

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

January 15, 2014

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Anthony Hyde, Commissioner Henry Heimuller and Commissioner Earl Fisher, 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 Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2014 Board meeting and January 6, 2014 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**VISITORS:**

***Jamie Maygra, 34319 Cannan Road, Deer Island:*** Jamie first thanked the Board for allowing him to speak. He is a retired ironworker from Portland and has worked on several hundred projects throughout his 40+ year career and has some structural knowledge and background. Using graphics, he explained the engineering of the rail bridge over Milton Creek in St. Helens and that there is a structural piece missing in the center of the bridge. He would say that this bridge is in old (1900-1920) and is in very poor condition. With the recent oil train explosions, this is a concern. He would suggest that the speed of the train should be reduced to 10 mph until upgrades are done.

Commissioner Heimuller is already in contact with P&W and will add this issue to the list.

***Robert Bristro, 32204 Sam Blem Road, Scappoose:*** He is a 20 year Vietnam veteran and has recently become involved with a grass roots organization “Liberty Zones for Oregon”. They are seeing a lot of over reach by the federal government and the only way to combat it is with County help. This county holds nearly 11,000 acres of timber lands that are managed by the federal government. His question is why are they managing public lands? He believes that it would bring more money into the county if we got the feds out of our business. He submitted some written information for the Board to look at which includes some sample letters, resolutions, etc.

#### **RETIREMENT PLAQUE TO SUSAN LUCAS:**

The Board presented a plaque to Susan Lucas who recently retired from the District Attorneys Office. The Board wanted to take this time to recognize Sue for her many years of service to Columbia County.

#### **VISITORS, continued:**

***Darryl Whipple, Rainier:*** He is here to urge the Board to deny the rezone of the Port Westward property to industrial. Commissioner Hyde explained that the record is closed on this matter and could not take any further testimony.

***Annie Christensen, Hazel Street, St. Helens:*** She lives less than ½ mile from the rail tracks and explained her concerns with the potential hazardous materials that will be transported on the rail lines. There is new information about the DOT 11 oil tank cars that are prone to puncture. These are now being improved, but there are a significant amount of the older cars are still running. There has been a significant amount of rail accidents just in the last 6 months - in fact there was one yesterday in Canada, understood to be caused by a beaver. She has an article from last weeks Oregonian that talks about State oversight gaps and their concerns on this issue. She has also talked with Jay Tappen about her concerns with the lack of manpower and equipment to deal

with an oil fire and the effects on local businesses and property owners. Commissioner Hyde suggested Annie attend the next Columbia Emergency Planning Association (CEPA) meeting 1/21/13 at the 911 District Office, where he will be bring up these issues of concern.

***Tammy Maygra, 34319 Cannan Road, Deer Island:*** Tammy commented on the deterioration of the McNulty Creek rail bridge and the apparent lack of upkeep. P&W receives a lot of ConnectOregon funds for rail improvements and she would like to see that goes towards safety improvements for this bridge. ODOT said that if this bridge was to be torn down and rebuilt, it would take 1 to 1 ½ months. These are serious concerns that should be addressed now instead of waiting for a catastrophic incident and worrying how to deal with it. She would suggest, for the safety of the public, that all oil trains be halted until the bridge is fixed.

***Nancy Whitney, St. Helens:*** Her concerns are with what kind of insurance the city/county/port has to protect the public for a catastrophic event. Her sister lives close to the rail bridge and this is a concern. A city council member spoke with the insurance agent, Chris Iverson, who had absolutely no idea who would pay for such a disaster.

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF ORD 2014-1 - POSH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT:**

Robin McIntyre stated that this is the time set for the first reading of Ordinance No. 2014-1. The ordinance now before the Board has some clarifying edits which was submitted to the Board earlier for their review. There is one additional correction in Condition 4(g) - to change "history" to "historical". With that, Robin gave the first reading of Ordinance No. 2014-1, "In the Matter of the Application by the Port of St. Helens for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Zone Change and Goal 2 Exception to Change the Zoning of 957 Acres from Primary Agriculture to Rural Industrial- Planned Development for

the Expansion of Port Westward (Application No. PA 13-02 & ZC 13-01)", by title only. The second reading will be held on Wednesday, January 29, 2014.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Commissioner Hyde read the consent agenda in full. Item (C) was pulled and held over. With no further additions/changes, Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select to Pay for week of 1/13/14.
- (B) Cancel the January 22, 2014 Staff meeting.

**AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:**

- (C) First Amended and Restated Columbia County Local Public Health Services Agreement. (*Pulled and Held Over*)
- (D) Personal Services Contract with St. Helens Middle School Community School 2013-2014.
- (E) Columbia County and UASI Countywide Sub-recipient Agencies Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement FY 2011 and FY 2012 and authorize the Chair to sign.

The motion carried unanimously.

**INTERIM MANAGEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:**

Jean Ripa stated for the record that Walt Pesterfield, Director of the Adult Justice Department, has accepted a position with the State of Colorado and will leaving January 24<sup>th</sup>. She has been working with Walt to find a candidate for the Board to consider to act as an interim manager for the Justice Department while they go through an approximate 3 month hiring process. The candidate is here today to interview with the Board.

The Board is sorry to see Walt leave. He has done a tremendous job for the county and the citizens he serves and they wish him well in his future position with the State of Colorado.

**COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Hyde attended the COLPAC meeting in St. Helens last Thursday. The topic of conversation was mostly focused on their community economic development strategy, what should be funded or not funded. The number one priority out of our region is the rail upgrades on “A” street in Rainier.

After that meeting, he headed to Salem for a meeting of the steering committee for HB 2620, which is a bill that was passed that looks at the regional solutions process.

On Monday, he and Commissioner Fisher were in Salem attending AOC legislative meetings.

Last night, the Board attended a “Jail in Crisis” meeting in St. Helens. There was a good turnout and a lot of ideas were discussed. He wanted to thank all of those who took the time to attend.

**COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Fisher also commented on the meeting last night on the Jail issue. The Clatskanie City Council is also hold a meeting tomorrow night on the same issue. One of the solutions mentioned last night was whether or not there should be another levy. He would encourage anyone that shares that feeling, to get busy right now because February

28<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for filing a petition. The reality here is that there is no money and, if no money, the Jail will close.

He was in Salem on Monday for an AOC meeting. There are some topics coming up in the new few months and one that will create the most discussion will be whether or not to legalize marijuana. There is also a lot of discussion on our timbers lands and the management thereof to help keep the county solvent.

**COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Heimuller mentioned that Bill Eagle, a long standing member of the County Parks Advisory Committee, has stepped down and the Board presented him an award for his lengthy service to the county.

Last Thursday he was in Warrenton to attend the NOHA Board meeting. Then in Scappoose for the NWACT meeting. On Friday, he was in Salem for both the AOC Human Services and LGAC meetings.

On Monday, he was back in Salem for an all day Public Transportation Advisory Committee meeting, representing both Columbia County and AOC on public transportation issues.

He attended an "Active Shooter" drill yesterday at the 911 facility. It was sponsored by 911, St. Helens Police Dept and the FBI. This fits in with our courthouse security meetings where continued discussions are held on how to keep our employees safe during an event, such as the school shooting that just happened yesterday.

Next week, the Board will be attending a law enforcement summit in Gold Beach and every county in the state will be represented.

He will be attending the Oregon Fair's Association conference this Thursday through Sunday. Columbia County's 100<sup>th</sup> Fair is coming up in 2015 and he wanted to point out that the staff and volunteers have been running our fairgrounds in the black for the past 3 years now. This is a Fair that was on the brink of closure and now counsels fairs around the state. He also noted that Columbia County will be hosting the OFA Spring Conference in May. This brings about 300 people to our area for the 3 day conference.

It was noted that KOHI is now back to running the Board meetings live.

***The Board recessed the meeting at 10:55 a.m. and reconvened in the Board of Commissioner's office at 11:00 a.m. to interview Bob Severe for the interim position of Director of Department of Adult & Juvenile Justice.***

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2014.

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

1/15/14

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

Jan Greenhalgh

Board Office Administrator

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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Earl Fisher, Commissioner