

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

January 8, 2008

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Anthony Hyde, Commissioner Joe Corsiglia and Commissioner Rita Bernhard, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting to order.

FLOOD RECOVERY PROCESS:

Commissioner Hyde started the discussion by explaining the two areas that need to be dealt with. One is the economic recovery for businesses and homeowners, how much did we spend and how much are we going to get back. The other is the infrastructure repairs for public entities. This is a huge list and will take about 18-20 months.

Vicki has been fielding calls and e-mails regarding recovery and response issues. There are still a lot of issues that we are not yet aware of and she is working on getting that information. Commissioner Hyde feels there needs to be an understanding by the Board, if we are going to segregate out all of these issues or do it all as one. Commissioner Corsiglia feels it should be the County that oversees the economic recovery process and Commissioner Hyde and Commissioner Bernhard agreed. The County needs to look at hiring a person to administer that process. There are homes and businesses that have been destroyed and FEMA has agreed to some funding. Vicki updated the Board on the proposal from Peter with Adjuster International. Commissioner Hyde feels that the County cannot afford what they are offering, but that would be a full Board decision. Peter said to keep in mind that they would offer a 4 hour teaching session, even if we don't hire them.

Commissioner Hyde stated that James Lee Witt works with the State and is willing to do it. Vicki was directed to inform Adjusters International that the County will not be using their services. The James Lee Witt contract would be for 90 days.

It was determined that Vicki would handle public facilities and Witt would handle the private sector. Vicki brought up the issue of the Hazard Mitigation process.

Commissioner Hyde said work is still ongoing to determine what is eligible for funding and what isn't. Vicki believes that job is a 150% job on it's own and someone should be hired to do the administration work. Commissioner Hyde stated that would also be funded.

Jim Tierney stated that he has been involved before on the mitigation process and explained what he learned from that process. There is a lot of competition for funding. He found himself competing with the City of Vernonia, which was hard because

he lives there. It needs to be said that there should be no favoritism when working for the different communities in the county and that's an issue that needs to be addressed. Commissioner Hyde feels the Board needs to determine if we make application for Hazard Mitigation funds as a county or individual cities and agencies. He was informed it would be better to make application as a county. The way Jim is approaching this is, every persons recovery is a project. We need to determine where the needs are, the costs involved and then go searching for funding. Jim talked about how the value is determined on homes, infrastructure, etc.

After discussion, there was a consensus of the Board to make application for Hazard Mitigation funding, county wide.

Jim updated the Board on the statistical information on volunteer hours, victims in database vs the FEMA database and victim status. He went over the warehousing operations and what is being stored where. He also talked briefly on the types of situations they are seeing, i.e. people doing nothing, people that can't because of age, or people just still trying to dry out. Discussion was held on the work force, who is in need, funding, the different agencies, etc. Jean gave an update on labor being provided by Cardinal Services and MTC. MTC has applied for and received a grant for specific flood related positions for 6 months. They are also working to get that grant extended. The employees would be hired through MTC, so the county would have no liability. The temporary staffing would need to meet certain criteria in order to be hired. Commissioner Hyde mentioned other agencies that may have funding for staffing.

Jim then talked about how CAT is attempting to get the Housing Rehabilitation funding for flood victims. Bev will be applying for a \$750,000 housing grant through OECDD, to help with matching funds. This funding will end up being loans and CAT will be responsible for the administration of these loans. Homeowners who qualify for loans would not see a payment until they sell their homes.

Sarah needs a list of all public agencies that have provided services. She needs to know specifics so that the agreements meet the FEMA regulations. Vicki is e-mailing and calling to try to obtain that information, but next to impossible to get it all. Commissioner Corsiglia asked if the county can send a letter stating that if no response is received within 30 days, no reimbursements will be granted. No one anticipates any requests of that type. After discussion, it was stated that Vicki will be obtaining the needed information and get it to Sarah. Vicki then asked that she be allowed to retain Frank, who is currently part of the flood relief effort, for additional time. His total time would be 60 days from December 8th. The Board agreed with that.

Sarah addressed the Unmet Needs Committee and the need for by-laws and guidelines for spending the money. Commissioner Hyde stated that this group is meeting

regularly and will get that information to Sarah. There is a need to appoint someone from the St. Helens area and it was suggested that Skip Baker be appointed. **After little discussion, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to appoint Skip Baker to the Unmet Needs Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

Sarah also needs to have a compilation of all the volunteers who participated so far in the flood recovery process. She doesn't want to see a bill come in at a later date for their time or expense. Commissioner Hyde said that nothing, as far as volunteers, is billable.

Commissioner Hyde presented a letter he drafted to FEMA requesting data sets. After a brief review, he asked that the Board approve it. **With that, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve the letter to FEMA to request data sets and authorize the Chair to sign. The motion carried unanimously.**

Vicki has been on the phone with the FEMA people that are responsible for debris management. There are sites currently open where people are dumping debris on the ground. FEMA is requesting that we close those sites. Todd stated that he is working on that and Commissioner Hyde stated that those sites are already closed, but people continue dumping anyway. The Unmet Needs Committee is also working on this. The transfer station in Vernonia will be open from 12:00 to 4:00 pm on Tuesday and Thursday and on Saturday. Commissioner Corsiglia asked if this is flood related debris. Yes, it is all flood related. Vicki asked at what point is the responsible party going to take over debris management, i.e. the City of Vernonia. FEMA has informed Vicki that the law states that the City of Vernonia is now responsible for that debris. Discussion was held on who is responsible for the debris management and a possible Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Vernonia. Vicki informed the Board that FEMA has a pilot program for debris removal which was signed yesterday. This will allow the county to capture our expenses. There is an incentive part that, if we meet certain criteria, we would receive another 5% reimbursement. Vicki has sent that information off to FEMA for their review. If the documentation doesn't meet their requirement, we have the opportunity to re-write it.

Vicki was informed by the State that they offered CCMH a \$100,000 grant to help with flood related mental health issues. CCMH also requested money from the State for overtime, however that is not an allowable expense. Commissioner Bernhard was told by Roland that he did not apply for that because it didn't meet the time line.

Vicki asked that the Board set a date and time for an "after flood update". She will coordinate that with Jan.

NEW ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR POSITION:

Dave Hill, Public Works Director, reviewed his memo with the Board and explained the job duties for this position. Jean has also reviewed it and is in agreement.

After little discussion, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to establish the position of Assistant Public Works Director, assign a salary range 10 and authorize Dave Hill to fill the position. The motion carried unanimously.

Dave just wanted to inform the Board that the Road Department has accumulated a lot of overtime relating to the flood. Hopefully this will be reimbursable.

Aaron Clodfelter is moving on to Washington County and Dave is requesting authorization to fill that position. With that, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to authorize Dave Hill to fill the Engineering Intern in the Road Department. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed the meeting at 12:10 pm and reconvened at 2:10 pm. Present were Commissioner Hyde, Commissioner Corsiglia and Commissioner Bernhard, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting back to order.

HIRING OF FLOOD RECOVERY PERSON:

Jean Ripa asked if the Board is ready to look at hiring a flood recovery person and if she should start the process to fill that position. Commissioner Hyde stated that there is a need to get someone on board right away, even if it isn't the same person for the full 18 months. He listed some of the qualifications this person would need. It may be that James Lee Witt may have a recommendation for a qualified person. After some discussion, Jean was directed to prepare a draft job description for the Board to review and start gathering some resumes.

DEPUTIES - SCERT TEAM:

The SCERT Team would like to use part of the Courthouse for an exercise. They would prefer to do it in a location where they may have to actually respond some time, such as the Courthouse. Jean would suggest the old courthouse and the Board support this request. The Board would have to approve the use of the Courthouse. With that, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve

SCERT’s request to use the old courthouse on 1/19/08 from 8-5 for a SCERT exercise and to coordinate with Bill Potter. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(d)f):

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(d)(f) - (h) was pulled. Upon coming out of Executive Session, action on discussion will be held at the Wednesday, January 9, 2008, 2:00 pm session.

COUNTY TRAVEL POLICY/SCAPONIA PARK OIL & GAS LEASE/OFFER ON #7063:

All of these matters were pulled and carried over.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 8th day of January, 2008.

NOTE: A tape of this meeting is available for purchase by the public or interested parties.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____

Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

Board Secretary:

By _____

Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh