, spends about 3 days per week working on county business. There are a lot of things Joe does for the county and Chuck isn't sure if that is all being factored into the selection process. Joe has worked hard for the county for 24 years and Chuck gave some specific examples of how Joe has saved the county a lot of money over those years. Joe is a problem solver, the best qualified and one of the most knowledgeable agents in the State of Oregon. It would be a shame to lose him as the Insurance Agent of Record.

*Ron Schlumberger*, Co-owner of Pieper Ramsdell. He has worked with Joe for 25 years and talked about how he and Joe have supported local youth programs. He would put Joe up against anyone as far as his knowledge, dedication, expertise, risk management, etc. Ron doesn't believe that the application process really gives Pieper Ramsdell the ability to shine in the areas they need to as far as local input and service. Ron is asking that the Board reconsider the application process and taking business out of the county.

*Madeline Anderson, 31704 Cannan Road, Deer Island:* She read a prepared statement into the record with regards to the CHD. "On Monday the 14<sup>th</sup>, the CHD met to discuss options regarding dissolution of the Columbia Health District. Gary Heide proposed the solution was to dissolve CHD and to move Public Health under a nonprofit 501(c)3. He then proposed that what was needed was an agreement between the county and CHD to nullify the IGA. The County Commissioners would then agree to work with the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County. This would then allow the release

*of the Public Health Department, its assets, employees and liabilities to the Health Foundation. There was discussion of involving Columbia County Mental Health under the umbrella of the foundation. It was also mentioned by Mr. Tappen that public input would no longer be needed. Now I come to the point I want to make. Who is on the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County? It is my understanding that this foundation was formed in 2003 to support the work of CHD and Public Health.*

*Question to you is do you really want to enter into an agreement with another entity tied to the hospital development? I submit to you that what is NOT needed is to work with a non-profit formed specifically to work towards the development of the CHD hospital. Intuitively it just does not feel right and it reeks of hidden agenda.*

*It would be very wise to form a new non-profit that would include members of the county independent of those involved with the current health district. This effort must be above reproach if you want it to succeed. This is our opportunity to really do something that would benefit the county. Don't screw it up. I am in support of members of the county coming together to form a 501(c)3 corporation whereby funding can be obtained and we can work towards a FQHC that would provide a wide range of services previously unavailable to the county. But I disagree with Mr. Tappen in that we do need community input. We also do not have to recreate the wheel. It has been done and it has succeeded in other counties. I also think the legality of public health being absorbed by a non-profit needs to be thoroughly researched.*

*I am aware that only Union County currently is using this model. I would refer you to Tom Engle at the Oregon Health Division who knows experienced people within the State who can help you develop a decent health care program". She works in Urgent Care at Legacy and sees what is going on in the community as far as health services.*

*She knows of resources within the state to help move this towards a much better program. She is willing to work on this project if the help is needed.*

***Tammy Maygra, 34319 Cannan Road, Deer Island:*** She submitted a CD of the CHD workshop on Monday. The Board will see that what was discussed at the meeting and what they put on their press release is two different things. A motion was made, it was discussed and then they voted on something different. It was very confusing and obvious that the CHD Board was divided. Tammy believes that the CHD Board is still trying to out maneuver the voice and the vote of the people by creating another Board. Tammy agrees with Madalene that this needs to be clean slate. We have already seen how the current Board has misplaced, misused, misdirected money and misdirected the public for 7 years. People are of tired of this and they want it cleaned up and want some responsibility and trust restored.

Commissioner Hyde just wanted to comment that the press release was not exactly accurate in that this is not a seamless process. The Commissioner's responsibility is to make sure there is a provision for public health and they plan to do that.

Commissioner Fisher is the point person looking at resources and options.

*Stephanie Klepel, 34067 Sykes Road, St. Helens:* She asked that, as this process moves forward, will the Board be deliberating this in their work session. Commissioner Hyde stated that discussions will definitely be held in open forum.

*Peggy Crisp, 34571 Millard Road, St. Helens:* Peggy asked if the Board can get her a list of who is on the public foundation formed in 2003?. The Board doesn't know.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- (A) Ratify the Select to Pay for week of March 14, 2011.
- (B) Ratify letter to Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley in support of Columbia County Levee Certification Project.
- (C) Cancel the 3/22/11 Work Session; 3/23/11 Board meeting; and 3/23/11 Staff meeting.
- (D) 2011 Liquor License Renewal for Vernonia Golf Club and St. Helens Moose Lodge #591.
- (E) Appoint Georgia Keiper to represent the Columbia Heights Neighborhood CPAC for a 2 year term; appoint Tammy Maygra to represent the South Tide Creek/Trenholm Neighborhood CPAC for a 2 year term; and appoint Pat Zimmerman to represent the Dutch Canyon Neighborhood CPAC for a 2 year term.
- (F) Order No. 15-2011, "In the Matter of Adopting a Procedure for Use of the Project Request Form".
- (G) Order No. 16-2011, "In the Matter of Authorizing a Loan Agreement in a Principal Amount Not To Exceed \$713,000 and Authorizing Reimbursement of Expenditure from Proceeds".
- (H) Order No. 17-2011, "In the Matter of Approving Title III Projects for FFY 2011 under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 as Amended and Re-authorized by Public Law 110-343".
- (I) Order No. 18-2011, "In the Matter of Supporting the Update of the Columbia County Transportation System Plan and County Staff's Application for an Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development Transportation and Growth Management Grant".

- (J) Order No. 19-2011, "In the Matter of Conveying Certain Real Property off of Pine Avenue, Columbia Acres No. 3, Scappoose, Oregon, to Scott Sylvester and Roman V. Novokhatniy [Tax Map ID No. 3N2W23-AD-09900]".
- (K) Order No. 20-2011, "In the Matter of Conveying Certain Real Property off of Clark Street near Milton Way, St. Helens, Oregon, to Brian Gardner and Connie Gardner, Terry E. Massey, Jr. and Jennifer M. Massey [Tax Map ID No. 4N1W04-CD-02400]".
- (L) Order No. 21-2011, "In the Matter of Conveying Certain Real Property off of Division Street South in St. Helens, Oregon, to Jimmy L. Gortler and Kenna L. Gortler [Tax Map ID No. 4N1W08-CB-01700]".
- (M) Approve Property Owner Acknowledgment Form for use in the Columbia County Flood Rehabilitation Program.
- (N) Authorize Commissioner Fisher to sign the Management Discussion and Analysis portion of the FY10 Financial Statements.

**AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:**

- (O) 2011 Fund Exchange Agreement #27225 with ODOT for Nicolai Road Overlay project.

The motion carried unanimously.

**COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Hyde attended a Region 10 FEMA meeting last week and interestingly enough the discussion was on earthquake preparedness. Fourteen hours later a major earthquake hit Japan and the resulting Tsunami hit parts of Oregon. It was uplifting to see how well our emergency system worked in notifying the people of our coastal communities. Oregon is sitting on one of the most volatile faults around, could result in a 9+ earthquake and could happen at any time. Shelter in Place is a system being used right now in Japan where people are actually living where they work because they have no homes to go back to. This is something that we, as Oregonians, need to look at.

On Friday, he was in Salem for an Oregon Economic Development Commission meeting to discuss the budget and how that will effect economic development.

On Monday, he was back in Salem for an AOC meeting on legislative issues and the bills that can potentially effect the county from health care issues to land use issues.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher was at a meeting in Salem last Thursday as part of task force looking at the Oregon Commission on Children & Families (OCCF). The Governor has suggested there be a radical change in how we deliver services to our kids and families. At the end of the day, there was a motion and support to possibly do away with the OCCF in some fashion and centralize those services. The group argued that we need to keep the services as local as possible. This is a theme we will be seeing throughout local government because the budget situation is so bad.

Also in Salem on Monday and met with the Law Enforcement Committee. There are some issues that need close attention, one being a provision to basically release prison inmates early and then send them to the local jails. This would be shifting the costs to the local governments and will effect not only Jail budget but also our Community Corrections budget.

On Monday night, the Commissioners had the opportunity to meet with Senator Johnson, Representative Witt and other members of the House and Senate. There is a great deal of concern expressed about the budget.

On a local level, he has been meeting with the Finance Director about the county budget. He is very concerned about the services we will be able to provide in this county. People need to understand that this is a very serious issue and there are going to be some very hard decisions to make and some changes will have to be made.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller noted that as interesting and gloomy as things are here, we need to look at our neighbors in Japan and realize how fortunate we are. Preparation is key and, as community leaders, we need to work together with other organizations, businesses and government agencies to get prepared. In the aftermath of a devastating event, each one of us as individuals are going to have to take care of ourselves and our neighbors. Just this week, some locals started a

neighborhood group and actually brought in an earthquake specialist to get informed on preparedness.

He met with Alta Lynch yesterday, who is helping to put together a core group of volunteers to work with our local Veterans services. We are actively looking for volunteers to be trained and help supplement the services in the VA office.

Yesterday, he took a tour of the Transfer Station yesterday with the Waste Management people and was very impressed with the operation. A state inspector stated that this is one of cleanest transfer stations he has ever seen.

On Friday night, he attended the Empty Bowls event at McBride School. It was a huge success and a great fundraiser for the food bank. He wanted to thank Jan Kenna and all of the organizers for a great job putting this together.

Last week he took a community tour of schools in St. Helens. When you see the lack of infrastructure maintenance and repairs on the schools, it makes you realize that money struggles going on at every level.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Recording Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Jan Greenhalgh, Recording Secretary