

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

October 31, 2012

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 Jan Greenhalgh, Board Office Administrator.

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 October 24, 2012 Board meeting and October 24, 2012 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Richard Melton, 55141 Columbia River Hwy, Scappoose: Mr. Melton continues to express his concern with the issues surrounding the electrical permit for his property.

Scott Groves, Old Mill Road, Scappoose: He is here today to comment on a previous statement by Commissioner Heimuller that “dogs bark”. This is disturbing to him. Yes, dogs bark, garbage stinks, motors make loud noises, etc., but stating the obvious doesn’t excuse the allowance of any of these actions to become a negative in someone else’s life.

DELIBERATIONS: KRISTEN DREYER VARIANCE TO KENNEL SETBACK & CUP:

This is the time set for deliberations “In the Matter of the Application of Kristen Dreyer for a Major Variance to Kennel Setback Standard (V 12-01) and for a Conditionally Permitted Home Occupation in the Primary Forest (PF-80) Zone”.

Robin gave a brief background on this application. The Board held a public hearing on 9/12/12 and has been continued to today to allow the Board to conduct a site visit of the property. Notice was sent about the site visit. Commissioner Heimuller did a site visit and took pictures. Robin recommended that the Board reopen the record to allow submission of those pictures and any testimony to rebut the evidence. Robin then asked if there has been any exparte contact with any party to this application. Commissioner Heimuller stated the, during his site visit, he had an extensive amount of conversation with the application, specifically how the dogs are currently housed, how the operation is run and the applicants letter on how to bring the operation into compliance within the 100 foot setback area.

Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to reopen the hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Robin entered the notice of site visit into the record, marked Exhibit “5 and photos taken by Commissioner Heimuller marked Exhibit “6”.

Commissioner Heimuller reviewed the pictures with explanation.

The Board asked if there was anyone present that wanted to testify. Hearing none, the hearing was closed and the Board then deliberated. Commissioner Heimuller talked about what he saw and what could be done to mitigate the problems. He believes there are ways to make this neighborhood friendly and keep this business up and running. If this application is denied, that would be three jobs lost. Although not an easy fix, it can be done.

Commissioner Fisher felt this is one of those issues where you can see both sides. If the applicant were running a successful business for 10 years, why he didn't come in to get a

kennel license before. He can also understand the neighbors side. If the dogs were killing his chickens, he would be upset. He doesn't like driving someone out of business, but there can be a solution with some strict conditions that could mitigation the issues. He was surprised about the number of regulations and rules out there to protect everyone involved.

Commissioner Hyde summarized. There is an application for a major variance. The Board has seen a recommendation to deny the application. There is now a compromise before the Board that the applicant would be willing to move all of the dog runs and fencing to within the 100 foot setback area, in a reasonable amount of time. This however doesn't mitigate the sound proofing of the building.

The Board would consider approval of the application with the 17 conditions as listed in the staff report dated 9/5/12, with some modifications to condition 1 and 3.

After discussion, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to tentatively approve the application of Kristen Dreyer for a Major Variance, subject to conditions as discussed 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 Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select to Pay for week of 10/29/12.

- (B) Amended Order No. 49-2012, "In the Matter of Reimbursing Public Agencies in Columbia County for the Cost Impacts of the Hood-to-Coast Relay and Returning Remaining Deposit".

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (C) Amendment #15 to the 2011-2013 IGA #134305 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (D) Amendment #1 to the Personal Services Contract with the St. Helens School District for St. Helens Middle School Community School Services.

The motion carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT #1 TO OTAK PSC FOR THE TRANSIT FACILITY:

Robin reviewed the changes to the amendment to the Personal Services Contract with OTAK, Inc. With that, Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve Amendment #1 to the Personal Services Contract with OTAK, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde commented briefly on the information coming out of the Policy Committee that the Governor put together regarding O&C lands, trying to find some resolution that would allow active management of federal forests in the State of Oregon. Commissioner Hyde is very hopeful that they will find resolution by the deadline of 12/18/12. At that point, the legislative concept would then go to our federal delegation with the full support of the Governor and hopefully all of our State legislative delegation to be moved through the House and ultimately through the Senate for passage. This is

to set the tone for active forest management and could be used for a model for the entire United States.

The Board attended the City/County quarterly meeting hosted by the City of Vernonia last night in Vernonia. This is a very good venue for the various agencies in the County to get together and discuss issues effecting all of us.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher had the opportunity to attend a forum last Thursday evening for the veterans. Although he couldn't stay for a whole event, he did get an understanding of the concerns and needs out there. He also wanted to thank those who worked on putting this event together.

He participated in the candidates fair at the Elks Lodge last Friday night. It went very well and the candidates, including himself, were given the opportunity to make comments and talk with those community members in attendance.

Yesterday, he spoke with students in the government class at the St. Helens High School. He talked with them about the role of a Commissioner. Although they do not make decisions on a national basis, but there are so many local issues that need attention, and the Commissioners need to deal with these issues while keeping within the rules and regulations. He encouraged the students to participate in our government.

Afterwards he attended a Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) meeting. They are beginning the process to transition approximately 5,000 people in Columbia County into the CCO health services program. It will hopefully be a seamless transition.

He commented on the City/County meeting last night in Vernonia. The group talked about working together to get things done in all of our communities and workshops that are being put together for our local leadership.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller also commented on the Veterans Town Hall meeting last Thursday. It was quite a feat to put this event together and he wanted to express his appreciation to all of those involved. He believes there were approximately 60 veterans in attendance. These types of events are very therapeutic for our veterans, even if just allowing them the opportunity to tell their stories. As a result of that event, he will be meeting with a veteran tonight for a "one on one" who has struggled with access to VA services.

He attended the Senior 5 Area Lunch in Vernonia this week. These lunches are always fun and he continues to be inspired by our seniors in this county.

He wanted to acknowledge the Cutright family from Vernonia, whose son saved his grandmother from a burning house. He was in the burn center in Portland but now back home. The grandmother is still in the hospital in critical condition and his father just had back surgery yesterday. Many local organizations are doing some fundraising to help out the family. Anyone that would like to help this family can call him at the Board office.

He will be in Warrenton tomorrow to attend the NOHA meeting.

The night of the Veterans meeting, the Commissioners were called up front by the State Director of OVA who presented the Board a coin in a short “coining” ceremony, which is a very high honor.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 31st of October, 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

By: _____

BOC Meeting Minutes

10/31/12

Page 8

Jan Greenhalgh

By: _____

Board Office Administrator

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner