

**COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****BOARD MEETING****MINUTES****April 8, 2020**

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Alex Tardif, Commissioner Henry Heimuller and Commissioner Margaret Magruder together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator via telecommunication.

**CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE:**

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

**MINUTES:**

Commissioner Magruder moved, Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve the March 25, 2020 Board meeting and March 25, 2020 work session minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:**

**MIKE PAUL, PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR**, updated information on COVID-19 cases. Globally there are approx. 1.5 million with about 80,000 deaths, U.S has approx. 400,000 cases with 13,000 deaths, Oregon seems to be leveling and bending the curve on April 1<sup>st</sup> 100 new cases were reported and the last three days confirmed cases are reducing, they have gone from 69 to 64 and yesterday 49 confirmed. Columbia County has 8 confirmed case, 2 of those individuals have recovered. Today's labs are still pending. Mike reported that 70% of the States testing has come back with a false negative. Later Mike corrected that 30% of testing has come back with false negatives not 70%, of the tests that are coming back with false negatives the majority are ones that had nasal swabs. The tests that are conducted lower in respiratory system are likely to be more accurate.

Please visit [www.columbiacountyor.gov/news](http://www.columbiacountyor.gov/news) for the most updated information.

**VISITOR COMMENTS - 5 MINUTE LIMIT:**

None

**MATTERS:**

None

**HEARING(S):**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Commissioner Tardif read the consent agenda in full. Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the Consent Agenda and Agreements/ Contracts / Amendments as follows. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. C33-2020 Letter of Agreement is made and entered into by Columbia County and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1442

**AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:**

None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Commissioner Heimuller, Commissioner Magruder and Commissioner Tardif, in efforts of collaboration, have reached out to local area Senior Centers, Food Banks and CAT. Commissioner Heimuller recommended that the \$25,000.00 donation from the reserve Economic Development funds to be allocated to CAT for distribution to meet the food needs of our community.

Commissioner Heimuller moved, Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the allocation of \$25,000.00 from the reserve Economic Development funds with letter of expectations to CAT for distribution to meet the needs of our community. The motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None

**COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Heimuller -If you are able to go and order a meal at a local restaurant and support your favorite take out please do so and remember to social distance when picking up your order and even though you don't have a waitress go ahead and still leave a tip if you can.

Chuck Daughtry, Executive Director Columbia County Economic Team is retiring the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Paul Volgel who has been instrumental in the development of the enterprise zone at Port Westward years ago and has roots tying him to Columbia County will be the interim Director until a fulltime Director is hired.

Day use area parks are open with Park Hosts who will be watching and know the rules on social distancing. Please enjoy yourselves in the sunshine, but the Park Host will ask you to practice social distancing if they see that gatherings are forming. We do not want to close our parks because we are not practicing social distancing.

Happy Easter and Holy Week everyone. It's hard not being able to gather at church or with family for family traditions. Celebrate on a more intimate level in your own homes and yards. If you have senior neighbors please remember to check on them and maybe take them a plate of Easter dinner.

**COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS:**

It certainly is an interesting time. Commissioner Magruder said it seems that she spends a lot of time on conference calls with other counties throughout the nation listening to challenges that they are facing. It happens to be National Public Health Week, perhaps this will put a bigger spotlight on the situation. Yesterday was the National Public Health Day. She hopes that everyone is taking care of themselves.

With the beautiful weather that we will be seeing over the next week, please, please practice social distancing while out enjoying the sun.

With the curve flattening 60% of hospital beds in Longview are available and there seems to be hospital beds available state wide.

As we move forward we will experience economic challenges in our small businesses and communities. We need to focus on moving forward and prepare for recovery.

**COMMISSIONER TARDIF COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Tardif reminded us that it is Sexual Assault Awareness month and to please support this Awareness by wearing teal.

The Empty Bowls fundraiser that was scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 has been canceled. This event is on the of the Food Banks biggest fundraisers. He asked if you have the means or ability to please join him in making a contribution to the Food Bank to ensure that they are able to meet the needs of our community.

Happy Easter, be well, make good choices, wear your mask in public. If you are working or at home please try to get out and get some fresh air and exercise while practicing social distancing.

With nothing further coming before this Board, this meeting adjourned. Dated this 8th day of April, 2020.

NOTE: Audio/video of the meeting is also posted on our website at <https://www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings>

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

