

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

MINUTES

July 29, 2015

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Henry Heimuller, Commissioner Anthony Hyde and Commissioner Earl Fisher, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Office Administrator.

Commissioner Heimuller called the meeting to order and led the flag salute.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2015 Board meeting and July 22, 2015 Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Nancy Seeler, 33654 Bennett Road, Warren: After finding out that Weyerhaeuser is closing off their property and public right of ways, she felt she comment on that. If they are hearing this, then maybe they would like to work with the county get this problem corrected so that people that want to have access to the property, like they have for years past, can do so. The hunting season is not far away and there are many that have used that property for years and want to continue that.

HEARING: INITIATION OF NEW CC RIDER TRANSIT SERVICE:

This is the time set for the public hearing to solicit input on the initiation of new CC Rider transit services. The county has a policy that if there are any changes in transit services, fees, etc.

Michael Ray, CC Transit Coordinator, came before the Board to give a brief staff report. In January 2015, CC Rider applied for an ODOT grant for intercity transit service to provide connections between services. In June, CC Rider was awarded a sizeable grant to provide for these services. He presented details on how all of the runs tie in together. The Columbia County Transit Advisory Committee has reviewed and voted unanimously to recommend the Board approve the implementation of this new service.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

Thelma Bonar, 56734 Way Lane, Warren: She has a problem with the routes to Astoria and to Portland. She isn't sure who that is benefitting and if there is even enough ridership to justify it. In her opinion, there are a lot of people inside Columbia County that need the service more. She knows of a couple of people that needed service but couldn't get it.

With no further testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed for deliberations. Commissioner Hyde understands the concerns raised out service going outside of the county, but that also works in the reverse by bringing people in. Further, this grant was specific for connection purposes.

Although the hearing was closed, the Board allowed Ms. Bonar to speak. She understands that there was already bus service to Astoria on the weekends. She would like to get the ridership numbers and who was paying for that.

Janet Wright, CC Rider, explained that it was a grant that allowed a Saturday trip to Astoria but that funding is no longer available. As for the ridership numbers, she will get that information to Thelma.

After deliberations, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve Order No. 40-2015, "In the Matter of Adopting a New Intercity Bus Service between Columbia County and Portland, Astoria and Longview-Kelso". The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Heimuller read the consent agenda in full. With no changes/additions, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select to Pay for week of 7/27/15.
- (B) Authorize the Human Resources Director to fill one .49 FTE Office Specialist position.
- (C) Purchase Order for Kenwood Radios and Equipment for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$64,016.63 and authorize the Chair to sign.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (D) Oregon Department of State Lands Waterway Lease Application Form for the Yachts Landing Marina and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (E) Intergovernmental Agreement with Sunset Empire Transit District for the Lower Columbia Connector Transit Service.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller attended a CCOM meeting last week. That Board working through a transition in preparation for the retirement of the director and other staff change ups. All seems to be going well.

He and Commissioner Fisher traveled to Rainier this week for the 5 Area luncheon at the senior center. A great crowd as usual.

He attended the Community Action Team meeting. Best wishes to Jim Tierney who just recently had surgery. CAT is also working on preparations for his retirement next year.

Tomorrow there will be a Cascadia Rising table top exercise on earthquake preparedness. This exercise is intended to test the governments and the private sectors ability to jointly respond to a Cascadia Subduction Zone 9.0 magnitude earthquake.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde got to spend most of last week with his kids and grandkids.

Yesterday, he was at a meeting with lobbyist on public lands and federal legislation.

On Monday, he met with representatives from the State Parks and ODOT with regards to their taking over management of the CZ Ttrail. It will still belong to the County, they will just be managing it.

There was an article in the New York Times about how the predicted earthquake along the Cascadia fault line will effect the northwest. They anticipate an 8.7 quake for more

than 5 minutes. Compared to the 45 second quake in San Francisco, we are looking at some colossal devastation and we all need to start preparing for that.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher commented on the article in the local press about the county suing CRF&R. He explained that this is simply two insurance companies fighting for payment for the incident at the courthouse some time back.

Last week, he mentioned two men on opposite sides of an issues. Yesterday, the Board received a letter from some guy in prison telling the Board what he thinks of them.

Thankfully it wasn't the same type of letter that went to many other counties with some type of substance in it. He feels that people just need to calm down.

The Board recessed the meeting at 10:45 am and reconvened at 12:00 noon to meet with the candidate for the position of Emergency Management Director. No decisions were made at this time.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 29th day of July, 2015.

NOTE: A tape of this meeting is available for purchase by the public or interested parties.

FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____

Henry Heimuller, Chair

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: _____

Jan Greenhalgh

Board Office Administrator

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner