

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES

September 3, 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 August 27, 2014 Board meeting and August 27, 2014 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**VISITORS:**

***Nancy Whitney, 40 Wagner Avenue, St. Helens:*** Nancy is here to talk about the LUBA decision made on the Port Westward zone change. She believes LUBA made a profound statement that the Port of St. Helens and the County knowing did not abide by the land use regulations. She sincerely hopes that the Board of Commissioners takes this opportunity to listen to the citizens.

Sarah Hanson explained that because the Board may be hearing this matter on remand from LUBA, they Board needs to consider that any testimony given today will be considered exparte contact. Because the criteria will be limited in scope and it is unknown at this time what that criteria will be, she would recommend that the Board not take any testimony at this time.

Nancy voiced her objection as not being able to make a public comment.

Commissioner Hyde felt that the Board should be able to hear anything and everything so he allowed Nancy to comment. Nancy continued with reading her prepared statement into the record.

***William Adams, 175 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St. St. Helens:*** He is here to address his concerns with the possible appointment of Doug Griesen to the Homeland Security Emergency Management Committee. Following all of the exploits that has happened in Scappoose, he believes that Doug lacks maturity, doesn't take responsibility for his actions and deflects from the issues he is faced with. He has serious reservations about Mr. Griesen being appointed to this committee.

***Paulette Lichatowich, PO Box 439, Columbia City:*** In the minutes of the 2/5/14 Board meeting, Commissioner Heimuller expounded on those who take the time to come to the Board meetings, town halls, review the county budget, etc. and that those numbers are few. Paula thanked Commissioner Heimuller for valuing public participation in county government. She is here today regarding LUBA's Port Westward zone change decision.

Commissioner Hyde explained again that any testimony on the LUBA decision could be consider exparte contact - depending on the Port of St. Helens. This was their application and they would have to appeal the remand.

Paulette continued and read her prepared statement into the record and requested that the Board repeal the zone change.

***Annie Christensen, 35234 Hazel St. St. Helens:*** It appears to her that the whole process in the rezoning of the property at Port Westward was a good faith effort to provide jobs and industrial development that we need. It was stated that it was the intent of the Port

of St. Helens when they purchased this property to industrializing it. Sometimes things don't work out and it seems to her that this was a mistake she would encourage the Board to drop this.

***Bill Eagle, Allendale, St. Helens:*** He is the Chairman of the Columbia Soil & Water Conservation District and he wanted to be on record that he absolutely loves the Board of Commissioners. That said, he wanted to point out that on May 29, 1973, Governor Tom McCall signed Senate Bill 101 which established our land use planning goals and included protection of our agricultural land. Speaking as the SWCD Director and a soil and water professional advocate, the majority of the land at Port Westward is good Class 3 and 4 agricultural land. He wants it on the record that the Columbia SWCD is opposed to the Port Westward rezone.

***Marsha Dennison, 71115 Mauris Drive, Rainier:*** She is a retired teamster and would like to have a small farm of her own some day but there isn't enough farm land out there now. Being a small farmer would be the great and she would really appreciate it if the Board just gave up on the rezone at Port Westward.

#### **HEARING: FY 2014-15 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY:**

This is the time set for the public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Columbia County Supplemental Budget.

Sarah Hanson outlined the supplemental budget appropriations. She gave a brief explanation of those appropriations due to the passage of the Jail Operating Levy, which effects a couple of other departmental budgets. Sarah would recommend that the Board

take testimony today and allow her and the Finance Director time to prepare the final resolution for Board consideration.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

With no testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed for deliberations. Commissioner Hyde stated that this is a procedural matter due to the passage of the Jail Operating Levy. Commissioner Heimuller also noted that the first meeting of the Jail Operating Levy Committee was held last week and appears it will be a very productive committee. After discussion, ***Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to direct staff to prepare the supplemental budget resolution for approval next week. 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 the week of 9/1/14.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Hyde just returned from a weeks vacation with his family.

The prior week he was in Florence for the Coastal Caucus Economic Development Summit.

This is an annual summit that is gaining ground and attended by representatives of the Governors office, federal and state legislators - all in the same room at the same time to discuss the very importance issues facing Oregon. It was 2 full 8 hour days and a great opportunity to get a lot of business done.

Following that, he was in Ontario for the Oregon Transportation Commission meeting to help shepherd our Connect Oregon projects through. Columbia County was successful in obtaining \$4.9 million for Columbia County projects. They will be getting some much needed safety improvements to the rail in Rainier.

Yesterday, he and the Board were in Newport for the AOC District 7 meeting to discuss common issues with the other counties in our district.

Today is the memorial service for past Governor Vic Atiyeh. He was a great public servant.

#### **COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Fisher had the opportunity last week to meet with some local residents and to see the condition of their roads and the needed improvements. That said, he wanted to commend the Road department for the great job they're doing this year on limited funding.

He commented on the AOC District 7 meeting the Board attended yesterday in Newport. There are some rules being written by the federal government that will have a very serious direct impact on what our county citizens can do with their land.

Tomorrow he will be attending the first Early Learning Council meeting in Hillsboro. This is a replacement for the CCCCCF and other social services.

#### **COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Heimuller sometimes hears that the Board doesn't listen to our constituents. He truly believes that is what they do on a daily basis. He explained how listening to people and assisting them through the process helped a couple of families make important changes due to traffic accidents that took their loved ones. He is very proud to be a conduit for these people. These are many situations where the Board is helping the public that they just don't hear about.

On Thursday, he attended the National Association of Counties Made In Rural America forum held in Oregon City. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> of five meetings held around the country at the request of the President. There were two member of the White House staff, panelist made up in part by agricultural exporters. This was a very informative meeting on how to develop our infrastructure on exporting locally grown commodities.

This afternoon, he will going out to Atkins Road to see the Road Department's use of a new surfacing product made of recycled and environmentally safe materials. Tests show that it stands up to the test for about half the cost.

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There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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BOC Minutes

9/3/14

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Anthony Hyde, Chair

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

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

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

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

Jan Greenhalgh

Board Office Administrator

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Earl Fisher, Commissioner