

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

September 9, 2008

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Corsiglia and Commissioner Bernhard together with John Knight, County Counsel, and Linda Waters, Temp. Board Secretary. Commissioner Hyde absent due to Funeral Leave.

Commissioner Corsiglia called the meeting to order.

ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY LEVEL FOR ANIMAL CONTROL:

Jean Ripa, Human Resource Director stated this item is on the agenda because she had been presented with the policy, and the policy itself is not what is up for discussion for the Board today. It is a policy that brings up the question and the need for guidance in the continuation of how you do the enforcement actions. You can have everything from the very hard line law enforcement related to the soft fluffy end and where does the Board wish to be. Some input over time has indicated that the you don't necessarily want to see the Animal Control program to be at the very hard line end of the enforcement function.

Discussion of the current program followed and it has been heading into more of an enforcement function with the animal control officer dressed in a uniform with a badge. The policy proposal that has been submitted would allow the officer to be armed with a taser, to be used against both animal and human. The question is where on the scale do you want your animal control enforcement to fall?

Commissioner Bernhard stated she was a middle of the road type person and does not want to see it so extreme or constricting that it is not effective at all. She has received some complaints and for the most part they were regarding whomever was doing the canvassing for dog licenses who may not have the correct address, and who were trespassing and driving on private driveways. And she was a little leery of the taser idea.

Todd explained that they don't want animal control to be intimidating but do want them to be adequately equipped to enforce the Ordinance. One of the reasons for the Kennel Ordinance so they have clear authority to enforce the State Dog Rules. Discussion was held regarding the safety for employees. The Sheriff's office will not respond on these calls except for the larger livestock calls. There is a need for a moderate policy that doesn't equip the AC officer like a deputy and does not give him the authority to deal with criminal violations other than asking for Sheriff back up. The AC officer would be doing the investigating, licensing, and barking dog complaints.

Jean stated that it is important enough that the officer needs to be trained enough to get

themselves out of a harmful or dangerous situation.

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Discussion followed in regards to the county creating a list of authorized protective devices that can be carried by any of their employees. All agreed that was necessary.

Jean stated what she is hearing from the Board is that the middle of the road approach is the Board's preference. They definitely would like to see a policy on allowable use of protective devices and define how far up they can go and it will probably not include tasers.

Commissioner Corsiglia added with definition and training along with that. Todd stated that they have tried to make an effort to get training for those folks out in the field and including use of the equipment that they currently have. They currently have a standard dog control training program.

Jean commented that after the last little flurry of complaints, she, Todd and Roger came up with a form for Columbia County Animal Control Complaints, which she presented. They would prefer the complaints to be in writing but if you get a phone call, just fill out the form and forward it to Todd's office for further investigation. The County Clerks office receives the most calls because that is where the dogs are licensed. Departments will be furnished with forms and it will be on the Website.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Bernhard stated that before we go into Executive Session she would like to discuss the money machine at the Sheriff's department. We had a visit from a rather upset gentleman who was trying to give his grandson some money and had to pay a \$7 charge to the machine in the Sheriff's Department lobby. Discussion was held regarding the Sheriff's office not accepting money (cash) anymore. The question was asked if there are any other companies around here that would put a machine out there for a lesser cost. Also it was questioned if the Sheriff's office went through an RFP process. It was suggested that we wait until January to discuss this further.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS: 192.660(2)(e),(b),(f) and (h):

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

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

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Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 9th day of September, 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

By: _____
Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____
Linda Waters, Temporary Staff