

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

April 13, 2011

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Anthony Hyde, Commissioner Earl Fisher and Commissioner Henry Heimuller, together with Robin McIntyre, Assistant 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 April 6, 2011 Board meeting and April 6, 2011 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Penny Austin, 33684 SE Oak Street, Scappoose: She has been a health care worker for many years and used to volunteer at Public Health and her father was the founding director of the Oregon Health Plan. She has been hearing from people who work for public health that there is a possibility that they will be shut down, and this concerns her. The STD rate in Columbia County is 3 times higher than anywhere else in the State of Oregon. Teens get their prenatal care through public health and a lot of indigent people get their children's immunization solely through public health. She is just very concerned about what is going to happen to the health of people in this county if there is no public health. She doesn't agree with the way the Columbia Health District is currently being run, there is a lot of political in-fighting and basically, the people's needs are getting lost in the shuffle. Penny just wanted to voice her concerns.

Commissioner Hyde reiterated that the county is responsible for providing public health services in Columbia County and the Board is looking at the current situation as an opportunity to have a more comprehensive program. As the Board has continued to state, public health is not going away. How or by who these services will be provided is unknown at this time, but those services will be provided.

Richard Melton, 55141 Columbia River Hwy, Scappoose: He just wanted to share a comment made to him from one of the directors at the mental health facility. They were talking about the different things being said to him (Richard) and was told he was mentally disabled and a very serious case. Richard was further told that no matter who says what to him, they are all lying.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- (A) Ratify the Select to Pay for week of April 11, 2011.
- (B) Approve Site Specific Review for 67330 Nehalem Hwy N., Vernonia, Oregon and authorize the Chair to sign.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (C) Ratify Agreement to Transfer Vehicle from Regional Organized Crime Narcotics Task Force to Columbia County and authorize District Attorney Steve Atchison to sign.
- (D) Powerline Easement and Agreement with Portland General Electric Company and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (E) Settlement and Mutual Release in Columbia County v. Portland General Electric Company and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (F) License and Indemnity Agreement with the Oregon U.S. District Court Probation Office for use of the Firearms Range Complex.
- (G) Approve Letter of Agreement with AFSCME Local 697 settling grievances.
- (H) Retract approval of Letter of Agreement approved on December 22, 2011 with AFSCME Local 697, effective upon signing to June 30, 2015.
- (I) Approve Letter of Agreement with AFSCME Local 697, effective upon signing until June 30, 2005.
- (J) Rental Agreement with Melissa Hathaway and Robert Garrett for Park Host Residence at Big Eddy Park.
- (K) Approve Digital Imaging Agreement with the Family Search/Genealogical Society of Utah and authorize Betty Huser to sign.
- (L) Columbia County Courthouse Art Project Release Agreement with Carolyn Curtis.
- (M) Columbia County Courthouse Art Project Release Agreement with Maeona Urban.
- (N) Columbia County Courthouse Art Project Release Agreement with Loretta Sampson, Columbia Arts Guild.
- (O) Columbia County Courthouse Art Project Release Agreement with Annetta Cunningham.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde stated that things are hot and heavy in Salem right now with the legislative session dealing with the State budget. He has been in Salem 3 times in the past week to testify on various budgets that will effect Columbia County, i.e. Economic Development, Secure Rural Schools funding, etc.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS;

Commissioner Fisher attended the Hwy 30 Safety committee meeting last night. There was a report on the safety audit that will be done in the next several weeks on the stretch of highway between Scappoose and St. Helens. The group is also establishing a subcommittee on safety education to look at what we all can do as drivers to improve the safety on the roads by campaigning, signage, working with businesses and the schools. Anyone interested in sitting on a targeted task force, please contact him.

Commissioner Hyde continues to be concerned with people texting and driving. He is on the road a lot and frequently witnesses people texting while driving. People, especially our kids, need to be continually reminded of how very dangerous this is.

Commissioner Fisher was in Salem on Monday to attend a couple of AOC meetings. There are some bills currently before the legislature that, although with the best of intentions, will require counties to more and more, at a time when there is less and less funding. He has seen where the Senate has approved the education budget at \$5.7 billion - that is a no growth budget. Every school district will be losing staff.

The Board is currently working on the county budget and looking at some very difficult decisions. He wants the citizens to know that the County has very good employees who work hard for the public. The Board will be having to ask them to do things that will effect them personally.

He has scheduled another Decision Maker meeting for next week. This group is looking at how their offices function and determine how shared services will benefit all.

Commissioner Fisher wanted to let the people know that the Board has been working

very hard on public health services and looking at how those services will be delivered in the future. He again wanted to reiterate that these services are not going away and there will be a series of public meetings to look at the options.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller attended the NOHA meeting last week. One focus is increasing opportunities for homeless veterans to be cared for. There is a facility in Clatsop County being specified for homeless vets. He continues to be impressed with the leadership of the NOHA Board.

On Saturday, he attended the Columbia Learning Center's 15th anniversary and was reminded of what it took to get this facility a reality. It was nice to see how this center has been used as a model for learning and technology centers around the State and Northwest.

Last night, he and Commissioner Hyde and the Fair Board hosted a meeting with the fairgrounds to discuss the financial situation of the Fair. There was at least a couple hundred people who attended and a lot of good input from many. It looks like a lot of people intend to roll up their sleeves to help the fairgrounds survive. He appreciates everyone who took the time to show up and give input.

Regarding the upcoming County budget, everyone will be taking this hit together. Staff has done an amazing job with putting the budget together, but some tough decisions will have to be made.

Commissioner Heimuller expressed his sadness for two losses this past week. St. Helens Baseball Coach Tim Lokken, who unexpectedly passed away and 6th grade student, Abby Fritz from St. Helens. These losses affect all of us in the community, especially the kids and it's important to note that the community is praying for those families. There are some local fundraisers going on around the community to help these families.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon, this 13th day of April, 2011.

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

BOC Minutes

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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