

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

June 20, 2018

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Henry Heimuller and Commissioner Alex Tardif, together with Robin McIntyre, Assistant County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Office Administrator. Commissioner Magruder was not present.

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

MINUTES:

Commissioner Tardif moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2018 Board meeting and June 13, 2018 Work Session. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None.

HEARING: PROPOSED REVISED BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, PLANNING FEES:

This is the time set for the public hearing, "In the Matter of Consideration and Possible Adoption of Revised Building, Electrical, Planning and On-Site Fee, Effective July 1, 2018".

Todd Dugdale, LDS Director, came before the Board to present the Staff Report. Todd noted that the County has not had a fee study done in 18 years. Land Development Services is proposing revisions to Building fees including Structural, Mechanical, Plumbing,

Electrical, Manufactured Housing and other miscellaneous fees; Planning fee and On-Site Sewage fees based on the recently completed Development Fee Study prepared by the FCS Group of Lake Oswego. The Board has been supplied a copy of that study. The study calculated full cost recovery amounts for all of the development fee categories except valuation based fees. The study found that current fees recover 94% of costs for building. With proposed building staff changes in FY19, cost recovery would decrease to 74%. Planning currently recovers only 24% of costs, but proposed Planning fees would recover an average of about 53% of costs for the most common application fee types. On-site currently recovers 49% of costs, but with On-Site proposed increases in on-site staffing in FY19, cost recovery would decrease to 47%. In light of study cost recovery findings, staff has recommended fees that reflect one of the following options: 1) full cost recovery; 2) current fee; or 3) a fee amount in between full cost recovery and current fee based on a consideration of what the fee is for, comparative fees from other jurisdictions and whether some subsidy of the full cost is otherwise justified considering various cost recovery policy options listed on page 9 of the study. Staff is further recommending that the automatic CPI fee adjustments previously authorized by the Board for years FY18 through FY21 not be applied for the year FY19, since the proposed fees for FY19 will accurately reflect current costs and/or the current recovery proposal.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

With no testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed for deliberation. Staff has proposed that these fees go into effect July 1, 2018. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Tardif moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to tentatively approve the fee adjustments as presented by staff. The motion carried unanimously.

HEARING: RATE ADJUSTMENT FOR CURBSIDE COLLECTION SERVICES:

This is the time set for the public hearing, “In the Matter of Rate Adjustment for Curbside Collection Services and Commercial Drop Box Service for Franchise Areas Covering Unincorporated Columbia County”.

Kathleen Boutin-Pasterz, Solid Waste Coordinator, came before the Board to present the staff report. Each year, the County reviews solid waste collection rates using a uniform Detailed Cost Report (DCR) rate review procedure established in 2011, which is designed to provide the information necessary for the County to make rate setting decisions pursuant to Section 5.01 of the Solid Waste Management Ordinance. Kathleen explained the DCR process. The County has established a policy that an acceptable operating ratio shall be in the range of 8-14% with a target operating ratio of 11%. If the DCR for the previous year indicates an operating ratio which is under 8%, a rate adjustment to the target 11% would be made. If the operating ratio falls within the 8-14% acceptable range, no rate adjustment would be allowed. In April, Waste Management and Waste Connections, submitted DCRs to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Unique to the FY 2018-19 rate review, is the unprecedented increasing costs to recycle materials. This year, SWAC is taking into consideration the current and anticipated cost of recycling in setting rates for FY 2018-19. She explained the challenges that the northwest is facing as a result of China not accepting recyclables with “contamination” greater than 0.5%. The staff report before the Board details the proposed rates and supporting DCR’s for the Scappoose, Vernonia, St. Helens, Clatskanie and Rainier rural service areas. Based on a review of the DCR information submitted in support of the franchise hauler requests, SWAC and staff recommends approval of the collection rate adjustments, as outlined in the report.

Commissioner Heimuller asked for some clarification on Waste Management's justification for the purchase of 4 new trucks in this rate adjustment. He believes that a business the size of Waste Management, equipment should be built into their business plan, purchasing, depreciating, etc. annually. He is uncomfortable with WM justifying the cost of 4 new trucks through this rate adjustment and what assurances do we have that those trucks would even be used in Columbia County.

Evan Burmester, WM, explained that the age of their current fleet is approximately 15 years. When new trucks are purchased they depreciate the total cost of the truck over the life, which is typically 7 years. So they have basically depreciated the current trucks, twice over. With the purchase of the 4 new trucks, they are including the depreciation in that first year in their 2018 projection. The 4 trucks are for the entire WM operation in Columbia County and they allocate the cost of depreciation of those trucks based on the amount they are used in the county. They use the truck hours to allocate the depreciation on the first year, specific to Columbia County and that is included in their rate adjustment. Evan clarified that there is only 1 truck for Columbia County, not four and explained how that was calculated and agreed it could be misconstrued. Commissioner Heimuller just wants to make sure that we are not duplicating costs here.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

Joe Wonderlick, Hudson Garbage: Joe is here to advocate for this rate adjustment and answer any questions the Board may have. He would ask that, if this is approved, that the rate adjustment be effective retroactively to June 1, 2018, due to the confusion in the public notice. Hudson would also accommodate customers that may want to cancel or reduce service between now and July 30th.

Commissioner Heimuller asked why this request for a retro effective date comes to the Board just today. This could have been submitted when the hearing was rescheduled, allowing the Board time to consider the request. Joe apologized for this coming in at the last minute.

Commissioner Tardif asked if the cities have approved the rate adjustments yet. Yes. When asked, Joe explained the billing process and what their loss would be for June.

With no further testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed for deliberation. Commissioner Tardif struggles with the increase in recycling costs, what are the garbage companies doing to help with that situation. Are they looking at other opportunities to use that waste, such as partnering with bio fuel companies to create methanol, finding ways to use waste to create energy, etc. Commissioner Heimuller suggested they hear from Waste Management and Hudson Garbage about what they are doing about the recycling issues.

Mike Jeffries, Waste Management, came before the Board to address recycling, which has been a crisis for them. The majority of recycling materials from the northwest goes to China. With China changing their restrictions on what they will accept, it slows down the conveyor belts to remove contaminated items of the lines. This takes a lot of man hours. As for the long term approach for land filling, WM is capturing methane gas, which runs the turbines to produce electricity, entering it into the grid and selling it back to the power companies. Waste Management is looking into the future to find better sources for the waste they are collecting.

Joe Wonderlick, Hudson Garbage is very proud of the way Hudson Garbage has handled this situation in Oregon in general. DEQ, the haulers, the processors, local government officials have rallied to look into this situation.

Commissioner Tardif agrees we need to have these conversations and educate the public on what is or isn't recyclable.

Kathleen has been meeting with education staff with both franchisees to develop a 1 page flyer that is consistent, to go out to everyone to help educate the public everywhere.

Karen Cutlow, Hudson Garbage, shared what her office is doing. They are sending 2 people out to spot check some of the routes. They will lift the lid and if they see items that are not recyclable, they will leave a tag on the top. That information will be put into the customers account so that if they have any questions, they can call the office for more information.

After discussion and deliberations, Commissioner Tardif moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to tentatively approve the Rate Adjustments for Solid Waste Curbside Collection Services in Unincorporated Columbia County, retroactive to June 1, 2018. Under discussion, Commissioner Heimuller expressed his concern with the retroactive piece of this. First, the Board did not receive the same request from Waste Management and secondly, the Board did not receive the request from Hudson Garbage in a timely manner. However, if approved, it should be for both haulers. With the vote taken, the motion carried unanimously.

2017 SOCIAL GAMING LICENSE FOR ROSEBUD CAFÉ:

Jan Greenhalgh, Board Office Administrator, explained that Donald Zerr, owner of the Rosebud Café, has applied for a Social Gaming License for 2018. Because he had problems finding a card dealer until just recently, he is requesting that his renewal fee be reduced by half (6 months). If approved, he would owe \$250 + the \$10 application fee. After discussion, the Board rescheduled this for further discussion.

COMMISSIONER TARDIF COMMENTS:

The Kiwanis Parade was awesome.

The Board heard discussion this morning on recycling and what we, as a community, can do to look at the future of recycling. Commissioner Heimuller, it's all of our problem, not just the haulers.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller just returned from California where he attended the graduation of a former exchange student from UCLA.

He talked about the transportation in Los Angeles, and the incredible amount of traffic with just 1 person in the car, the smog, etc. We in Oregon like to have our air and streams clean.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS:

Not present.

BOC Meeting

06.20.18

Page 8

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 June, 2018.

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: Not present

Margaret Magruder, Chair

By: _____

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: _____

Jan Greenhalgh

By: _____

Board Office Administrator

Alex Tardif, Commissioner