

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

February 26, 2008

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Anthony Hyde, Commissioner Corsiglia and Commissioner Rita Bernhard, together with John Knight, Senior Assistant County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting to order.

UNMET NEEDS COMMITTEE MILEAGE REQUEST:

Jean Ripa, Human Resources, addressed the Unmet Needs Committee (UNC) mileage request for Debby Smith. The UNC had approved paying mileage to one of their volunteers in the amount of \$757.50. We have paid some volunteers mileage, but its usually very nominal amounts. The work that Debby is doing is deemed very important by the UNC and she commutes at least 2 days per week from Vancouver to Vernonia. Commissioner Bernhard asked whether she was expecting to be paid. Commissioner Corsiglia asked whether there were other like requests such that it would set precedent, and asks whether there is any set criteria. Commissioner Hyde said the matching of needs and material is the focus of the UNC, and other mileage claims have been paid.

Currently UNC is doing orientations on 7 MTC positions, and there are 7 additional positions, which will total 22 positions for the flood process. Debby is a database and data entry volunteer. She is currently seeking work elsewhere because she does not qualify for the MTC Grant position because she lives outside of the three qualified counties. Her claim is only through the end of January, however there could be an additional claim for February.

After some discussion, the Board added approval of the \$757.50 travel reimbursement to Debby Smith to the consent agenda.

COUNTY PICNIC REQUEST FROM EMPLOYEE EVENT COMMITTEE:

Jean stated that there are 6 volunteers on this committee. They definitely want to try to put the picnic back on this year and have a proposal to have the picnic during work hours. Jean stated that if the Board is putting on an event as a show of appreciation, it is best to do it during work hours. The request is that the Board allow the picnic to occur during the weekday at the fairgrounds and the courthouse would close around noon on that day. This would be advertised beforehand.

The employees could chose to stay here, take a leave day, or attend the picnic. Although there could be some public backlash, Jean supports this request.

Commissioner Bernhard asked whether they had thought about having the picnic at lunch time in the park next door, that way employees could stagger their lunches and still keep the courthouse open. Jean says they considered it, but it doesn't have the BBQ or refrigerator, however the committee is still discussing options.

Commissioner Bernhard would like the committee to reconsider using the park next door. Commissioner Hyde clarified that the committee is talking about shutting down at noon and having the courthouse closed the rest of the day. Jean said they had talked about shutting down at 3:00, but the focus was on the meal. Their request was to do it during work hours. Commissioner Bernhard expressed her concern about shutting the courthouse down, and the backlash from the public. Commissioner Corsiglia says we're talking about a half day across the board, which is usually negotiated. Commissioner Hyde will not support shutting down a public entity when we have a responsibility to the public. No decisions were made at this time.

LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE:

Jean explained that the sole purpose for the change in the LOA is to add FOPPO to the agreement. She would recommend approval. The Board added approval to the consent agenda.

FSA PLAN DOCUMENT:

Jean explained that the County needs to sign the FSA Plan document every time we start a new year with the flexible spending account. County Counsel has not seen it, but it is something we cannot change. It is in the contract with City County Insurance Services that allows us to offer this account. After discussion, the Board added approval to the consent agenda, subject to County Counsel review.

COLPAC/HAAK AGREEMENT:

Bill Haack, hired to coordinate, oversee and participate in the recovery process from the December 2007 flood, is actually employed by ColPac. Sarah Hanson felt the County should have a contract with COLPAC for Bill's services. With information received from County Counsel, Jean has drafted an agreement. She suggested that a schedule be set up for Bill to report to the Board on a regular basis. Commissioner Bernhard has already talked to Bill about it. Jean would suggest that it be noted in the agreement. The other two items that need to be determined is the expiration date, and whether it needs to be exempted from public contracting rules. After discussion, Jean stated that she will have County Counsel review the agreement and also send a copy to Bill Haack for his review.

PAYMENT TO BILL HAACK AND CARLA LAFFOON:

Jean addressed the issue of payment to Bill Haack and Carla, his assistant. There is no money related to any type of expenses through the grant. The Board needs to determine whether we are going to identify some expenses that will be paid. Commissioner Hyde stated there was \$75,000 for Bill in that grant, and another \$50,000 for support. Carla is employed through MTC and Commissioner Hyde believes her expenses should come out of the UNC funds. Jean will let Carla know she should give her expense claims to Finance for payment from the UNC funds.

POWER OUTAGE AT COURTHOUSE:

Jean has prepared a report on the recent power outage experienced at the courthouse this month. She reviewed the report with the Board on her findings. This was a great opportunity for the County to test the capacity of the backup generator.

New wiring needs to be placed in Emergency Management, and she believes that request should come from Vicki Harguth. She felt payment for that should come from UASI funds, but she doesn't know if Vicki has done anything with that yet. The other thing was flashlights, and having a number of flashlights throughout the courthouse would be a good idea, but the question is where, how and who should purchase them.

Commissioner Hyde suggested we get rechargeable flashlights to be mounted on the wall in areas that don't have windows.

The generator kicked on immediately and they tested everything in Emergency Management. Everything worked except for the wiring in the switch area. There was some problem with the air conditioner in the server room, which also needs to be addressed.

The other 2 issues were policy related. First, she recommends that when the power goes out, the public should not be allowed in this building. The building is dark, there are tripping hazards, unlocked doors, etc. The Board needs to make a decision on this and Jean will draft an order for the Board to consider.

Further, how quickly you send people home when there is a power outage needs to be determined. Jean recommends the Board not send employees home quickly. She was unpleasantly surprised when she saw how many people couldn't figure out what

to do without their computers. She asks the Board to think about this.

After discussion, the Board directed Jean to talk with Vicki Harguth to make a request through UASI for the wiring and the flashlights.

VERNONIA MUSEUM:

Commissioner Corsiglia thinks this would be a good time to get out of the lease with the City of Vernonia for the building so the city needs to take care of the maintenance. Corsiglia feels the lease will allow changes.

OEM INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT 1733-DR-OR:

John Knight reviewed the OEM contract. The original was between OEM and the Road Department. However, the Road Department is not an entity in itself and therefore, the contract needs to be corrected to reflect the County Board. After discussion, John will fax the new pages to the State to get this moving.

TRANSFER OF KNOTT STREET JURISDICTION TO CITY OF VERNONIA:

Dave Hill, Public Works Director, addressed the written request from the City of Vernonia to take jurisdiction of Knott Street in Vernonia. Dave did some research on this road and it is a county road and is within the city limits. Apparently they are considering a Local Improvement District for plans for additional development along Knott Road. Dave noted that anytime a city wants to take jurisdiction of a county road within the city limits, he is in agreement with and would recommend approval. Spencer explained the legal process and the need to schedule hearing. With that, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to authorize staff to initiate the proceedings to transfer the jurisdiction of Knott Street to the City of Vernonia. The motion carried unanimously.

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

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(d)(h)(f). Upon coming out of Executive Session, no action was taken by the Board.

WEST LANE ROAD:

Spencer addressed the West Lane Legalization issue. Sue Poling sent Spencer information on the back taxes, which appears to be somewhere between \$3,000 - \$4,000 dollars. The Board felt the right thing to do was to refund the money. Spencer will work with Sue and Dave Hill to prepare the refunds.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 26th day of February, 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