

**COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**December 30, 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 Robin McIntyre Sr. Assistant 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 23, 2020 Board meeting and the December 23, 2020 work session. The motion carried unanimously.

**VISITOR COMMENTS - 5 MINUTE LIMIT** No visitor comments

**PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE:** 200k new cases in the United States yesterday. The 7 day average has come down a little in the last 14 days. We are still at a high level that we are still going to continue to more hospitalization in the future. Yesterday's death count was the highest of the year at 3600 and hospitalization are with 125 k people. Stay vigilant in the next coming weeks. This is due to people following the recommendations set before us. In Columbia County the number of deaths and hospitalizations are high. Over 400 new cases and close to 30 hospitalizations. We have lost 11 people in December including one yesterday.

We still remain in the extreme risk category. Lots of community spread at this point. We need to continue strict following of the guidance. Including and limiting household gatherings to 6 people or less from only 2 households. A lot of cases from December are from the local care facilities. These facilities have staff that go home and are still infecting other community members.

Today is another drive through testing. We are hoping to test another 200 people today. We are also hoping to start the next round of testing on January 13<sup>th</sup>. We are also looking into getting schools some rapid tests so when kids go back to school they can test them and isolate the student or staff quickly.

Vaccinations in Columbia County. We are going to ensure vaccinations. We are planning on trying to set up a drive through vaccination like we have for the testing. Most people will be vaccinated at their local doctor offices. We need to vaccinate 80 to 90 percent of the community to have herd immunity. This will take a lot of work to get this done and will take months. If you have questions please look on the county web site on the COVID page. This gives information about the vaccination that is being administrated in the county. Phase one will take a few weeks. Then we will start working on phase 1A in January. We don't have an estimate timeline yet for the next phase. Again please look at the county web site to find the plan and safety and effectiveness of the vaccinations.

We are also working on a Quit Smoking Campaign. People seem to try and quit this time of the year. Someone who smokes one pack a day will spend close to 3000.00 a year in Oregon. Every year we lose roughly 8000 people. Please go to [smokefreeoregon.com](http://smokefreeoregon.com). There is a lot of information and resources on this website.

We are also working on a harm reduction program. We see a 40 percent increase in overdose deaths. We see there are many contributing factors this year. We use that many people are relapsed this year. We are working to offer several services to help with these numbers. Wound care, syringe exchange, referrals to CCMH, as well as other overdose protection. Please call 211 if you need any information.

### **HEARING(S)**

No hearings to come before the Board

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Tardif read the consent agenda, agreements, contracts and amendments in full. Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the consent agenda, agreements, contracts and amendments as follows;

- A. Approve Personnel Action for Mike Russell and authorize the Chair to sign.

### **AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS**

- B. C106-2019-13, Amendment No. 15 to Agreement No. 159805 with the Oregon Health Authority for the Financing of Public Health Services and Authorize Chair to Sign
- C. C109-2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Subgrant Agreement #6036 with the Oregon Department of Corrections and Authorize the Chair to Sign

### **MATTERS**

No matters to come before the Board.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Columbia County Federal Highways Emergency Relief Projects: Tristan Wood, Public Works Assistant Director, before leaving the County wanted to update the Board on the progress of the Federal Highways Emergency Relief projects for the County related to storm damage that occurred in 2015. We have three federally funded projects, Scappoose-Vernonia Slide MP 4.0, Meissner and Fern Hill Slides, and the Columbia County culvert bundle; Bennett Rd, Fern Hill Rd, Apiary MP 12.2 and Apiary Rd MP 17.4. These projects are in various stages but before progressing, some will need Board of Commissioner approval for the planning process. The big item being road closure planning and coordination. Other items being an agreement with Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District for the Archibald Creek Culvert replacement at Apiary Road MP 12.2 culvert site.

Tristan reviewed the proposed road closures for Meissner Rd. tentatively to begin construction summer 2022, Fern Hill being coordinated around the Meissner project for work to be completed fall of 2022. Scappoose-Vernonia Hwy no road closures will be needed, the bid date for this project is April 2021 with construction for summer 2021.

Culvert Projects bid date is October 2021, with construction in 2022. This will be mostly in water work, with the dates ranging from July 1 to September 15 on the various streams in this project. Apiary Rd MP 12.2 is occurring on a non-fishing bearing stream and work could occur outside the instream work window. It is possible for work to be completed in spring 2022. County will limit the Bennett Rd and Fern Hill Rd projects to a 6-week road closure with

detours. The full closures will save the project roughly \$200,000.00 in construction costs for each site. Apiary Rd MP 12.2 will have no impact to traffic, and Apiary Rd MP 17.4 will be closed for 4 weeks. Due to the permitting requirements of ODFW a bridge will need to be installed at this site. The piling will be installed under traffic control with single lane closures. Full closures will be made so existing culverts can be removed and the rock weirs and simulated stream bed can be installed. Bridge slabs will then be installed along with paving before returning traffic over the site. This closure is a significant savings to the project of roughly \$300,000.00. Commissioner Magruder moved to approve the road closures as proposed, Commissioner Heimuller seconded. Commissioner Heimuller instructed staff to come back to the Board if any changes are made to these closures. The motion carried unanimously.

The Archibald Creek Crossing has been a design and coordination with ODFW. ODFW has been a challenge to coordinate with and has made challenging demands to the project. Tristan has worked with ODFW and they have agreed that the best solution will be to work with Columbia Soil Water Conservation District and have them complete the off right-of-way stream improvements. This will require coordination with land owner, Weyerhaeuser. Discussion was held with Weyerhaeuser and they have agreed this would be a good option for the repairs. The current option at this time is to help migrating salmon by removing the barrier on private property, lower the stream channel, and to do that we need to work with the CSWCD. This really is the only option and best option for the department to mitigate the issue. Weyerhaeuser is willing to participate, the county will need to contribute, and they do not want to sell any of the property and are willing to help the County with their repair as a separate project. The plan moving forward is that Mike Russell and Scott Toenjes will be taking over the coordination of these projects and will keep the Board informed of decision points along the way.

2. Sheriff's Office Supervisory Incentive Pay: Brian Pixley, Sheriff came before the Board to continue the discussion on Supervisory Incentive Pay that was discussed in the December 23, 2020 work session. Today the Sheriff is asking the Board to approve the total possible incentive pay at 10%. This would include for Sergeants Only; 2.5% DPSST Intermediate Certification in the field or 5.0% DPSST Advanced certification in the field( Corrections or Enforcement) Lieutenants & Captains a 2.5% DPSST advanced certification in the field(Corrections or Enforcement) and Sergeants 2.5% DPSST supervisory certification, Lieutenants 2.5% DPSST middle management certification & Captains a 2.5% DPSST executive certification. The total possible incentive pay would be 10% at \$37,000.00 annually. Commissioner Heimuller moved to approve the suggested Sheriff's Office Incentive Pay as discussed, Commissioner Magruder seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Formal documents will be added to an upcoming agenda for signature.
3. Small Buisness Emergency Funding Grants: Paul Vogel, CCET joined the meeting to give an update on the Emergency Grant Funding. 160 applications were approved 19 of these applications were nonprofits. 7 applicants did not qualify. The average amount to be awarded is \$5,800.00. Awards will be issued today to stay in compliance of the contract between CCET & the County and the contract between the County and the State. This Grant was a fast turnaround of only 20 days, Paul thanked the Board of Commissioners and County staff for all the dedication and teamwork that it took to make this happen.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

No Executive Sessions to come before the Board.

**COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Heimuller hoped that everyone had a good holiday and that visits and gatherings were kept small. As we just heard from Public Health, this pandemic is not going away anytime soon and we all need to do our part. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and asked that they keep visits and gathering small as they ring in 2021.

Commissioner Heimuller recognized Commissioner Tardif for his service as a County Commissioner over the last 4 years, and wished him luck in his new endeavors.

**COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Magruder thanked Holly Miller and the IT staff for all of the hard work that they have done to bring our new phone system to life. She asked that the public be patient with us as we learn the new system.

Thank you to CCET and the crew for the grants for the local business. What a great thing for the new year for having a boost.

Commissioner Magruder recognized Commissioner Tardif for his service as a County Commissioner. Things are not always easy and he weathered the storm well. Thank you and best wishes for a New Year.

**COMMISSIONER TARDIF COMMENTS**

This is my last comment as a Commissioner. It has definitely been a wild ride. I didn't expect to get elected at 28 but I did and I have been serving into my thirties. I have learned a tremendous amount about leadership, teamwork, trust, and what it really takes to move an organization into the future. My recommendation for you community members; pay attention to your commission, get involved in your government, we are here to serve you and not yourselves. Please pay close attention to what your commission is doing and where it is going. Please show up to public comment, speak your peace, and research the issues well. Come prepared to battle it out. That is your job and your right as a citizen. To the staff of Columbia County, some of you are the most wonderful people that I have every worked with, and have had the privilege to work with. Some are the smartest people that I have ever met, who can do things that no one else can do. Continue to do what is right and implement your CYA and cover yourself. I will continue to serve you in a different capacity, just not in this chair. Take Care!

With nothing further coming before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 30th 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 Administer

