

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
December 23, 2020

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met virtually in a 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 with County staff and members of the public.

Call meeting to order

Commissioner Tardif called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2020 Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS - 5 MINUTE LIMIT

Heather Kemper, 34380 Leader Ln. Warren OR. Expressed her support for the request of the funding for the Law Library.

Nancy Ward, 34326 Johnson's Landing Road, Scappoose, Expressed her support for funding of the Columbia County Law Library

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE:

Mike Paul, Public Health Director gave a quick status update regarding COVID-19. Nationally we are still seeing over 200,000 cases per day with approx. 3000 deaths daily. The 2 week freeze that was implemented in December has created a plateau leveling out cases at around 1,000 cases per day in Oregon. County total 10 to 15 per day, with 7 deaths in December and a total of 10 in deaths Columbia County. 767 confirmed cases this year. The last 14 days we have plateaued. We are still in the extreme risk category but we are heading in the correct direction. With the upcoming holiday we still need to follow the current guidelines and social distance. The testing at the high school will not continue into January. We are still working closely with OHSU to get another testing site set up. We are hoping to use the same location and time. We don't have a start date at this time but we will post it on the website when we have that scheduled. Lots of questions are coming in about the vaccination. Please look on Oregon Health Authority website. There is a lot of information about the vaccination. Oregon has received some vaccinations that are going to hospital staff at this point. In the meantime it is going to be awhile before herd immunity so 2021 is still going to be a difficult year. We need to be vigilant about all health behaviors and all individual actions until the vaccination is available to everyone.

HEARING(S) No hearings to come before the Board

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Tardif read the consent agenda, agreements, contract and amendments in full. With corrections to item # L, Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the consent agenda, agreements, contracts and amendments as follows;

- A. Order No. 90-2020 In the Matter of Strategic Investment Program Distribution for 2021
- B. Resolution No. 91-2020, In the Matter of Extending the Declaration of a Local State of Emergency Due to COVID-19

- C. Reappoint Rosemary Lohrke to the Columbia County Transportation Roads Advisory Committee Position # 7 for a two (2) year term and authorize the Chair to sign.
- D. Reappoint Paul Langner to the Transportation Roads Advisory Committee Position #8 for a three (3) year term and authorize the Chair to sign.
- E. Reappoint Nita Greene to the Columbia County Transportation Roads Advisory Committee Position #5 for a two (2) year term and authorize the Chair to sign.
- F. Reappoint Pat LaPointe to the Columbia County Transportation Roads Advisory Committee Position #4 for a two (2) year term and authorize the Chair to sign.
- G. Reappoint Jeff Peterson to the Columbia County Traffic Safety Committee for a three (3) year term and authorize the Chair to sign.
- H. Reappoint Captain James McFarland to the Columbia County Traffic Safety Committee for a two (2) year term and authorize the Chair to sign.
- I. Reappoint Henry Heimuller to the Columbia County Traffic Safety Committee for a two (2) year term and authorize the Chair to sign.
- J. Reappoint Jay Tappan to the Columbia County Traffic Safety Committee for a three (3) year term and authorize the Chair to sign.
- K. Reappoint Lynnette Chiotti to the Columbia County Traffic Safety Committee for a two (2) year term and authorize the Chair to sign
- L. Reappoint Lonny Welter to the Columbia County Traffic Advisory Safety Committee for a two (2) year term and authorize the Chair to sign.
- M. Reappoint Jason Hudson to the Columbia County Waste Advisory Committee, Position # 6 Alternate Industry Service Representative for a three (3) year term and authorize the Chair to sign.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS

- N. C119- 2018-2 Seventh Amendment to Personal Services Contract with Columbia County Legal Aid for Law Library Management Services
- O. C107-2020 Memorandum of Agreement with the Columbia County Deputy Sheriff's Association Regarding Overtime
- P. C108-2020 Memorandum of Agreement with the Columbia County Deputy Sheriff's Association Regarding Grievance Procedures

MATTERS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Enterprise Zone Sponsor authorization request; Paul Vogel, CCET explained what an Enterprise Zone is a tool that Oregon has to bring industries here. This does a tax abatement on property taxes if the company is providing jobs. The most common abatement is for 3 years and Paul is asking for additional 2 years.

Paul presented the Oregon Enterprise Zone Authorization request and application. The Board has directed Paul to work with County Counsel and bring back to the consent agenda for approval.

2. Columbia County Law Library (CCLL); Brandee Duzdic, came before the Board to request financial support from the County. This is a temporary onetime ask. The Law Library is in dire need of supplemental funding. The only source of revenue comes from court filing fees, and for Columbia County, that amounts to about \$40,000.00 per year. During the 2020 Summer Legislative short session, nearly a million dollars was taken from the State Law Library budget cutting our portion to just \$30,000.00 per year. The Columbia County Law Library will not survive this reduction for long.

Brandee outlined the essential services provided by CCLL: Community-based location for people to remotely log into their court hearings, weekly free court forms clinic, & parenting class for divorcing parents, required pursuant to Columbia County's Supplemental Court Rules. We are not meeting the needs of the community.

Commissioner Heilmuller feels that remote access is very important and necessary and asked why the State has not recognized that and has even cut funding. Brandee explained that the goal for next year that she will be going in front of the legislature to explain how much the Law Library is needed.

Today Brandee requested a \$50,000 investment from the County to provide essential services to our community. Specifically, this money allows us to be open 2 extra days a week. In addition she requested that the county waive the administrative fees for 2021-2023. Out of the \$30,000 annual revenue received for 2021, the county is keeping \$5,600, despite only being a pass-through.

Brandee, Commissioner Heimuller, The DA, and Louise the Finance Director are going to figure out what kind of funding may or may not be available.

3. CARES Act Update; Louise Kallstrom, Finance Director updated the Board on the CARES Act projects. Project #119 –Small Business Grant –Match the remaining funds of \$25,715.00 from this project have been returned to the County.

MATTERS: No matters

DISCUSSION ITEMS: No discussions items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No executive session

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS Please follow the plain simple rules: wash your hands, wear your mask, keep your distance, and please wash your mask till everyone gets vaccinated. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please keep your celebrations small. We can hopefully do normal things next year.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS Remember there is still mask and hand sanitizer that is available. Paul Vogel and CCET has been very good about getting supplies out. If you need them please contact us or CCET to get them. Thank you to public health and partners that have done all the testing. Please take care of yourself and Merry Christmas.

COMMISSIONER TARDIF COMMENTS Wished everyone Happy Holidays. It was a very long and rough year for most. Spend the holidays with loved ones. With six or less with mask on. If you are alone this year please reach out to me. Believe it or not we are all in the same storm with different boats and trying to get to the same island. Happy Holidays.

With nothing further coming before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 AM

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 23rd day of December, 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

