

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

September 14, 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 September 7, 2011 Board meeting and September 7, 2011 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Peggy Crisp, 34571 Millard Road, St. Helens: She is here representing the CHD Board. They currently have a perspective buyer for the Millard Road property. Assuming that the dissolution is approved by the voters and the County becomes the trustee, will they honor that offer and continue on with the sale. The Commissioners stated that, at this point, all they can agree to is that the proper legal protocol would be followed.

Leroy Johnson shared his comments on the grade point process used by the Oregon school system and his concerns with the confusing measure on the ballot regarding the dissolution of the Columbia Health District.

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.

Sarah noted that ridership data information was submitted to the Board on September 7, 2011 and is now part of the record. Commissioner Heimuller has talked with some of the commuters and they understand that the simple fact is that the system is growing and along with that, expenses are increasing. He has not heard as many complaints about the fare increases that he would of expected. He is in support of the fare increase.

Commissioner Fisher feels this has been discussed at great length and, even though it is hard to raise rates when times are tough, people need to understand that fuel prices have increased and this is necessary to keep the transit system alive.

Commissioner Hyde agreed with those comments and also noted that Transportation Advisory Committee has recommended approval of the fare increase.

After discussion, Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to tentatively approve the proposed fare schedule dated August 9, 2011, effective October 1, 2011, and direct staff to prepare the final order. 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 12, 2011.
- (B) Personnel Action for the appointment of Peter Tassoni as Emergency Management Director.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (C) Purchase and Sale Agreement with Jeffrey Hopkins and Sidni Hopkins for 1098 Heather Lane, Vernonia, Oregon - flood relief buy-out.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde attended the Economic Development Team meeting last week in Vernonia. Although a vehicle accident blocked some from attending, it was a good meeting. There are a number of potential projects looking at Columbia County.

Friday, the Board met with all law enforcement people, cities, Sheriff, Judges and others, to talk about law enforcement in general. It was a very fruitful conversation and quite evident that more meetings are necessary to address the situation and development a plan.

On Monday he attended an AOC meeting in Salem.

Yesterday was the Oregon Solutions Team meeting. The Vernonia School project is

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moving forward and discussion was held on the where they are as far as funding. The now have 80% of the funding needed and are confident their goal will be achieved.

Commissioner Hyde mentioned that today is Bill Haack's last day. Bill was sitting in as the Interim Director for the Emergency Management Department.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher also commented on the Sheriff Summit held last Friday. There is a problem providing law enforcement services to our county due to the lack of funding. This meeting allowed all stakeholders a forum for problem solving.

On Monday he was in Salem for an AOC meeting. They discussed the loss of large value assessments (over \$1 million) and the huge impact on the county in loss of tax revenue.

Last night he attended the ESD meeting. There is a program available that will allow kids the opportunity to take advanced classes on-line. Many schools have had to reduce or eliminate elective classes so these are very positive programs.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller toured the firing range yesterday with Undersheriff Andy Moyer. This firing range is one of the most comprehensive on the west coast.

The County is hosting the annual Employee Appreciation Day today and the Commissioners will be cooking and serving lunch to all. This is just a way to give the employees a pat on the back and say thanks.

PEGGY CRISP:

Peggy Crisp wanted to publicly say that the Board should be very proud of Commissioner Heimuller for the wonderful job he did at the last Fair Board meeting. Everything went so smoothly and it was a pleasure to see everyone there working together - something that hasn't happened for many years.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

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Dated at St. Helens, Oregon, this 14th 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: _____

Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary