

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

June 8, 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 June 1, 2011 Board meeting and June 1, 2011 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Peggy Crisp, 34571 Millard Road, St. Helens: Peggy questioned Order No. 42-2011 on the consent agenda regarding Public Health. Are the Commissioners just giving this back to the same group that Jay Tappen is on? Commissioner Hyde stated that the contract is with the Public Health Foundation and no, not going to the same group. He stated that there will be requirements built into the contract for greater representation on their Board and it will be a one year contract, with a termination clause.

Georgia Keiper, 34403 Sykes Road, St. Helens: Georgia commented on the CHD budget information she received. She questioned the \$100,000 prepaid expenditure from the old CHD Board for the IGA contract with the county which comes out of the new Boards upcoming budget. Where is that money going? Commissioner Hyde just received a copy of that budget and questioned that. The answer is that this is money is prepaid by the county to the district for the public health officer (Sanitarian) for next year. Georgia said there was another \$100,000 for part time employees. If there are no employees, that money should be in the account for use by the new Board. Commissioner Hyde suggested that Georgia make a list of her questions so the Commissioners can get the answers. Commissioner Heimuller stated the he will also be meeting with this group outside of the Board meeting.

Tammy Maygra, 34319 Cannan Road, Deer Island: Tammy clarified that the amount CHD prepaid was actually \$198,000 which was for employees, sick time and vacation leave benefits for fiscal year 2011-12. First, there are no employees so she doesn't understand why that is being prepaid for next year. She can understand some money going to pay Pam Powell and Thaila Piano for some accounting work, but not \$198,000.

There has been so much disparity with the current CHD Board, their budget, their answers, their meetings, etc., people are getting tired of it. CHD is still playing their game and not being truthful about any of this. To allow them to continue with this is ignorant. She reminded the Board that this whole issue goes back to 2004 when the people voted for a hospital, not 18 employees for public health. Now the funds are so co-mingled it's fraudulent and someone needs to be held accountable. Commissioner Hyde again suggested that the new CHD Board members make a list of questions and get some proof of their allegations. Tammy gave some examples of mis-truths said at the CHD Board meeting just last week and she will get that information to the Commissioners.

Richard Melton, 55141 Columbia River Hwy, Scappoose: He stated that there was another accident in front of his house last week. Regarding public health, Richard wanted to know when the Board will have any answers to the information that Tammy will be submitting to them regarding the mis-truths. The Board could not respond to that as they have not seen the information yet.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Hyde read the consent agenda in full. Tammy Maygra questioned why Order No. 42-2011 is an emergency. Commissioner Hyde stated that this needs to happen by June 30, 2011. 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 weeks of June 6, 2011.
- (B) Order No. 42-2011, "In the Matter of Declaring an Emergency and Awarding a Contract for Local Public Health Services to the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County".
- (C) Appoint Jodi Gartman to the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council.

The motion carried unanimously.

STEPHANIE KLEPEL - DIBLEE POINT BEACH:

Stephanie Klepel, Sykes Road, St. Helens, came before the Board to start discussion on the issues with access to Diblee Point and erosion of the beach. When she previously spoke to the Board about this, she was told to gather some information and bring it back to a work session. She is here today to submit her information and brought others along that also have interest in this matter.

Bill Eagle, County Parks Committee Chair: The Parks Committee has talked about the potential of this becoming a county park. It's a nice piece of land and could generate some money for the county. There is a lot of public support for this from the fishing community and others.

Joe Schwab, 3425 Tacoma St., Columbia City: In the 1990's he was an ODFW supervisor in this area. Back then, he was contacted by the Governor's office to look at Diblee Point because it was being used as a dumping ground and a place for squatters. When he eventually moved here 9 years ago, the beach was accessible to everyone but not anymore. He and others just want to be able to go out there and fish.

John Brewer, 857 Grant Avenue, Vernonia: John grew up in the county and used to fish there for years as a kid. There used to be 8 beaches along the river to fish from but now there are only two. He stressed how important public access is. He asked that the Commissioner's make this a priority. He would like to be able to see his great grandkids fish out there.

Commissioner Heimuller asked to be contacted to do a field trip out there.

Stephanie stated that Diblee Point has been long recognized as a prime recreation area which has the capability to provide permanent public access to prime recreation areas along the shores of the Columbia River and general additional revenue for the county. The addition of this area to the Columbia County Parks inventory meets the conditions listed in the Statewide Planning Goals. She referred to her handout that lists the Statewide Goals along with information on potential grants. She is here today to ask for the Board's support to begin the process to ensure that this property is accessible to the public. We have nothing to lose by moving forward with this. She did not want to make contact with state officials until she had the permission to do so by the County. Commissioner Hyde stated that he would be happy to meet with DSL regarding this matter.

She also requested that, when appropriate, there should be a Board meeting held on this matter and during the evening because there is a huge amount of public support for this. Commissioner Hyde stated that, Columbia County has a large amount of land along the Columbia River, but we don't have much for public access along most of it. He would agree that needs to be addressed.

The Board expressed their support for Stephanie to move forward on this. Commissioner Heimuller appreciates the passion Stephanie has for this project but reminds her that it will be a lot of hard work from herself and volunteers to see it through.

Glen Crinklaw, Parks Director, stated that, basically the County only has Prescott Beach for the anglers. The only issue he can see with Diblee is the ADA issues. Building an ADA facility is not an easy or cheap process and there are some limitations with the nature of the area, but it's good to see the passion for making this a park.

The Board will look at setting a night meeting in Rainier.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

No comments

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher was in Salem on Monday to attend the AOC meeting. They discussed legislation dealing with PERS, which is a very complicated issue. They also talked about legislation effecting county Jails which will impact Columbia County.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

No comments

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon, this 8th day of June, 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

BOC Minutes

6/8/11

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By: _____
Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Recording Secretary

By: _____

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh, Recording Secretary