

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

February 8, 2012

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 February 1, 2012 Board meeting and February 1, 2012 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**VISITOR COMMENTS:**

*Joe Cason, 171 Columbia Blvd, St. Helens:* Joe was present to discuss the firing range in Deer Island. It was his understanding that the intent was to eventually open that range to the public. Currently, people are having to go all the way to Clatskanie to use a gun range. He knows there are liability issues but wondering if the intent is still to allow public access in the future. Commissioner Hyde explained that the easement with Dyno was based on the access over their property being for law enforcement personnel only. The county is working on another entrance to the property which will allow for

public access, however that may take some time. If there is an interest group that wants to get involved, the Board is open to that. The interest is out there, but the funding is an issue.

**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 2/6/12.
- (B) Declaration of surplus property and donate Computer Monitor, Model #CTL 745FX to Community Action Team - Veterans Services.

The motion carried unanimously.

**COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Hyde attended a drivers training program for the students at Scappoose High School last Thursday. This was a great safety exercise for the students and mentioned that Commissioner Fisher and Senator Johnson were instrumental in bringing this program to Columbia County.

On Friday, he attended a meeting with Portland Metro for discussion on the CZ Trail and the eventual connection to Forest Park. Glen Crinklaw was also there to give a presentation on the CZ trail.

He attended Senator Wyden's town hall meeting on Sunday. Even though it was Super Bowl Sunday, he was impressed to see over 60 people attend.

He attended several other meetings and reported on the Oregon Solutions meeting, the AOC meeting on bills before the legislature; CEPA meeting, and a discussion with PCC on their presence here in Columbia County.

Tomorrow he will be meeting with FEMA in Vernonia to look at the monetary impacts from the recent snow storm.

Commissioner Hyde reminded everyone about the NACo Prescription Drug Card that is available to everyone in Columbia County. He noted that it also included pet meds.

#### **COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Fisher expanded on the student driver training program that was held at the Scappoose High School last Thursday, sponsored by the Ford Motor Company. This program stresses to the students, the negative effects of distraction on the road. A number of students actually had the opportunity to drive the cars, giving them the experience of several different scenarios, such as how to react to over correcting, slides, etc. They were also given special glasses to simulate what it's like driving drunk and to take the DUII test. There are only 40 schools on the west coast this year and Columbia County was the second site on their tour.

On Thursday night he attended the US Hwy 30 Safety Coordinator meeting in Clatskanie, to discuss the safety audits that were done on the north end of Hwy 30 as it goes through the county. During that meeting, a committee was set up to put out a series of options on what can be done in the highway throughout the county. Those

options should be ready by June/July of this year. He also mentioned that the stretch of highway between St. Helens and Scappoose will no longer qualify as a Safety Coordinator- however that is a good thing because one qualification is the number of deaths in that area.

He was in Salem on Monday for an AOC meeting. Of interest is a house bill being presented on how the management of health care services will be provided by the State. There is a great deal of uncertainty how that delivery system will be put in place.

There will be a hearing today on HB4165 on the Early Learning services provided through the Commission on Children & Families. It appears there may be a one year extension of funding for that program.

While in Salem, he sat in on a legislative hearing with Representative Witt speaking on funding for Veterans Services. There are some bills coming up that will provide some additional funding and services for veterans.

Yesterday he attended the CEPA meeting. One thing he found useful is the continuation of operations plan to keep the courts up and running in emergency situations.

#### **COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Heimuller also attended the CEPA meeting and while there, learned that the COOP subscription is up as of February 1<sup>st</sup> and it costs \$10,000 to renew. There has been discussions on how services can be grouped to reduce the cost.

He attended a NOHA meeting last Thursday. Like everyone else, they continue to struggle with funding issues. There has been some consolidation in the office which has helped and he is seeing some good forward movement with that agency.

Every Saturday, between now and Fair week, the Fair Board will be holding workshops in preparation for the annual County Fair. The public is welcome to attend.

Yesterday, he participated in a conference call with the Oregon Consortium. They have experienced some severe funding issues, with their staff being cut in half in the last 4 years.

There was no Executive Session held.

//

//

//

//

//

//

//

//

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012.

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