

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

May 23, 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 May 15, 2012 Budget meeting; May 16, 2012 Board meeting and May 16, 2012 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE #2012-3 - AMENDING COUNTY PARKS ORDINANCE:

Sarah stated that, before the Board is proposed Ordinance 2012-3, which formalizes the County Budget Committee's decision to take FY 2012-13 County Park user fees for use in the general fund. This is basically a housekeeping amendment to officiate that decision and remove provisions that are no longer appropriate.

This is not an official hearing however there are persons in the audience that wish to speak on the matter.

Rory Hammond, 66350 Bishop Creek Road, Deer Island: He knows that the Board is dedicated to public service and can sometimes come under attack. He is not here to

complain, he is here to offer a solution. He has been around for many years doing his part to help improve the parks and was present when the Camp Wilkerson fees were discussed. At no time was it even considered that those fees would go to the general fund. It appears to him that there is a marketing problem and the County has not been able to convince taxpayers that they are receiving value for the tax dollars. There is no measurable matrix that we can show the effectiveness of our tax dollars. He gave some statistical information for Columbia County on population, per capita income, miles of roads, etc. He mentioned that the O&C funding is going away which effects the county budget.

Commissioner Hyde interjected that he did not agree with the comment about O&C funding. PL 106-393 that he helped draft in 2000 was a stop-gap measure to allow the county to get money out of the Department of Revenue until we could get back to active management of our forests which was required by the Clinton Plan. It was tested in court, went to the Supreme Court who found that the Clinton Plan is a binding document and BLM has to get back to managing our forests. We do not think those monies are going away.

Rory's last comment is on the firing range. If the county would allow the public to come use it, at least once a year, to sight in their rifles for the hunting season. Again, it's a marketing issue.

Edith Turner, 25244 Alderbark, Rainier: She was present new information to the Board regarding the Deer Pointe Meadows issue. Commissioner Hyde informed her that she would need to submit any new information in writing to County Counsel's office.

Gene Baker, 255 MacArthur St., St. Helens: He has previously talked with Commissioner Heimuller and Commissioner Hyde, but wants it on the records that this ordinance is a real slap in the face to the people who have put in thousands of dollars and thousands of hours to help our county parks.

Katherine Hammond, 66350 Bishop Creek Road, Deer Island: She sits on the County Parks Committee and, for the record, the committee is strongly opposed to this ordinance. She read an email from a person (name unknown) who is opposed. She also received comments from Bill Eagle, a previous committee member, who is strongly opposed to this ordinance.

With no further comments, Sarah reviewed the procedural process for adoption and noted that this ordinance does include an emergency clause.

Commissioner Heimuller commented that this has been a tough budget year and the Board is not taking this lightly. He knows that our parks wouldn't be open today if it weren't for volunteers. However, the Board also has to consider all county departments and services that are mandated by the State. He stressed that this ordinance is for one year only at this point.

Commissioner Fisher echos the comments by Commissioner Heimuller. The county is looking at a \$2 million shortfall and this needs to be done for the good of all. Again, the volunteer work is tremendously appreciated but we need to keep this county whole. Our parks are great parks and they will survive and prosper.

Commissioner Hyde considers many in this room friends and this does not happen lightly. Columbia County has one of the best parks system in the State. The Board was adamant that this is for one year only.

At this time, Sarah gave the first and second reading of proposed Ordinance No. 2012-3, "In the Matter of Amending the Columbia County Forest, Parks and Recreation Ordinance" by title only. With that, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner

Heimuller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2012-3, "In the Matter of Amending the Columbia County Forest, Parks and Recreation Ordinance". The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None.

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 5/21/12.
- (B) Authorize use of HMGP fund to purchase property located at 740 Mist Drive, Vernonia, Oregon (Scott Stevens).
- (C) Appoint Jack Sweeney to the Columbia Drainage Vector Control District Board to complete the term of Richard Sorenson.
- (D) Order No. 18-2012, "In the Matter of Allowing the Service of Alcohol at Weddings to Take Place at Camp Wilkerson During Summer 2012".

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (E) Amendment #1 to Intergovernmental Agreement No. 30002131 with the City of Portland for UASI funding and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (F) Approve the Oregon State Sheriff's Association Mutual Aid Agreement.

The motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAIM MAY 20-26, 2012 AS “PARENTING EDUCATION AWARENESS WEEK”

Commissioner Hyde read the document in full. After which, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to proclaim May 20-26, 2012 as “Parenting Education Awareness Week”. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE \$2 MILLION REIMBURSEMENT FOR VERNONIA SCHOOL PROJECT:

Sarah addressed the Board’s prior approval for the request for reimbursement for the Vernonia School project of \$1.9 million. The amount was actually \$2 million and the State is requiring that the approval be defined as such. With that, Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the request for reimbursement of funds in the amount of \$2 million dollars from the \$4 million dollar State appropriation for the Vernonia School Project and authorize the Chair to sign. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

On Monday, Commissioner Hyde had an interview with the Secretary of State’s office for a performance audit on where the State is on long term recovery of emergency management.

On Friday, he represented the Board while attending the Community Action Team Appreciation day.

He will be headed to Coos Bay tomorrow to participate on a Statewide Coastal Economic Development Summit.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher noticed our CC Rider Veterans bus out on the road today, transporting veterans to their various destinations. Commissioner Heimuller should be commended for his work on getting this service in place for our veterans.

On Saturday he attended the Sacagawea fund raising event. This is an essential school based health program for kids and he understands that they raised over \$30,000 to keep this program going.

On Monday he had the opportunity to attend a congressional subcommittee hearing in Longview dealing with a proposed rule change by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to expand the area of critical habitat for the spotted owl from 6-7 million acres to almost 13 million acres. It was interesting and unbelievable to learn that when the EPA made the rule to set aside this area for habitat, there was over 2,000 animals listed on the endangered species act. After 20 some years, we have positively impacted 20 species and harmed more species then we've aided. The management for the spotted owl has caused damage many other animals and now they want to double the area. It boggles the mind.

Yesterday, he met with the Joint Decision Makers group. This group is made up representatives from various agencies throughout the county to look at pooling services to reduce costs for all and find efficiencies to simply be more effective with less money.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

On Saturday, Commissioner Heimuller attended the weekly Fair meeting. The true spirit of the fairgrounds was exemplified that day when looking around and seeing a soccer game being played, the car races, a 4H event and the Sacagawea fund raiser - all on the same day. It shows the importance of having this facility available to so many.

He attended the CAT Board meeting on Monday. There was a lot of good discussion on the veterans program and the affirmation of CAT's commitment to this program.

Commissioner Heimuller felt the need to mention the senseless killing of Jennifer Warren last Sunday. Jennifer was killed while at the home of a CCMH client to provide him with his prescribed medication. This is a tragedy and our prayers go out to her family and the staff of CCMH.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(f)(d):

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(f)(d). Upon coming out of Executive Session,

- Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the Letter of Agreement with AFSCME Local 1442 for Health Insurance. The motion carried unanimously.

- Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the Letter of Agreement with Municipal Employees Local 697 for Health Insurance. The motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the Letter of Agreement with the Federation of Parole/Probation Officers for Health Insurance. The motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to authorize Jean Ripa to sign the benefits contracts. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 23rd day of May, 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

BOC Minutes

5/23/12

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By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____

By: _____

Jan Greenhalgh

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner