

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORK SESSION MINUTES

February 25, 2003

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Joe Corsiglia and Commissioner Rita Bernhard, together with Sarah Tyson, Assistant County Counsel, and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary. Commissioner Hyde was not present.

Commissioner Corsiglia called the meeting to order.

BETTY HUSER - ELECTIONS EQUIPMENT:

Betty Huser, County Clerk, came before the Board to request she be allowed to purchase an ES&S 650 voting system for the elections department. She reviewed the purchase proposal. With a trade in of the old machine at \$17,500, the cost would be \$85,000. Annual payments of \$14,425 would be paid over a 7 year period. This would allow for much faster election results. After little discussion, the Board added approval of the purchase on an ES&S 650 voting system on a 7 year contract to the consent agenda.

DAVE HILL - EARTHQUAKE DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN:

Dave Hill, Lonny Welter and John Clouse, came before the Board to review the Road Department Disaster Response Guidelines. Lonny reviewed the map that identifies the ETR's (Emergency Transportation Route) for each district in Columbia County. Procedures have been developed for the road department employees. There are written instructions for the employees so that, even if communications are down, they still know what to do. This will be activated anytime there is an earthquake. Commissioner Corsiglia feels that the Board needs to be included in the notification process. Lonny reviewed what the employees will be doing, such as checking bridges, roads, putting up signage, etc. Dave feels that the Road Department is pretty well prepared in the case of an earthquake. There will be an earthquake exercise held on April 3rd.

JEAN RIPA - DISASTER RECOVERY PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Jean Ripa, John Clouse and Bill Potter, came before the Board for discussion. A committee has been formed of relevant department heads who are beginning the process of developing a Disaster Recovery Plan. Their mission is to identify the county's vital services and establish a plan to enable the County and State Courts to continue essential services to the county citizens and employees. Examples of possible disasters would be computer network sabotage or virus taking down the County data system, fire, earthquake, etc. Jean would ask that the Board formally approve the formation of this committee and appoint the following members: Ruth Baker, Betty Huser, John Clouse, John Knight, Commissioner Corsiglia, Bill Potter, Todd Dugdale, Jean Ripa, Sue Hill, Evelyn Hudson, Lonny Welter and a representative of the Sheriff's office. The Board added this to the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS:

John Knight and Cynthia Zemaitis came before the Board to discuss this. In response to the Richard Thomas issue in Scappoose and the concern for the safety of children, it was suggested that an ordinance be drafted regarding criminal background checks. John met with Commissioner Bernhard, Cliff Multanen and Cynthia Zemaitis to look into this. John went over his findings after review of the statutes. The County may be able to do background checks without an ordinance in place. If not, then an ordinance will need to be adopted. John will know more after additional review of the statutes and information obtained through LEDS. At this point, John would recommend that we don't move forward on an ordinance at this point.

On a separate issue, John explained that Cliff Multanen previously signed an agreement with LEDS and feels that this should be ratified by the Board. The Board agreed and added this to the consent agenda.

FTA 5309 GRANT:

Cynthia Zemaitis is still looking into the need for a Board resolution to apply for the FTA grant. She has no additional information at this point.

UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE:

Some time ago, Cynthia approached the Board about hiring an underground gas storage consultant. Cynthia presented the Board with some information on a consultant and reviewed the proposal. If the Board is comfortable with this, John will draft an agreement for Board review. The Board directed John to move forward with drafting an agreement.

HESTEKIN LIVESTOCK COMPLAINT:

Shawn Barrett, Animal Control Officer, came before the Board to discuss another livestock complaint. Shawn gave some background on this so that the Board is prepared for discussion on this tomorrow. The dog owner did not request a hearing within the amount of time allowed and therefore, the Board has the ability to make a determination on what to do with the dog and monetary penalty. The Hestekin's are the victims in this case and she will be at the Board meeting tomorrow. Shawn then reviewed the facts. There has been two reported incidents. The dog owner has been cited into court, plead guilty and paid fines in the past. He continues to let his dogs run and they have attacked goats. Out of 7 dogs, 4 have already been killed. There are 3 dogs remaining and they are allowed to run. After lengthy discussion and review of the statutes, the Board asked that John prepare some options for the Board to consider tomorrow. Shawn needs to identify all county costs involved with this. Because there has been request for a hearing, no testimony should be taken tomorrow. The Board will make their determination based on information presented by staff.

RECORDS:

Sarah informed the Board that the Morse Bros. application came before the Planning Commission last night. There was an attorney present representing the City of Columbia City and he requested to incorporate, by reference, the record of many past positions on the Reichold property. Sarah told the Planning Commission that the rule is anything that is specifically presented to the Board and not rejected or refused. It is possible to accept something into the record just by incorporation, but Sarah does not recommend that for a couple of reasons. First, we don't know what is all included in that information or if it is even relevant because it is not physically there to review and make that determination. She referred to the massive amount of paperwork this caused during the Lone Star appeal. Sarah believes the Board should require the people to obtain the actual information they want submitted into the record and not simply accept it by incorporation. The Board agreed.

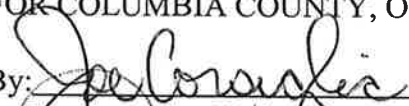
There was no Executive Session held.

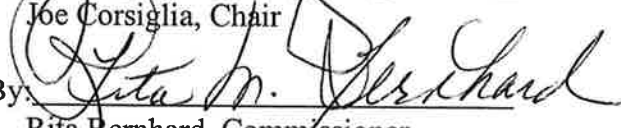
With nothing further coming before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 25th day of February, 2003.

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: 
Joe Corsiglia, Chair

By: 
Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

By: 
Jan Greenhalgh Board Secretary

By: Not Present
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner