

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

February 19, 2014

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Anthony Hyde, Commissioner Henry Heimuller and Commissioner Earl Fisher, together with Sarah Hanson, 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 February 12, 2014 Board meeting and February 12, 2014 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS:

None.

2nd READING OF ORD 2014-3: SCAPPOOSE WATER LINE EXTENSION:

This is the time set for the second reading of Ordinance No. 2014-3. No changes have been made since the first reading, and hearing no objections, Sarah gave the second reading of Ordinance No. 2014-3 by title only. After which, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-3, "In the Matter of the Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment to Allow the City of Scappoose Water Line

Extension on Certain Resource Zoned Land and to Adopt the Service Area Map for Dutch Canyon Water Line (TA 13-01)". The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Hyde read the consent agenda in full. With no 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 2/17/14.
- (B) Cancel the Board and Staff meetings for February 26, 2014.
- (C) Appoint Dee Wooley, George Dunkel and Dennis Kenna to the Columbia County Elected Official Compensation Committee for a one year term.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (D) Amendment #8 to the Public Services Contract with Community Action Team for Veterans Outreach services.
- (E) Contract with Valley Landfill, Inc., doing business as Republic Services, for the Transportation and Disposal of Solid Waste.

The motion carried unanimously.

ORDER 4-2014 - JAIL OPTION LEVY DISCUSSION:

Steven Jute, 51758 SE 8th St., Scappoose: He represents the Scappoose School District who approved a proclamation that supports a Jail levy. Steven read the proclamation into the record and submitted a copy to the Board.

Susan Conn, 334 S. 3rd Street, St. Helens: Susan submitted a number of signed petitions and a facebook survey with over 922 likes, all in support of a Jail levy. She mentioned that there are more signed petitions coming in.

Clatskanie Mayor Diane Pohl, 17881 Beaver Falls Road, Clatskanie: The Clatskanie area is very concerned about the Jail situation. To not put this levy on the ballot automatically means closure of the Jail. By putting this on the May ballot, it will cost very little and will allow time to educate the public on the importance of keeping the Jail open.

Scappoose Mayor Scott Burge, 33703 SE Myrtle, Scappoose: He agrees with everything just stated by Mayor Pohl. Putting this levy back on the ballot, it will allow time to educate the community. If the Jail closes, Columbia County will lose out on a lot of economic development. Who will want to site here if we don't have Jail. He will go door to door to do his part in getting this levy passed.

St. Helens Mayor, Randy Peterson, 715 Maplewood Drive, St. Helens: He hears a lot of discussion in the community is that the Jail will close and the prisoners will just be taken to another facility. As he understands it, that will only be for the 10 worst of the worst and the rest will be just booked and released. That is not acceptable. He would urge the Board to give this another try and put it on the May ballot.

Clatskanie Police Chief Marvin Hoover, 195 SE 2nd St., Clatskanie: He first wanted to thank all of those who spent time collecting signatures. As elected and appointed officials of this county, we owe it to the people to provide personal protection, even to those who don't support them. He asked that the Board do the right thing and put this on the ballot, whether or not there are enough signatures gathered. We need to have an operating Jail.

Patricia Stockwell, 445 Pacific St, Columbia City: On behalf of the Columbia City Council and Mayor Young, she wants to see this levy on the ballot. She personally was out there getting signatures and was very surprised to learn that about 80% of those she talked with

were not even aware that this is happening. It's scary to her that there are so many people in the county that don't even know what's going on. The Board owes it to the public to give this another try.

Steve Atchison, District Attorney: He explained how the Jail closure will effect those in the system. Without the threat of jail time, the "failures to appears" are compounding. They have the attitude that nothing will happen to them if they don't appear. There are many, many examples of how this closure will negatively effect the courts.

Diane Pohl heard a comment more than once is that people are mad at government. That's why she recommends an oversight committee, so that the people will know that the taxes they pay will go to exactly where they voted it to go. It needs to be more transparent.

Randy Sanders, 32283 Pittsburg Road, St. Helens: He pointed out that if this doesn't go on the ballot, it is basically giving those who would vote no, a "yes" vote.

Commissioner Hyde agrees that the Board needs to give this another shot. He personally believes that, financially, Columbia County is going to get better, but not today. We need to keep the Jail open and he would vote to put this on the ballot.

Commissioner Heimuller commented that economic development is a huge issue of concern but he feels that public safety is the number one priority. He mentioned that Lane County passed a Jail levy but not until their 14th attempt and during that long process, the City of Springfield built their own jail because they were tired of waiting. We need to all come together on this here in Columbia County. He noted that the Board also

received a letter from the Rainier City Council voting unanimously to put this levy back on the ballot.

Commissioner Fisher first wanted thank all of those who went out there to get signatures. He too is surprised at the number of people that not even aware of what is going on here. We need to educate the public but the Board can't do it alone. This is a problem for all of us, so we all need to work on getting this serious personal safety issue out there. He pleaded to everyone to understand this is about all of us. Thanks again to all that came here today and what they have done to collect signatures.

At this time, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded is to approve Order 4-2014, "In the Matter of Calling an Election to Consider the Columbia County Jail Local Option Tax Levy". The motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the Board of Commissioners will continue to hold town halls on this matter.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde was in Salem last Thursday at attend the Forest Trust Lands Committee meeting and then a meeting with AOC meeting. While in Salem, he was able to spend some time at the capitol doing work on about 5 different bills that would have effect on Columbia County.

Next week he and Commissioner Fisher will be traveling to Washington, DC to attend the NACo legislative meeting.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher commented that because he and Commission Hyde are Board members, the NACo trip just mentioned will be fully funded by AOC, not on the county dime.

On Friday, he met with the school superintendents to talk about several issues, including the Jail. He is trying to get a meeting put together between the superintendents and the industrial leaders in our community, to see what can be done to put together a curriculum that would be responsive to the needs of the employers in Columbia County.

Commissioner Fisher is concerned that the current curriculum is detached from reality. We need to find courses of study that applies to real jobs.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller was in Salem on Friday and Monday attending AOC Human Services Committee meetings.

On Saturday, he and Commissioner Fisher attended the Arts and Cultural Center Ball who is raising money for a new highway scape project on the Milton Creek bridge. A good time was had by all.

He reminded all that the Fair Board is holding their fair planning workshops every Saturday morning at 9:00 am. They are already planning for the 100th Anniversary Fair for next year and working to create the biggest event we've ever seen.

He attended the Cornelius Pass Advisory Committee last night at the Skyline school. It was very well attended and there were a lot of good comments on both ends. He feels the hearing process put together by Multnomah County was great and the visuals used to actually see the problem areas along the pass. He is anxious to see how this will proceed.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 19th day of February, 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

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: _____

BOC Minutes

2/19/14

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Jan Greenhalgh

By: _____

Board Office Administrator

Earl Fisher, Commissioner