

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

October 5, 2011

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Earl Fisher and Commissioner Henry Heimuller, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary. Commissioner Hyde was not present.

Commissioner Fisher 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 27, 2011 Work Session and September 28, 2011 Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Richard Melton, 55141 Columbia River Hwy, Scappoose: His is here again because he is not getting his ballots and was not able to vote in the last election. Does he have to have a permit to vote in this county? He again explained his continued permit issues with the county. Because of the continued harassment of the handicapped, he is now getting Washington DC involved. Commissioner Heimuller asked if Mr. Melton could wait until after the meeting, he would personally accompany him down to the elections office to see that the ballot issue is corrected.

Peggy Crisp, 34571 Millard Road, Warren: As the Board is aware, the CHD has been voted out and their Board is no longer in office. Peggy read her written statement into the record as follows, "The County Commissioners started this critical access hospital mess. They let the former CHD abscond with tax dollars that now fund a private non-profit public health district that was founded by the former CHD Board in 2003. That was good forward thinking on their behalf. Then the Commissioners enabled the former CHD Board to make sure that the new CHD Board had no funds, knowing that the taxpayers and the CHD special district wanted a full audit to determine where millions of dollars had been spent. It is now up to the Commissioners to do right by the voters, sell the Millard property at a fair market value and take all remaining assets and give all property owners in that special district a credit on their property taxes this year".

Georgia Keiper, Sykes Road, St. Helens: She first wanted to affirm the vote of the people within the special taxing district to dissolve Columbia Health District.

When the recent CHD Board was elected, they had two main purposes. The first was to secure and protect the rights of the people to stop the district from reinstating the taxes. The second was to secure and protect the date that the dissolution of the district could be voted on. Both of those purposes were accomplished. There was also a desire of the people to have an audit done to identify how their millions in tax dollars had been used. Although the recent CHD Board did receive some information, they were not provided all prior audit information. Even now that the district is dissolved, the people still want to know where their tax dollars went. She gave some options on how the County can refund the people with the proceeds from the sale of the Millard property.

Tammy Maygra, 34319 Cannan Road, Deer Island: Tammy agrees with the comments made from Peggy and Georgia but wanted to add a couple of points. Everything that was done prior to July 1st was orchestrated deliberately by the old CHD Board, the city and the Board of Commissioners to make the current CHD a Board without purpose. That was clearly stated in the various emails she has obtained. This was not just directed to the new Board, but to all the taxpayers who voted three times to end the corruption and wasteful spending of their tax dollars. The current Board didn't even get the CHD money until two weeks prior to the recent election to dissolve the district, which made it too late to finish their audit. Her point is that during this whole time, the current CHD Board was told that the Commissioners have no interest in finances of special districts, yet they did for the CHD district. Commissioner Heimuller clarified that any and all information the Commissioners received regarding the money, was passed on to the new CHD Board. Tammy still feels that if they would have had the money from the beginning, they could have finished the audit, hired an attorney and could have carried on the business that the people elected them to do. Discussion continued on the money issues with Tammy expressing her opinion on the whole situation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Fisher 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 October 3, 2011.
- (B) Authorize out-of-state travel for Lorraine Churchill to attend the 2011 Bay Area Urban Shield Exercise, 10/14-10/18 in Oakland, California. Travel expenses paid by UASI.
- (C) Addendum #12 to the Demolition Contract dated August 11, 2011, 1157 Juniper Street, Vernonia, Oregon (Eyrick) and authorize Commissioner Fisher to sign.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (D) Amendment #1 to Oregon Commission on Children & Families 2011-2013 County Intergovernmental Agreement COL1113 and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (E) Amendment #55 to the 2009-2011 Intergovernmental Agreement #127291 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (F) Amendment #56 to the 2009-2011 Intergovernmental Agreement #127291 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (G) Agreement #27479 with ODOT, Public Transit Division for Capital 5309 bus purchases.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Not present.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher commented on the recent meetings held with the Sheriff on law enforcement issues and the Decision Maker group to look at working together to join services for cost reductions.

The Rainier Community Garden is starting up again and will be a big help with the holiday food baskets.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller commented on the recent retirement of County Surveyor Jerry Keenon and County Juvenile Director Stan Mendenhall. A retirement party was held for both last week to recognize their years of service to the county.

He attended the Community Meals event last night. It was a great event and it reminds us all that the holiday season is upon us and to give where we can.

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 5th day of October, 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: Not Present

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Recording Secretary

By: _____

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: _____

Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary