

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

August 26, 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 via telecommunication with County staff and members of the public.

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

MINUTES:

Commissioner Magruder moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2020 Board meeting and August 19, 2020 Work Session. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS- 5 MINUTE LIMIT:

Susan Wellington, 61751 Gensman Rd. St. Helens, Oregon is concerned that the core values of living is being forgotten. She visited Camp Wilkerson and wants to make sure that our county parks are being preserved.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE: Mike Paul, Public Health Director gave an update on the most current numbers of confirmed and presumptive cases, with 24 million globally and 820,000 thousand deaths, the US has reported over 5.8 million and 180 thousand deaths, Oregon reported 25,391 thousand and 427 deaths. The 7 day report shows that the US cases are declining. Columbia County has reported 125 confirmed and presumptive cases, 8 hospitalization and one deaths since the onset of COVID-19. Out of the 125 confirmed we are showing 8 to be infectious.

Mike Paul went over the County and State School Metrics. State cases over all test positivity rates are showing just above 5%, this number needs to be below 5% for three consecutive weeks. County had 13 confirmed cases for the past 7 days, 25 cases per 100,000 and we need to be below 10 cases for three weeks in a row to meet the metrics.

Medicaid / OHP enrollment has increased to over 100,000 members since March.

With the Labor Day Holiday, stay local, keep gatherings small and use face covering to help keep case counts going down.

Three to four calls and emails have been received regarding Holloweentown, and that they are still planning on holding the event. Though we are in phase II and events are allowed, we have not seen any plans showing this event to meet's guidelines. It has been requested that the public direct their questions and concerns to the City Council. During discussion Sr. Assistant County Counsel, Robin McIntyre explained that the County owns town square/plaza and the requirements that need to be met for Halloweentown to obtain permits to hold the event.

Discussion was held on restaurant licensing fees and policies. Last year fees were raised and then we went to a pandemic. Mike Paul has been looking into this and one option is that those restaurants or establishments that have paid for a license that was to seat over 15 people could potentially receive a credit on next year's licensing fees. This is still being discussed.

MATTERS: No matters to come before this Board.

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HEARING:

Price Road Legalization of Constructed Alignment: Mike Russell, Columbia County Road Master presented the staff report to the Board on the legalization of Constructed Alignment on Price Rd. Maintenance staff identified Price Road as a priority for applying an asphalt overlay this summer. As such staff began preparing the road surface and ditch lines in anticipation of the overlay. This work included digging out poor sections of old pavement and replacing the base with compacted crushed rock, scraping away vegetation at the edge of pavement cleaning the ditches and replacing culverts as needed.

During the week of June 1, 2020, it was brought to the attention of staff that the road right-of-way many not be where the road was actually built.

It is the intent of the Road Master to cause as little disruption to adjacent property owners as possible. The attempt here is to legalize what has been in use and understood as a public right-of-way for many decades with no changes to fence lines, ditch lines, driveway approaches, or established landscaping and to simply finish the pavement preservation work that was started in July.

The County Road Master has determined, along with County Surveyor that there are no structures that need to be moved or removed from the proposed right-of-way. Therefore, there is no compensation consideration anticipated as a result of this action. At this time, staff has no knowledge of any claim from any of the property owners in this regard.

Following the public hearing and Board deliberation, staff will prepare a Board Order consistent with the Board's direction.

The floor was opened for public testimony in support or opposition.

Public Testimony:

Carole Kelley, 75525 Price Rd, Rainier OR. speaking for the home owners. Carole gave a history of Price Rd. dating back to 1949. 8 of the 9 home owners were at the homeowners meeting or were contacted and were all in agreement that they are supportive of County legalizing Price Rd.

Don Campbell, 757535 Price Rd. Rainier, OR. speaking on behalf of Bob Krause is not interested in having a ¼ mile of right-of-way taken from his property to support the legalization of Price Rd. Bob would like to create a private easements for the neighbors to prevent land locking.

With no further testimony the floor was open for rebuttal.

Rebuttal:

Carole Kelley, 75525 Price Rd, Bob Krause has full access and proposed to create easements that would be privately maintained. She and the remaining home owners cannot afford to maintain as a private road, and would like the County to legalize and maintain.

Don Campbell, 757535 Price Rd. Bob is not proposing to land lock the neighbors but to give them easements.

Deliberations:

Commissioner Heimuller is in favor of legalizing Price Rd and renaming the previous known Price Rd to West Price Rd.

Commissioner Magruder is in favor of legalizing Price Rd and renaming the previous known Price Rd to West Price Rd.

Commissioner Tardif is in favor of legalizing Price Rd and renaming the previous known Price Rd to West Price Rd.

Commissioner Magruder moved, Commissioner Heimuller seconded to tentatively legalize Price Rd and rename the previously known Price Rd as West Price Rd. After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Appropriations between Categories in the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget: Louise Kallstrom, Finance Director briefed the Board on Resolution 76-2020 In the Matter of a Supplemental Budget Reallocating Appropriations between Categories in the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. (CARES Act Funding)

The floor was opened for public testimony in support or opposition, with no public testimony to come before the Board the floor was closed.

Deliberations:

Commissioner Magruder is supportive of Resolution 76-2020

Commissioner Heimuller is supportive of Resolution 76-2020

The hearing was closed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Tardif read the consent agenda in full, Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows: The motion carried unanimously.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- A. Resolution No. 76-2020 In the Matter of a Supplemental Budget Reallocating Appropriations Between Categories In the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget
- B. Appoint Laken Gortler as a member of the Columbia County Fair Board to complete the term of position #1 with a term to expire January 1, 2021 and authorize the Chair to sign.
- C. Approve 2020 Liquor License Application for Meander Brewing Company in Warren Oregon and authorize the Chair to sign

DISCUSSION ITEMS: No discussion items to come before this board

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No executive session to come before this board

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS: Celebration of Labor Day is approaching. She really wants people to pay attention to all of the businesses that keep economic development moving and keep Columbia County moving forward. We have great folks out there working hard for us and you are all very much appreciated.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Today is the anniversary of the day that the vote passed that gave woman the right to vote. He cannot imagine conversation or the days that people did not have the right to vote.

Thanks to all the folks on Price Rd. from Mr. Campbell to Ms. Kelley that pointed out that we do have great employees here at Columbia County. Everyone's opinion and perspective counts, it helps us in our final discussions.

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COMMISSIONER TARDIF COMMENTS:

Commissioner Tardif echoed Commissioner Heimuller that it is important for the public come to our hearings and voice your opinions and perspectives.

Wished everyone a Happy August 26th

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 26th day of August, 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

