

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

November 12, 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 Jewel Japs, Recorder.

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 November 5, 2014 Board meeting and November 5, 2014 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS:

Diane Pohl, Mayor of Clatskanie, 17881 Beaver Falls Road, Clatskanie, Oregon: A recent drug bust in Clatskanie involving 27 officers from four jurisdictions resulted in the arrest of four individuals who were released due to limited jail beds and use of the matrix for scoring severity of crimes. Her constituents are furious that these criminals were not locked up and will never again vote for a sheriff's levy. Because she supported the jail levy - her integrity is on the line. People don't feel safe in their homes and criminal activity continues to rise. Potential employers are discouraged from choosing Columbia County due to a 'wild west' impression of lawlessness with no consequences. We need to find a way to open the 100 jail beds promised in the levy and fund CENT again.

Ray Pohl, Mayor of Clatskanie, 17881 Beaver Falls Road, Clatskanie, Oregon:

He wants to know how can a person with no-bail warrant be released? And why don't we rent jail beds somewhere else if we have the money from the levy that just passed?

Sheriff Jeff Dickerson: Before the jail levy passed on May 21st, many jail staff left for more secure positions. Local police have been asked to help staff the jail but they are unable to assist due to their own shortages. Since the levy passed the number of local jail beds available has increased from 10 to almost 45 due to the 13 remaining staff who have worked tirelessly to keep the jail open. New hire activity began in May and a temporary recruiter has been engaged, but the process is very slow due to both the Civil Service and DPSST requirements. Although he does not like releasing a single person that should be in custody, the matrix and bed limitations leave us no choice. No-bail warrants are released all the time and renting beds in local facilities (Cowlitz, Multnomah and Washington counties) is not an option as they don't have the space. We don't have the staff to do transports to Polk County or NORCOR in The Dalles. We are doing our best as fast as we can while still maintaining the high standards necessary for potential jail staff hires and adhering to all rules and regulations.

The Board commented throughout this discussion that it is important to point out that the jail bed numbers have gone up since the levy passed and they are working on getting information and answers to the public as quickly as possible in order to avoid a loss of public trust. The systems in place make the hiring process very time-consuming and complicated. All parties involved are working as hard as they are can to fulfill the levy's obligations to get the jail up to its capacity.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Hyde read the consent agenda in full. Item (E) was pulled and carried over to the afternoon Staff meeting. With no other 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 11/10/14.

- (B) Cancel the November 19, 2014 Board and Staff meetings.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (C) Ratify FY2012 Cultural Participation Grant Agreement and authorize Janet Wright to sign.
- (D) Ratify FY2013 Cultural Participation Grant Agreement and authorize Janet Wright to sign.
- (E) Amendment to the Public Services Contract between Columbia County and Valley Landfills Inc., dba Republic Services. *(Pulled and carried over to the Staff meeting).*
- (F) Approve Bidder Agreement form for the December 4, 2014 auction and authorize Cynthia Zemaitis to sign.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde has been very focused recently on his position on the O&C Board and working diligently on the Secure Rural Schools matter. Waiting on mark-up for the most recent draft. Hundreds of millions of dollars and jobs could be obtainable due to our primary major resource: trees.

Commissioner Hyde wanted to recognize Veterans Day and noted that more than 10% of Columbia County's population are veterans. Oregon has the largest number of military personnel called to serve in the Middle East. Veterans Day recognition ceremonies yesterday were very positive.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher mentioned that just less than 100 years ago the 'war to end all wars' ended. Veterans Day is important to honor those who served and bled for our democracy.

Oregon had a 72% voter turnout. Dismally low turnouts elsewhere in the country, which is beyond comprehension.

A request has been made to publish all documents referenced on our meeting agendas prior to the actual meetings. We feel this is a valuable concept and are working toward that end. Staffing levels at present make this difficult and until we can put the documents online for review we ask that you please request an electronic or hard copy from the Board's office.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller attended a successful meeting with the County Parks Department and the Oregon Department of State Lands regarding a popular fishing location, Dibblee Beach.

He attended the Community Action Team (CAT) Finance Committee meeting. CAT is doing some restructuring in anticipation of upcoming retirements so important grants and other finances remain intact to carry on their programs into the future.

The Fair Board meeting introduced some great new programs in anticipation of the 100 year anniversary of the Columbia County Fair in 2015.

It was a privilege and an honor to be the Master of Ceremonies for the Veterans Day memorial event at McCormick Park yesterday. There was a good turnout despite the blustery weather. World War II veteran Arby Lawrence showed up and was well-honored. The fellowship at these veterans events is always impressive.

A shout-out to CAT's veterans services officer, Russ Clark. Russ is a one-man shop and has produced more completed files than ever before and does a great job of carrying the message. He is appreciated and well-supported by CAT.

He acknowledged Mayor Pohl's general invitation to Clatskanie's annual Kiwanis gala and auction starting at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 22nd at the Clatskanie High School. They receive lots of donations from the local community and all proceeds go to the Kiwanis scholarship fund. Clatskanie is very proud of this event and hope for a good turnout from the public.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 12th day of November, 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

11/12/14

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By: _____

Jewel Japs

Recorder

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner