

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

September 17, 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 Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2014 Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENT FINANCE DEPARTMENT WITH AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

Commissioner Fisher had the pleasure of announcing that the Columbia County Finance Department is the recipient of the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting & reporting and represents a significant achievement by our county staff. This award does not come easy and it demonstrates the commitment by our staff that the funds entrusted to the county are being taken care of wisely. At this time the Board presented the Finance Department staff with the Award of Excellence and thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

VISITORS:

Richard Melton, 55141 Columbia River Hwy, Scappoose: He is here again about the fact that he was not allowed to put up election signs back in 2008 because he didn't have a permit. Then, because he didn't take them down, the County came after him about his outside lights being illegal and had them removed. This continues to be harassment of a disabled citizen.

Commissioner Fisher noted that no one is required to have a permit to put up an election sign.

For the record, Commissioner Hyde stated that the County has thoroughly investigated the concerns raised by Mr. Melton about the County's Code Enforcement Officer, Robert Crain, and has found no wrongdoing. Documentation is available by contacting the Board of County Commissioners Office.

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 9/15/14.
- (B) Ratify Partition Plat for Elk Ridge Estates, Phase 5, for St. Helens Assets, LLC.
- (C) Authorize Steve Atchison to fill one Deputy District Attorney I position to be vacated by Denise Keppinger.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (D) Letter of Understanding with ODOT for 2015-2018 STIP Enhance Project - Gable Road: US30-Columbia Blvd Sidewalk.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

These are the final days of the Washington DC session and a lot of work is happening on the O&C Secure Rural Schools Funding. O&C is trying to get something through congress that will ensure the continuation of this funding.

He checked again on the percentage of savings with using the NACo Prescription Card. This has been very helpful to the citizens in Columbia County because anyone can use the card, regardless if you have insurance or not. Last month, the citizens were saving an average of 48% on their prescriptions. Everyone should be taking advantage of this great savings opportunity and he noted, it works for pet medications too. The cards are available almost in a number of senior centers, the courthouse, drug stores, etc.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher commented on his concerns on some legislation being dealt with in Washington DC, one being the "Waters of the United States Act". This is an attempt by the federal government to extend the rules and regulations over all waters that fall within the United States. Basically any water that can float a leaf. For counties, this would mean that things such as road slides, flood control channels, drainage conveyances, storm sewage, etc. would fall under federal regulation which would slow down or stop what needs to be done to protect our communities homes and property.

He wanted to reminder everyone that the Columbia City Days is taking place with weekend and encouraged all to attend.

Earlier this week he participated in a conference call with regards to physical and mental health services. There is a lot of activity going on at the State level on how we put those services together.

This morning, he was out checking on some of the road work taking place in the Rainier area. The Road Department did a great job patching up a much needed road.

Last night he attended an Early Learning Center meeting at the ESD office. The NW Regional ESD is provisionally the ELC hub.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller attended the NW Area Commission on Transportation meeting last week. He mentioned that Larry McKinley, ODOT staff, who has been a tremendous advocate for our region is being transferred to Salem. This is will be a big loss to our region.

On Saturday he attended the 25th Annual Sauerkraut Festival. It was a great event but sadly it's been reported that this will their last year. Thanks to all of the volunteers who have made this event happen over the years.

He attended the St. Helens Arts Commission ribbon cutting for the art work located at the Milton Creek bridge on Hwy 30.

Last Wednesday, the Board has the pleasure of spending part of the afternoon with county employees during the annual county picnic. It's always good to have casual

conversation with our employees. The weather was perfect and the food was great. A big thank you to the events committee who put it all together.

He wanted to congratulate Sherrie Ford who has been appointed to the full time, permanent position of Public Health Administrator for the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County. She has already stepped up to the plate by serving as the interim administrator and attending the AOC Health and Human Services meetings in Salem.

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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 17th 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

BOC Minutes

9/17/14

Page 6

By: _____

Jan Greenhalgh

Board Office Administrator

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner