

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

September 9, 2020

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Alex Tardif, Commissioner Henry Heimuller and Commissioner Margaret Magruder together with Tiffany Johnson, Assistant County Counsel and Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator via telecommunication with County staff and members of the public was not present.

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 September 2, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS: No visitor comments

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE: Mike Paul, Public Health Director gave an update on the most current numbers of confirmed and presumptive cases, with over 27.6 million globally and 898,757 thousand deaths, the US has reported over 6.3 million and over 189 thousand deaths, Oregon reported 28,355 cases and 486 deaths and Columbia County has reported 135 confirmed and presumptive cases, and one deaths since the onset of COVID-19 as of September 8, 2020, with 6 people who are currently infectious.

Mike updated the Board that new case counts and deaths have been dropping since July, which counties are still in Phase I and which are under the watch list, school metrics and how they need to be met. Columbia County has met their first week of meeting the school metrics and will need to have 3 consecutive weeks, the States weekly testing reports and percentages and how they are meeting the school metrics. Other Public Health indicators show that we are moving in the right direction. Mike talked about how the Labor Day holiday could affect case counts. Other recommendations is to get a flu shot before the end of October.

CONSENT AGENDA: No items to come before this Board.

AGREEMENTS / CONTACTS /AMENDMENTS: No items to come before this Board.

MATTERS: No matters to come before this Board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Road naming request: Karen Schminke, Land Development Services Director, presented a road naming request. This proposal has been vetted through the County's review and referral process and LDS is now recommending to assign the name of "Wight Lane" to the new public road right-of-way that will provide access from the south side of Church Road to the three new lots being created by Minor Partition (MP 20-08). After discussion, staff was directed to prepare an Order and place on an upcoming consent agenda.

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Community Justice hiring process: Jean Ripa, Human Resources Director released a job recruitment for a Community Justice Director that on August 21, 2020 will close on September 18, 2020. Today, she is following up with the Board on the hiring process for this position and how interviews will be conducted. After discussion, the consensus of the Board is they will review applicants and select who they would like to interview, the first interview will be held remotely with Sheriff Pixley and Jeremiah Stromberg invited to participate on the interview panel and the final interview will be held in person.

Transit Director Recruitment: Jean Ripa, Human Resources brought to the Board some options to review for CC Rider. The County has had an Interim Director for almost 6 month. Would the Board like to continue the Interim status for a longer period of time, or conduct a recruitment for the position and go through the usual process to hire a Director? After discussion, Jean will bring this discussion back to the Board at the end of September.

Columbia County Fairgrounds: Discussion was held regarding opening the Columbia County Fairgrounds for those that have been evacuated due to the wild fires throughout the state. Information was given for volunteering or if you have donations of feed, hay etc. Counsel will prepare emergency shelter intake forms and liability waivers for those that will be housed at the County Fairgrounds. Mike Paul, Public Health reported that animals are being quarantined at Clark County Fairgrounds that has animals coming in from out of State.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board recessed the regular scheduled meeting to enter into an Executive Session under 192.220(e)(d) deliberations. Upon coming out of executive session no action was taken.

This afternoon's 1:00 pm work session has been canceled.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Good to be back, Commissioner Heimuller was out of the office last week for a little rest and relaxation.

Columbia County is a forestry county, we are not under fire right now, like much of the State. Please be cautious of gas powered tools, cigarettes, use good common sense. Keep our firefighters and neighbors in your thoughts and prayers, be ready yourself in case you need to evacuate.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Magruder enjoyed the Labor Day holiday on the Columbia River with her family, and hoped everyone had a good weekend.

The Fairgrounds has canceled the Drive in concert for this weekend and has postponed until the first weekend in October. Please check calendars to make sure that events that you were planning will still be taking place.

Check with Emergency Management for a list of things you should have in your "to go bags." Stay safe. Be ready.

COMMISSIONER TARDIF COMMENTS:

Commissioner Tardif shared that last night the hill next to him had caught fire, and how important an emergency plan is for your family. Stay safe. Be ready.

With nothing further coming before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 AM

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 9th day of September, 2020.

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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

