

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

October 7, 2020

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Alex Tardif, Commissioner Henry Heimuller and Commissioner Margaret Magruder 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 Heimuller moved and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2020 Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

- Gloria Rice, 61789 Dart Creek Rd. St. Helens OR. Has concerns with park closures due to private events. Gloria referenced the County Parks, Rules Regulations, Fees, Order 1-2002 & County Ordinance 94-9.
- Della Graham 165 Sherwood Dr. St. Helens, OR has concerns with the Boards discussion to recruit for an interim Emergency Management instead of appointing the current Deputy Director.
- Kelly Niles, 221 5th St. Columbia City, OR representing Homeland Security (HSM). With the amount of time it would take to bring a new interim director up to speed would be time consuming and costly. Recommendation is to place Shaun Brown, Deputy Director in the interim position and hire Steve Pegram back as a contractor if needed.
- Shana Cavanaugh, 590 Seal Rd. St. Helens, OR. In light of recent news she demands voting records of the Board of Commissioners that allowed Janet Evans and Casey Garrett to retain their positions despite misconduct charges and demanded that Casey Garrett be removed as a county employee effective immediately.
- Emily Miranda, 33986 7 Oaks Dr., Scappoose OR. Wants to know why we are allowing good employees to leave good jobs and benefits over a toxic work place that seems to be linked back to Janet Evans and Casey Garrett, and also wants to know why the Board allowed a toxic person such as Janet to retire with her full benefits while others have to go find other jobs. She also wants to see the voting records for the session with Janet Evans.
- Maddie Reese 33363 SW Meadowbrook Dr., Scappoose OR. Commenting in regards to the toxic work place article that was released in the Spotlight and the letter written to the editor in the Vernonia Voice by Lori Baker on why she was forced to leave Parks, Recreation and General Services after 15 years. She is concerned that these type of working conditions are being tolerated at the county level. She is demanding accountability of the Board of Commissioners, and demands the voting records in regards to the personnel files of Janet Evans and Casey Garrett be released. We need to know why this behavior was allowed to continue. Maddie demanded that Casey Garrett's employment with the county be terminated effective immediately.
- Brady Preheim 195 Clark St., St. Helens, OR. Would like to request the resignation of Henry Heimuller since Lori Baker made it clear that Henry is at the heart of the Casey Garrett abuse and has protected Casey Garrett with his co-conspirator Margaret Magruder. Brady stated that with all the documentation they have that Garrett is not fit to be a county employee or commissioner. He is concerned with what are the liabilities that Henry and Margaret's actions have created for the county. He would like to see the voting records and

how the county brushed things under the rug. He would also like any reports of other employees that have been allowed to harass and bully in the work place.

- Jasmine Anderson 10 NE 162nd Ave. Portland, OR concerned about the allegations that have been released regarding the toxic and abusive work place in the County. As a former Columbia County resident she isn't sure if she wants to return to the county and purchase a home. She requested that the voting records be released and perhaps that would make her feel more comfortable in making her decision.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE:

Mike Paul, Public Health Director presented a PowerPoint presentation showing graphs for total case and death counts globally, new confirmed cases in Oregon and Columbia County, Oregon's Epi Curve, Columbia County COVID -19 cases by zip code, data for person instruction, and School Metrics.

COVID -19 current numbers of confirmed and presumptive cases, with over 35.9 million globally and over one million deaths, the US is approaching 7.5 million and over 210 thousand deaths, Oregon reported 35,340 cases and 581 deaths and Columbia County has reported 194 confirmed and 19 presumptive cases, and one death since the onset of COVID-19. This is the largest case count of 31 for Columbia County for the last week.

CDC released a new study on how airborne pathogens are spreading. Recommendations are to get a flu shot.

People experiencing poor mental health days can find information on the Public Health webpage that will be helpful.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Ratify the Notice of Determination of Value of Real Property Owned by Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Pursuant to ORS 495.340(4) dated October 5, 2020 and authorize the Chair to sign
- B. Accept 2020 Foreclosure Deed and Authorize the Chair to Sign
- C. Approve Personnel Action for Steve Pegram and authorize the Chair to sign

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS

- D. C7-2019-1 Amendment #1 to Intergovernmental Agreement #5756 with the Oregon Department of Corrections and Authorize the Chair to Sign

MATTERS:

No matters to come before the Board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. CARES Act Project Status Report Louise Kallstrom, Finance Director presented the Board with the Project Status Report for the CARES Act funding. The Sheriff requested that he be able to move the \$31.5 thousand from the tele-psych funding to the inmate tracking system.

Sarah Hanson shared the updates made by the Treasury regarding the COVID-19 funding and personnel costs for the Sheriff and Public Health. Discussion was held on how the funding could be reallocated.

Next Louise discussed the project request for a refrigerator and installation for the Food Bank, \$150,000.00. Louise will ask the Food Bank to submit a formal request on their letter head with a breakdown of additional CARES funding that they have received.

Sheriff Pixley would like to purchase body cams that can be uploaded to the cloud from the deputy's car. This would be a 5 year contract. This item will be brought back to the Board with additional information and clarification that it would qualify for CARES Act funding. After discussion, Consensus from the Board is that the money can be moved to the inmate tracking system.

Louise will return in two weeks at the October 21, 2020 for further discussion and updated Project Status Report.

2. **Transit Director Staffing:** Jean Ripa, HR Director was present to discuss options with the Board on the recruitment of the Transit Director. Commissioner Tardif is content with John Dreeszen as the Transit Director Interim, Commissioner Heimuller also would like to keep John Dreeszen in the Transit Director Interim position he is doing a good job. Commissioner Magruder supports her colleagues in keeping John Dreeszen as the interim director.
3. **Emergency Management Director Staffing:** Jean Ripa, HR Director, following up on the previous discussion regarding how they would like to proceed with the recruitment of a new Emergency Management Director. After the previous discussion the consensus of the board was to appoint an interim to allow the opportunity to evaluate the department's needs. Today's discussion is to discuss steps moving forward. After discussion, it was determined that Shaun Brown, Deputy Director will remain the Deputy Director and run the day to day operations. This matter will come back to the Board for further discussion. The Commissioners would like time to perhaps speak with staff and others involved with Emergency Management operations for recommendations and or input.

Executive Session:

The Board recessed their regular scheduled meeting to go into Executive Session under 192.660(2)(e) real property. Coming out of executive session, no action was taken.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller passed on comments due to limited time.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Magruder announced that the Warren Grange will be holding a drive thru breakfast this Saturday and that A Street in Rainier will be holding its ribbon cutting at 11.

COMMISSIONER TARDIF COMMENTS:

Thank you all for joining us today we have a lot of public comment to digest through and have had a lot of great things done today. Great work teams.

With nothing further coming before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 AM

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Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 7th day of October, 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

