

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

September 7, 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 Cynthia Zemaitis, Acting 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 31, 2011 Board meeting and August 31, 2011 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Leroy Johnson, 334 South 12th Street, St. Helens. Mr. Johnson is here today regarding the ballot measure to dissolve the Columbia Health District. He pointed out that the interpretation could be hard to determine and asked if this does away with the .38 cents per 1,000. If not, it is making a mockery of the public. Commissioner Heimuller read the ballot brought in by Mr. Johnson and stated that the ballot clearly states that the dissolution will do away with the tax levy. The Health District would be dissolved and the permanent tax rate would go away.

Mr. Johnson believes that all ballots should be screened by the court, or the Board, before they ever go out to the public. Commissioner Hyde indicated that ballots are screened to make sure there is no double meaning or that it changes the constitution. He also noted that the Board is not allowed to stop a measure - anyone has the right to collect signatures and put something on the ballot.

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

This is the time set for deliberations on the proposed Zonal Fare System and Proposed Fare Increases for the Columbia County Rider Transportation System.

Commissioner Fisher had asked at the last meeting for some additional data, which has been provided by Janet Wright. He wants to reiterate a point brought up earlier, which is to build some kind of escalator into fare increases instead of waiting

until a large increase is needed. He believes Janet is working on that. Commissioner Fisher would like to wait another week for deliberations to give him time to look at the data. Commissioner Heimuller is agreeable to allowing another week, but wants to be sure that employers who pay bus fares are given enough notice to get the information out and hopes that deliberations do not get pushed out any further.

With that, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to carry over deliberations to Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at or after 10:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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 September 5, 2011.
- (B) ESGP 2011 Certification of Local Approval for Nonprofit Organizations.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (C) Amendment #1 to ODOT Grant Agreement ConnectOregon II Multimodal Transportation Fund Program 2007, Public Transit Facility.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENT ON HOOD-TO-COAST RELAY:

Janet LeSollen, 375 - 13th Street South, St. Helens. Ms. LeSollen wanted to report a problem she encountered on Friday during the Hood-to-Coast run. She was trying to find the best route to the urgent care clinic as she had been stung by a bee and is very allergic. The route was closed at Pittsburg and Sunset and, even though she told them it was a medical emergency, they refused to let her through. By the time she made her way back around, the urgent care clinic was closed. Commissioner Hyde indicated that he would report the incident to the sponsors and ensure that they know they are to let emergencies through.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde reported that the first ever LIDAR demonstration that took place in Vernonia last week. The Forest Health-Human Health Initiative will be using the LIDAR to determine the amount of carbon in our forests. This initiative can give small woodland owners hope for continued operations by providing money for taking care of their healthcare needs in exchange for the carbon stored in their trees. This would result in good management and carbon offsets.

He attended the COLPAC meeting last week where discussions were held on the long-term viability of economic development and how that plays into the State's goals. The current State administration is working in a sort of back-to-the-future way, and things are looking good.

Yesterday he attended the CEPA meeting. He mentioned that the Board will soon be announcing the new candidate for the Emergency Management Director position at the County.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

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Commissioner Fisher wanted to remind people that school has started and we all need to be aware of the school zones – please be careful.

He was in St. Helens on Saturday to attend the Pirate Festival. It was a great event with a huge turnout. Kudos to the City of St. Helens.

On Friday, he attended the Koffee Klatch and it is very apparent that the business community is helping out whenever they can. For instance, there are people in the community who will be impacted by the increase in transit fares. This is one of the places where the community can work together to help those who will be significantly impacted.

Commissioner Fisher attended the Traffic Safety Committee meeting this morning. He is always interested to see the folks who will come out to volunteer, and gives them a lot of credit.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller wanted people to know that, as of 9/1/11, there will no longer be full time staff at the fairgrounds. There is a phone number to call and messages will be relayed to County staff. Until the economy improves, the focus will be on holding the fair each year, not on running the event complex all year.

He attended the Traffic Safety Committee meeting this morning. ODOT has also advised that the signs marking that portion of Hwy 30 between St. Helens and Rainier honoring Chief Painter will soon be going up. He mentioned that the ODOT representative who normally attends the Traffic Safety Committee meetings is leaving ODOT. He has been a great help to Columbia County and will be missed.

Commissioner Hyde wanted to let everyone know that on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. eastern time there will be a service to honor the 10th anniversary of 9/11. He also mentioned that the Columbia City Days' annual celebration will be held this Saturday at the Community Center.

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 7th day of September, 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: _____

Cynthia Zemaitis, Acting Board Secretary