

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

July 20, 2016

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 Ashley Chen, Acting 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 July 13, 2016 Board meeting and the July 13, 2016 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

James Thayer: 3225 NE Davis Street, Portland: Mr. Thayer is here today to present a proposal to acquire the right to add a new category of access permits to Weyerhaeuser's Recreational Permit System. These new access permits will only be sold to the county to be subdivided and converted from yearly passes into a limited number of daily or multiple

day access permits. Currently, the permits seem to cater to only the hunting community since they allow access for 51 weeks and are also too expensive for short term users like equestrians, bicyclists, and hikers. Through this proposal, Mr. Thayer aims to increase outdoor recreation tourism without administrative complications and high costs—what Weyerhaeuser is mainly concerned about. He is asking for approval from the Board and Columbia County before reporting back to Senator Johnson and Lisa Sumption, Director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. If the Board is in favor, Senator Johnson wants to “socialize the proposal at the governmental relations level at Weyerhaeuser”, though who introduces it is still subject to change.

Commissioner Hyde supports this approach and agrees that a dialogue needs to be opened with Weyerhaeuser. He is not certain about this specific proposal, but if it manages to open the conversation with Weyerhaeuser, he will support it as well.

Commissioner Fisher mentioned that he isn't too familiar with this proposal but agrees with Commissioner Hyde. The implication for the county is unclear, but Commissioner Fisher will support the approach. Commissioner Heimuller commented that he has had this discussion with the Parks Superintendent. Outdoor recreation is a very important aspect of Columbia County, so the Parks Department considered facilitating something similar to this approach. Weyerhaeuser may be the biggest property owner in the county, but they hardly ever come in to discuss issues and move things forward with the Board. Therefore, Commissioner Heimuller welcomes this proposal and agrees that the Weyerhaeuser Timberlands Area needs to be open for recreation. Additionally, Weyerhaeuser should communicate with organizations such as Oregon Equestrian Trails and others to ensure efficient monitoring of properties to keep the lands intact and clean.

As a side note, Mr. Thayer's second book will be coming out in the fall, titled, Hiking From Portland to the Coast, with affluent information regarding Columbia County and its history.

Rory Hammond: 66350 Bishop Creek Road: Mr. Hammond is present today to not only add his support for Mr. Thayer's proposal, but to also bring up his concern for Weyerhaeuser's gating of right of ways. He commented that he would like to see the Road Department implement signs or some sort of label to inform equestrians and other people of County right of ways. Otherwise, people's access would be restricted by the gates or they would feel like trespassers. Although Weyerhaeuser has a legitimate reason for gating right of ways to prevent vandalism and dumping, allowing regular access of the right of ways would lead to people reporting those issues. However, if people weren't sure whether they were trespassing or not, they would be less inclined to report such incidents.

Commissioner Hyde agrees that although Weyerhaeuser is a good company, some of their policies such as taking action without conversing with anyone prior to doing so, and gating the right of ways are questionable. He expressed the importance in proceeding carefully though, so that ambiguity is avoided and hunters don't end up accessing right of ways to places they cannot hunt in.

2nd READING: ORDINANCE NO. 2016-3: TAX ON SALE OF MARIJUANA:

This is the time set for the 2nd reading of Ordinance No. 2016-3, "In the Matter of Adopting a Tax on the Retail Sale of Marijuana Items within the Unincorporated Columbia County". With no objections from the Board, Sarah gave the second reading of Ordinance No. 2016-3, by title only. With that, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-3, "In the Matter of Adopting a Tax on the Retail Sale of Marijuana Items within the Unincorporated Columbia County". The motion carried

unanimously. The adoption of this ordinance will be referred to the voters on the November ballot. If passed, it will become effective on January 1, 2017.

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 7/18/16.
- (B) Appoint Robert Braud to the Northwest Oregon Housing Authority Board to complete the term of Nina Reed, appointment retroactive to 3/30/15.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (C) Public Road Event Permit and Indemnity Agreement for the Ralph Painter Memorial Run, dated 7/23/16.

The motion carried unanimously.

RENEWAL OF JAIL LEVY:

Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, is present today to submit a revised ballot title for the renewal of the Columbia County Jail Tax Levy that incorporates the changes discussed during last week's staff meeting. The Board approves of the language and clarification in the revised ballot title. The order will be on next week's consent agenda.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

On Monday, Commissioner Hyde met with Columbia Soil & Water Conservation District to talk about mitigating the damage from last winter's storm that isn't being met by FEMA or the Transportation Commission, such as the sinkhole in Rainier, and other issues in Clatskanie and Scappoose. They plan to apply for one application to cover all those entities with the IFA for a matching grant. The application will not exceed \$400,000 and is guaranteed by all the communities that need it. The process will be cleaner and more efficient with one application for the entire county. This is a similar advocacy to the one for the aftermath of the 2007 incident.

Last week, there was a joint meeting with Col-Pac (Columbia Pacific Economic Development through EDA District) and NWACT (Northwest Area Commission on Transportation) to talk about the transportation needs in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, and Western Washington Counties. They aim to work collectively to support a transportation package that will benefit everyone because there is not enough money for all individual projects. Thus, working together builds a strategy to cover all dire issues in the region.

Commissioner Hyde also had a Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee meeting in Salem with the Department of Forestry to discuss their budget. He mentioned that we currently

have a lawsuit with the Trust Land Counties with the State about the Harvest Management Plan. Now they are going to the legislature with POPs (Policy Option Packages) to try and infill some of the \$1.5 billion deficit they're experiencing. However, that seems unlikely unless they are able to harvest more timber on a sustained yield basis. Senator Johnson was present.

Tomorrow, Commissioners Hyde and Fisher will be heading to Long Beach, CA for the NACo (Nation Association of Counties) annual meeting at which they both will be participating heavily.

Commissioner Hyde also read the letter regarding the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association in the United States and Canada. He thanks the Finance Department.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller wanted to mention the recent tragedies again and the reason why the flags are constantly at half staff. Personally, he will leave his flag at home at half staff until a month can pass by without any tragedies. He sends his prayers to Baton Rouge for the most recent incident, and prayers to all emergency responders and their families. Commissioner Heimuller commented how it's "just a sad state of affairs" for emergency responders to be afraid to go to work and do their duties. He wants to emphasize the importance of not taking out aggravations in this way.

The 101st annual Columbia County Fair and Rodeo opens at noon today. The entire Board will be there along with the VFW and a bugler. A reminder that the My Fair Lady Pageant

is today and the Fair will be free today for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. The RSVP Volunteer lunch is also today and Commissioner Heimuller would like to take this moment to show appreciation to all volunteers, Fair Board members, 4-H leaders and members, and others. Without them, the Fair would simply not have been possible. He wishes for everyone to go and enjoy the Fair.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher wanted to congratulate the Finance Department for winning the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. To be recognized at the national level for their budgeting is exceptional. He is happy to say that we will be able to continue to improve the department this coming year with new resources. Commissioner Fisher thanks the Finance Department for their work.

Yesterday, he met with Steve Planchon and his wife who are helping with the foreclosed County properties. There will be a Sheriff's Sale on August 17th to sell the foreclosed properties. Notices and more information are on the website. Feel free to stop by if you are interested in picking up more property.

On that note, Commissioner Fisher mentioned that he has talked with at least one reporter about homelessness. This is a widely unseen problem for most citizens, but it is a growing issue. The County plans to sell several homes to CAT (Community Action Team) who will turn those into low cost housing for people who can't afford otherwise. He emphasized that the only "cure" for homelessness is having good jobs available and increasing employment. This requires more industries and the roadways for transportation to those industries. Change can be difficult for many people, but it is inevitable for success.

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Lastly, Commissioner Fisher wishes everyone a good time at the Fair.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 20th of July, 2016.

NOTE: An audio CD of this meeting is available for purchase by the public or interested parties. A video of the meeting is also posted on our website at www.co.columbia.or.us

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: _____

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Ashley Chen

By: _____

Acting Board Office Administrator

Earl Fisher, Commissioner