

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

August 24, 2011

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Anthony Hyde, Commissioner Henry Heimuller and Commissioner Earl Fisher, 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 August 17, 2011 Board meeting and August 17, 2011 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Sharon Coates, 16714 SW Orchard St. Clatskanie, came before the Board and presented copies of google maps showing her property, neighboring properties and the Michael Clark property. The Clark property is directly to the west of her property and, on Tuesday 8/9/11, the shop on Mr. Clark's property exploded and burnt to the ground. She is here today to request that the county review Mr. Clark's conditional use permit. Sharon read a written letter into the record regarding the fire at the Clark property. The outcome of this fire could have been much more devastating for the neighboring area and homes and is therefore asking that Mr. Clark's manufacturing business be placed in a more suitable and appropriate location - not in a residential area.

DELIBERATE: ZONAL FARE SYSTEM & FARE INCREASE FOR CC RIDER:

This is the time set for deliberations regarding the proposed zonal fare system and proposed fare increases for the Columbia County Rider Transportation System. At the last hearing, the Board carried over the hearing to allow for additional testimony. The Board has received some written testimony and will need to also open the record.

Janet Wright, Transit Administrator, stated that she had contacted all newspapers, senior centers, bus drivers, cities, and bus stops with information regarding this hearing.

With that, the hearing was opened for oral and written testimony.

Sharon Evinger, 52276 SE 2nd St. Scappoose: She first wanted to say that CC Rider has some of the best bus drivers around and truly appreciates the service they provide.

In regards to the increases, the information that was distributed is some confusing on what is being increased, how much and why. She went over the different proposed fare increases for the different areas, flex routes, etc. and noted her concerns about the amount of increase in fares. These increases, although some are understandable, are not taking care of the seniors, disabled and our students. There are too many people on a fixed income that will be negatively effected.

Dena Chesney, 1111 St. Helens St., St. Helens: She agreed with all comments just made by Ms. Evinger. Dena volunteers at McBride School and other places and, depending on how this effects the flex ride, she may not be able to volunteer anymore. This will be a definite strain on her budget.

Kathy Holter: She is here today as a member of the public but is also representing Vocational Rehabilitation Services here in St. Helens. Their clients depend a lot on CC Rider transportation for job search, schooling, etc. They had a couple of clients that live in Vernonia and coming to St. Helens to work on their GED. For 2 hour GED class, they had to be on the bus for 5 hours. She agrees with the zone proposal, but the price increases are too high for the majority of people who are use these services.

With no further testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed for deliberations. Commissioner Fisher stated that it is never easy raising rates. This is a very large county and it's difficult to reach all those who are dependent on public transportation. People have to pay for the services or we don't have them. The Board is simply looking at the best way to help the system survive. He would like to take the time to look at the testimony received today and the transportation budget figures.

Commissioner Hyde agrees that additional time is needed to consider all of the information received before making any decisions. He wanted to say that, if it wasn't for Janet Wright and all her hard work on this program, we wouldn't even have a bus system. The Board is going to have to look at some cuts and/or fare increases to continue the program.

Commissioner Heimuller has read the testimony, but wants it clear in the record that when comparing our system to Multnomah County and others, there is no comparison. Those agencies consistently receive a huge amount of funding through businesses, taxes, service reductions, rate increases, etc. Typically what happens when there is a rate increases in a small community, riders drop off but only for a short time and then they come back. The populous that Kathy works with, there is a lot of

dependence on the public transit system and we need to keep these services available.

Because the Board will need additional time to review the information, testimony and the resulting impacts, Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to carry over deliberations to Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at or after 10:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

DELIBERATE: JOHN CROSLY APPEAL OF RDF 11-01:

This is the time set for deliberations, "In the Matter of an Appeal of the Decision by the Land Development Services Director to Approve a Resource Dwelling in the Primary Forest Zone (Application No. RDF 1-01 - John Crosley) Subject to Conditions".

Sarah reviewed deliberations of last week which were carried over again to today.

The Board has now reviewed all information and testimony and believes that the Planning Department has done a thorough job on this application and supports the Director's decision. With that, Commissioner

Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to tentatively approve to affirm the Planning Director's Finance Order on Application RDF 1-01 (Crosley)". The motion carried unanimously.

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 August 22, 2011.
- (B) Amended Order No. 32-2011, "In the Matter of Approving Proposals to Mitigate the Effect of Furloughs During Fiscal year 2011-2012."
- (C) Order No. 66-2011, "In the Matter of Declaring Certain Personal Property Owned by Columbia County to be Surplus to the County's Needs and Directing the Disposal or Sale Thereof [Transit Vehicles]".
- (D) Order No. 67-2011, In the Matter of Allowing the Service of Alcohol at a Wedding to Take Place at Camp Wilkerson on September 11, 2011 [Sarah Anne Austin].
- (E) Contractor Payment Release for 62491 Nehalem Hwy., Vernonia, Oregon 97064

(Olson), and authorize the Chair to sign.

- (F) Owner's Certification and Acceptance of Improvements for 62491 Nehalem Hwy., Vernonia, Oregon 97064 (Olson) and authorize the Chair to sign.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (G) Amendment #2 to ODOT Agreement No. 24806 - Emergency Relief Program and Surface Transportation Program Funding for Columbia County Emergency Relief Projects.
- (H) Amendment #6 to Personal Services Contract with Oregon Realty Co. for flood rehabilitation projects.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Last week, Commissioner Hyde met with PCC representatives and their consultants about the possibility of a brick-n-mortar building in the Scappoose area. He was very encouraged by those discussions and impressed with PCC's focus on Columbia County.

Yesterday, the Board met with a ODOT, their consultants, and other public agencies to discuss the 4 county grant for connectivity. There was a lot of good participation.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS;

The Board has spent a good portion of this meeting on transit issues. The new transit facility is moving along very well, however people may not understand why the county is building this facility then going out for a fare increase. To answer that, the building is being totally paid for by federal grant fund.

In the past couple of weeks, Commissioner Fisher has had the opportunity to meet with the three new school superintendents in this county and believes our schools we will be well served by them.

Last night he met with the Hwy 30 Education subcommittee who continues to look at ways to educate our citizens throughout the county on safety issues on Hwy 30.

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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, Board Secretary