

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

January 8, 2020

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Alex Tardif Commissioner Margaret Magruder and Commissioner Henry Heimuller, together with Robin McIntyre, Sr. Assistant County Counsel and Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator.

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2019 Board meeting and December 18, 2019 Work Session. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS- 5 MINUTE LIMIT:

Deborah Leigh Kenoyer, 68670 Bedell Rd. Deer Island, Oregon. Updated the Board of Commissioners on neighbor Eddie Monk and continued problems. Mr. Monk has a history of using heavy equipment and shovels that alter the ditches and culverts on Bedell Rd. Mr. Monk has previously been ordered to cease the work that he does to the area that affects his neighbors. The Board will discuss these continued issues in their afternoon work session.

Alta Lynch, Elks Veterans Bunker, 125 S.13th St. Helens, Oregon. Reminder that the Veterans fund raiser will be held on February 8, 2020 at the Buccini Hall 165 S. 14th Street, St. Helens. Silent Auction will begin at 5 p.m. followed by dinner and a live auction.

HEARING:

To consider proposed service reductions to Columbia County Rider. The lines most impacted by reductions will be line 2, line 3 and Dial-A-Ride services. Little to no expected impact on line 1, line 5 and line 6.

Todd Wood, Transit Director presented the staff report:

SERVICES:

- I. **Line1 Portland:** No Change
- II. **Line 2 PCC/ Willow Creek:** Stay with current schedule until March 20, 2020. Reduce to three trips per day beginning March 23, 2020.
- III. **Line 3 Flex:** Reduce to five trips per day with two reverse trips.
- IV. **Line 5 Rainier:** No Change
- V. **Line 6 Vernonia:** No Change
- VI. **Dial- A-Ride:** Reduction to 16 hours per day. No service beyond 1 mile of lines 3, 5, 6, and Sunset Empire services within Columbia County.

Final Service Recommendation: Staff is recommending the above service adjustments be effective on January 12, 2020, once implemented, the changes will save the system approximately \$320,000 per

year. However, as this system is still a grant funded system any changes to grants or matching funds will affect current and future services.

FARES:

Columbia County Rider uses a zone fare system that consists of three zones where the cost is \$5 for the base zone and \$1 for each additional zone, except on the line 3, and on the line 5 to Kelso where the fare is \$2. The price of monthly passes are \$150 for all zones, \$130 for two zones, and \$75 for 1 zone.

A committee of peer systems reviewed our current fare structure. The consensus was that our fare system was overly complicated and priced at a level that will discourage ridership. Since several of our grants are based on ridership, and the goal of Columbia County Rider is to create a system that is utilized by the community, the group recommended we take the following action.

- I. Elimination of the three zone system. All rides are per-boarding (i.e. you pay to board). Reduce the number of fares to two: In-County or Out-of- County.
- II. The cost of each fare should be: \$1.50, or \$2.00 for In-County Rides (including Longview/Kelso) \$3.00, or \$4.00 for Rides to and from outside of the County (i.e. to Portland, PCC of Willow Creek).
- III. The fare would still be subject to the STIF reduced fare program thus making the fare \$0.50, or \$1.00 in-county for those who qualify and \$2.00, or \$3.00 out of county for those who qualify.
- IV. Only one monthly pass will be issued at a single rate of \$120.00.
- V. The goal of the reductions is to increase ridership, reduce printing costs, and reduce system complexity. While the reduction of fares will result in some revenue loss, an increase in ridership would help minimize the impact. A recent test by Sunset empire showed a 7% increase in ridership when the fares were lowered to \$1.00. Wilsonville is currently moving to a zero fare system and is similarly seeing ridership increases. Additionally, several grants are based on ridership data. An increase in ridership could result in an increase in grant funding.

FINAL FARE RECOMMENDATION:

Even with the potential loss of revenue, the committee whole-heartedly recommended fare reduction as a way to boost ridership and offset potential losses. Staff recommends implementation of reduced fares to begin March 1, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Blanch Kats, 2400 Gable Rd. St. Helens, Oregon asked if there would be any federal restrictions on the Dial-A-Ride? Todd Wood explained how the Dial- A- Ride would work and verified that no federal restrictions would apply.

Alta Lynch, P.O Box 369 Scappoose, Oregon, recommended making sure people are aware that Dial-A-Ride may no longer be a door to door service. Also, she thinks that maybe monthly passes should be done by bus number. Alta also gave feedback on the tax Levy that did not pass in November, that the community would have voted for the tax Levy if it were to be temporary and not permanent. Alta then recommended changing the name of the PCC route to Washington County and outline stops that are available.

Joe Turner, Columbia City, Oregon commended Todd Wood and his staff for working with such a limited budget and he supports CC Rider.

Robin McIntyre, Sr. Assistant County Counsel briefed the Board on Order No. 4-2020 In the Matter of Adopting Service Reductions for Columbia County Rider. Robin McIntyre will present the final Order at the afternoon work session for approval.

DELIBERATIONS:

Commissioner Heimuller, Thanked Todd Wood and Staff for putting together such a nice presentation today and supports proposed changes.

Commissioner Magruder, Thanked Todd Wood and Staff for all the work that they have done. She hates to see the cuts, but is in support of the proposed changes.

Commissioner Tardif, Thanked Todd Wood and Staff for the outstanding work they have done, and is in support of the proposed changes.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Tardif read the consent agenda in full. With no changes or additions, Commissioner Magruder moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows: The motion carried unanimously.

- A. Ratify the Select to Pay for December 30, 2019
- B. Ratify Plat of Casswell Park in the City of Scappoose, OR. Recorded in Plat Book 8 , page 12 &13 per instrument number 2019-10801
- C. Ratify Personnel Action for Karen Kane
- D. Amended Order No. 88-2019, In the Matter of Distributing Strategic Investment Program ("SIP") Payments for 2019 (AMENDED TO CORRECT PERCENTAGE ERROR IN EXHIBIT A)"

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- E. C162-2019 Purchase and Sales Agreement by and Between Busted Knuckles Holding LLC, c/o Dean Partain and Columbia County for Tax Map ID 4N2W16-CC-02601 and Tax Account No. 7650
- F. C163-2019, [Renumbered from C157-2019] Amendment No.1 to Intergovernmental Agreement with City of St. Helens for Gable Road Bicycle and Pedestrian lane.
- G. C164-2019, [Renumbered from C158-2019] Intergovernmental Agreement with Sunset Empire Transportation District for Gillig Bus use.
- H. Approve the reappointment of Alta Lynch to the Columbia County Planning Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2023 and authorize the Chair to sign
- I. Approve the appointment of Nathan Smith to the Columbia County Solid Waste Advisory Committee with a term to expire December 31, 2023
- J. C1-2020, Oregon Office of Emergency Management Homeland Security Grant Program Agreement No. 19-216 and authorize Chair to sign
- K. C4-2020, Amendment No. 2 to Oregon Department of Transportation Grant Agreement No. 31970 (5311) for Transit Capital and Operations

MATTERS:

None

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DISCUSSION ITEMS:

None

Executive Session:

None

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS:

Tomorrow January 9th is Law Enforcement appreciation Day. She hope that everyone takes a moment to appreciate our law enforcement folks that take care of us out there.

We had falling rocks in Clatskanie due to the wet weather and someone actually got hit by one. Signs were up this morning advising drivers, please be careful out there.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Welcome back it has been awhile since our last meeting. Hope everyone had a nice holiday.

Happy Birthday Pam Heimuller also, after working 40 years for the Federal Government Happy Retirement.

Thursday he will be in Clatskanie for ColPAC and NW Act.

Friday will be in Warrenton for the NW Housing work session.

COMMISSIONER TARDIF COMMENTS:

Happy New Year, may you have clear vision in 2020.

Next Monday the Board will be in Salem for the monthly AOC legislative session.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 8th day of January, 2020.

NOTE: Audio/video of the meeting is also posted on our website at <https://www.columbiacountyor.gov/departments/BoardofCommissionersOffice/boc-agendas-minutes>

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Alex Tardif, Chair

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: _____
Jacyn Normine
Board Office Administrator