

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

February 13, 2013

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Henry Heimuller, Commissioner Anthony Hyde and Commissioner Earl Fisher, together with Robin McIntyre, Assistant County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Office Administrator.

Commissioner Heimuller called the meeting to order and led the flag salute.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher moved seconded to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2013 Board meeting and February 6, 2013 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None.

MATT GRAVES, PAULY ROGERS - COUNTY AUDIT PRESENTATION:

Matt Graves of Pauly Rogers, came before the Board to present the results of the audit for Columbia County, year ending June 30, 2012. This annual audit is conducted to ensure that the County is in compliance with Oregon Municipal Audit Law. In summary, it was a clean audit and he found no issues of non-compliance and no questioned costs.

HEARING: PROPOSED SERVICE REDUCTIONS TO CC RIDER TRANSPORTATION:

This is the time set for the public hearing to solicit citizen input on proposed service reductions to the CC Rider public transit system.

Robin briefly explained the hearing procedure. The Board will first receive the staff report and then open the hearing for public testimony.

Janet Wright, Transit Director, came before the Board to give the staff report. She has been working with the Citizen Transit Advisory Committee (CTAC) for the past 4 months to address the budget issues this program will be facing this year and into the next biennium. The reason we have to look at service reductions is because the County relies on federal and state grants and these grants have decreased. In addition, local match dollars and county contributions have been reduced. CC Rider does not generate enough revenue to match the grants available through ODOT public transit. In order to comply with the requirements of state budget law, the county is requiring the transit department to establish a reserve $2.5 \times$ the monthly expenses, which is approximately \$305,500 based on the FY 13-14 budget.

Roy Weedman, Transit Mobility Coordinator, gave a detailed power point presentation the proposed service reductions. As Janet stated, the county general fund is unable to continue supporting the CC Rider program. He and Janet held a number of meetings with the CTAC, where they reviewed ridership data by route and loop schedule and grant funding available through FY 2014-15. The outcome is a recommendation being presented to the Board today. Roy went over service priorities, i.e. medical appointments, grocery and banking and explained how the service reductions were determined. He then reviewed each route and how it would be effected by the reductions. The positive outlook is that by approving the CTAC recommendations, they are hopeful that CC Rider's budget will become solvent, sustainable, fiscally responsible and eliminate their reliance on the County general fund. CC Rider will seek to add services back as budget and grant funds allow.

For the record, Robin entered the following into the record: Letter from Bill Haack, City of Vernonia, dated 2/8/13 as **Exhibit "1"** and letter from Dena Chesney, dated 2/11/13 as **Exhibit "2"**.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

Joe Burks, CTAC Chair, 52689 NE Porter Lane, Scappoose: He here to provide his point of view. They are looking at some serious cuts and those cuts will effect a lot of people. However, there is not a reduction in the desire to provide quality service and to maximize the deployment of the resources available. He wanted to thank the transit staff for what they have done with such limited funds. He would also acknowledge that there is plenty of opportunities for improvement. He is hoping that this process will get the transit program to a place where they are more fiscally responsible and sustainable. He believes that what is being put forth today is a responsible recommendation.

Sally Ann Marson, 1620 7th St., Columbia City: As a member of the CTAC, she supports the comments made by Joe Burks and committee recommendations.

Alta Lynch, 32961 Scappoose Vernonia Hwy, Scappoose: She stated that there are other similar DAR programs within the State that require a person to fill out an application to see if they qualify. She suggested that might be something the county check into. The Board stated that is being looked at.

Tilda Kirk, 105 Kelly St., St. Helens: She relies heavily on this program because she works at night and, with no other means of transportation, it essential to have this available.

Lynette Hettinger, 631 Cowlitz St. St. Helens: She has concerns, not only with the Dial-A-Ride issue but with transportation as a whole. The social aspect for our seniors is a big part of their life and it's very important to have this service available to them. There are a lot of people in this county that don't have any other options for transportation.

Joel Askew, 52403 Millard Road, Scappoose: He is a bus driver for CC Rider and these proposed reductions will personally effect his family income. He is here today representing other drivers who couldn't be here because they are working - many of whom felt this hearing should have been held in the evening so they could attend. Joel presented an idea that has the potential to bring in the underwriting dollars needed to maintain, even expand at least a portion of the much needed Vernonia transportation routes. This idea comes for "Loraine" who works at the PCC Rock Creek campus and uses CC Rider services to commute to work from Columbia County. She doesn't see why PCC couldn't pay for Vernonia route services for individuals going to school at Willow Creek and Rock Creek. For the purpose of Vernonia residents who attend college at PCC Rock Creek and Willow Creek campuses and to expand the number of shuttle trips between the two campuses, the following is proposed. An additional 3 to 4 shuttle trips per day would be provided by CC Rider between Willow Creek and Rock Creek campuses. This shuttle service would be provided for PCC in exchange for underwriting of the Vernonia route that currently extends from Vernonia to Willow Creek. Basically, this additional service would supplement the six shuttle trips performed daily by the Rock Creek, Willow Creek route and relieve the parking problem at Rock Creek and allow Vernonia residents to access PCC educational services. Currently, there are about six students whose education curriculum plans will be disrupted if a more creating funding solution is not found.

Joel then read a letter from Sarah Stern into the record, stating her disappointment with the cuts to the Vernonia area.

The testimony of Joel Askew, that included comments from Loraine, was entered into the record, marked **Exhibit "3"**.

He also entered the letter from Sarah Stern into the record, marked **Exhibit "4"**.

Elizabeth Pieth, Sunset Empire, Warrenton, Oregon: She is the Mobility Coordinator for Sunset Transportation and their company supports CC Rider and even promotes their service in Clatsop County.

Debra Wheeler, 365 N. 16th, St. Helens: She provides social care for residents at the Columbia Care Center. There are people there who would be home bound if not for the Dial-A-Ride service. She understands that medical needs are a top priority, but there are other health needs such as social interaction. As an example, there is a resident who was very depressed a year ago and the doctor suggested he go home to the house he once shared with his wife and have dinner with her and the family. It worked and now he looks forward to that visit once a week. It is so important to consider the social aspect of those who would be housebound if not for the DAR service. It is such an important service.

Hanna Bristol, 374 N. 11th St., St. Helens: She is the Program Coordinator for Community Active Services (CAS) with many programs within Columbia County. They support adults with developmental disabilities. They often face budget cutbacks which effect their transportation dollars, so when the CC Rider Transit system and DAR was established, it was a wonderful thing for their program and a huge benefit to these individuals. CAS

has a vocational site in the county where they support individuals in getting jobs in the community and they rely on CC Rider to get to their place of employment. These individuals often have behavioral challenges, but when they are able to get out into the community and have a job, it gives them pride and a sense of dignity and the behavioral challenges go way down. This program has been a blessing for them.

With no further testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed. After some discussion, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to close the hearing and leave the record open to allow written testimony for one week and deliberate on Wednesday, February 20, 2013, at or after 10:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Heimuller read the consent agenda in full. With the removal of Item (B), Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select to Pay for week of 2/11/13.
- (B) Reappoint Chuck Parks to the Columbia County Parks Committee for a (4) year term. **(Pulled - Declined Appointment)**
- (C) Reappoint Margaret Magruder to the Columbia County Budget Committee for a (2) year term and Dan Garrison for a (3) year term.
- (D) Reappoint Paula Lichatowich, Rod Lloyd and Terry Luttrell to the Columbia County Planning Commission for a (4) year term.
- (E) Appoint Renate Garrison, Andy Krieck, Chris Lake and Diana Karthausser to the Ambulance Service Advisory Committee.

- (F) Reappoint Karen Ladd, Brian Heuer, Jeff Mathia and Sue Reedy to the Ambulance Service Advisory Committee.
- (G) Appoint Linda Cyders to the Columbia County Cultural Coalition Committee complete the term of Maeona Urban - term to expire 12/31/2013.
- (H) Appoint Kathleen Grove to the Columbia County Cultural Coalition Committee complete the term of Carol Sawyer - term to expire 12/31/2014.
- (I) 2013 Liquor License Renewals for:
 - Scappoose Market;
 - Deer Island Store;
 - Star Mart;
 - Goble Tavern.

The motion carried unanimously.

OREGON ROAD RUNNERS - PUBLIC ROAD EVENT PERMIT:

Cynthia Zemaitis presented the Board with a Public Road Event Permit for the Oregon Road Runners Club for their Vernonia Marathon on April 14, 2013. She asked if the Board had any concerns or questions pertaining to this event. The Board has reviewed the permit and noted that this is their third year with no problems and they had no concerns.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde was in Salem on Monday for the AOC legislative meeting and steering committee meetings. There are a lot of bills moving very quickly in Salem that require a lot of attention because they effect county government in a big way. There are going to be some fulls days spent in Salem during this legislative session.

On Thursday, he met with representatives of Global Partners and the Columbia County Economic Team. Global recently announced they are purchasing the ethanol plant at Port Westward. Global has stated that they will be keeping all plant managers and employees at the ethanol plant. This is all good news for Columbia County.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher is glad to be back to work and getting down to business.

He recently participated in a conference call with NACo on the issue of broadband and the push to get it in the rural areas.

On Monday, he was also in Salem for the AOC legislative and steering committee meetings. Met with committees on law enforcement, veterans services and early learning councils.

He stated that he will be leaving this afternoon to attend the CIS Board meeting in Portland.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller was also in Salem on Monday and expressed how important it is for the Commissioners to be at the table on so many of the issues before the legislators.

He attended the NOHA meeting in Warrenton last week. The South County Chamber of Commerce banquet on Thursday night. He spent most of Friday and Saturday at the

Special District Association's conference in Portland representing 911 and the Board of Trustees for the Columbia Health District.

He also attended the Veterans "Stand Down" fundraiser. Alta Lynch helped coordinate that very successful event, raising over \$4,000. The actual Stand Down event will be held on Saturday, February 23rd at the Old School to provide veterans with various services and health/hygiene necessities.

The Arts Commission has a major highway beautification project underway and he attended a fundraiser. It will be a \$50,000 community art project sited on the Milton Creek Bridge on Highway 30.

Yesterday was the second meeting of the Mass Gathering/Public Event committee. They are getting some traction those issues and Cynthia, who is staffing that committee, is working to draft a more effective ordinance.

Commissioner Heimuller noted that he will be signing a letter of support for HB331, the RV licensing fee bill. Glen Crinklaw is taking it to Salem tomorrow.

Commissioner Heimuller wanted to give a shout out for Doug Hudson who recently passed away. Doug was a developmentally disabled gentlemen that everyone in Scappoose and St. Helens knew. He attended all of the sporting events while growing up. He was famous for his statement "hey, I know you....it's been awhile" to thousands around the county. He was so very friendly to everyone he came in contact with.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(h) - LITIGATION:

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(h). Upon coming out of Executive Session, no action was taken by the Board.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 13th of February, 2013.

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: _____

Henry Heimuller, Chair

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: _____

BOC Minutes

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Jan Greenhalgh

Board Office Administrator

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner