

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION

MINUTES

September 23, 2003

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner Rita Bernhard and Commissioner Anthony Hyde, together with John Knight, County Counsel, and Cynthia Zemaitis, Acting Board Secretary.

Commissioner Corsiglia called the meeting to order.

**JUDGE STEVEN REED, GUMBALL MACHINES:**

Judge Reed is here on behalf of the Kiwanis. The person who owns the single gum machine on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor has not paid the fee due the Kiwanis for using their name for years. Judge Reed has tried on several occasions to contact this person to no avail. The Kiwanis now have an agreement with a local gumball guy, Mr. Mitchell, and Judge Reed seeks Board approval to have the current machine removed and replaced with Mr. Mitchell's machine. There would be no competition with either the other vending machines or MTC.

John Knight indicated that, theoretically, someone could challenge the fact that the County didn't go out for a competitive process. If that should happen, we could ask the Kiwanis to remove the machine and put it out for bid.

With some further discussion, the Board agreed to Judge Reed's removing the current machine to Bill Potter's office and put the guy on notice to come and get it, and replacing it with one managed by Mr. Mitchell.

**PHIL DEWEY, COUNTY SURVEYOR - WAGE/FEE INCREASE**

Phil Dewey came before the Board to discuss increasing wages and fees. He has completed a schedule for the payment of services, which will allow him to make a small margin of profit instead of going into the hole as he has for the last several years. Phil indicated that he has talked with John about the three notes on the bottom, and Phil has a lot of research that indicates that this is the way things should be done.

Commissioner Corsiglia brought up the safety issue of the machine Phil is using. Phil agrees it should be thrown away and a new one purchased, which would cost between \$10,000 to \$15,000. Phil feels that the current printer/scanner in the Assessor's office should be in the Surveyor's office to be used daily. He did not feel it should be a cost to the surveyors office or that corner restoration funds could be used to purchase it.

Commissioner Hyde agrees that the Surveyor's office and the Assessor's office should be closer together. Phil stated that he would need the entire Extension office space if he were to move, particularly since the vault he is using is almost full.

The Corner Restoration fees can be used for anything related to the restoration of corner markings. John Knight indicated that, by statute, Phil has discretion on the use of these funds.

Phil stated that the County has gotten by so cheaply in the last 30 years on what it has provided to the Surveyor's office it could consider replacing the machine. He has personally purchased most everything he is using and, if he retires, the office will be all but empty.

John Knight stated that he has looked through the fee schedule and doesn't feel any is out of line with what the other Counties are doing, except for Clatsop County. Phil indicated that Clatsop County is subsidized by the Road Department, so they can charge lower fees.

John Knight pointed out that the surveyor's fees have been the same since 1993. Both Commissioner Bernhard and Commissioner Hyde stated they would like to compare the fees being recommended to those in place since 1993, and asked that the Board be given time to study this.

Phil also mentioned that there is a problem with the lack of handicap access to his office. The door between the two buildings is kept locked all the time, and the several handicap customers that come to his office have to struggle to get there. Commissioners Bernhard and Hyde point out that the door is kept locked for security reasons. Commissioner Hyde stated that perhaps they could approach the Courthouse Security Committee with this issue.

Commissioner Hyde stated that they are attempting to have the trial court clerk's office move into the old Extension space, and will consider moving the surveyor's office into the vacated clerk's space.

This matter was moved to the 10/14/03 work session agenda.

**SALLY JONES, 911 COMMUNICATIONS - 911 LEVY:**

Sally Jones was not present when this discussion began.

John Knight, County Counsel, indicated that the 911 Communications District currently has a 5 year operating levy which expires next year, and will ask the voters to approve a new operating levy at 29¢ per thousand, which is slightly lower than the current rate. The District has sent along a Resolution supporting this levy for the Board's review.

John stated that the statutes prohibit a County employee from spending county time, money or equipment to support a levy. He indicated that the Board can approve the Resolution, but would advise the Board not to direct County staff to rework or otherwise handle the Resolution. John stated that it would be better if, on tomorrow's agenda, the Board moved to support the 911 operating levy on the record and avoid the need for a Resolution. The Board agreed.

Sally Jones joined the meeting after this discussion was held, and apologized. Commissioner Corsiglia explained the Board's decision.

## **RAC PROJECTS**

Paul Jeske, who lives in Salem and is employed with the BLM, is here along with Dave Hill and Lonny Welter. Dana Shuford, the Tillamook manager for BLM, is on his way here.

They held a Resource Advisor Committee meeting in August to review all the recommendations; there is nearly \$1M to expend on projects for all 10 counties. In Columbia County there were six projects requested totaling approximately \$470,065. There was only \$121,000 available, so RAC recommended funding for three of the projects – the NW Oregon Invasive Weed Partnership, the Crown-Zellerbach Stream Crossings, and the Scappoose-Vernonia Road Overlay.

Dana Shuford joins the meeting.

Paul stated that they understood the Board agreed with the three recommended projects. Paul stated that he believed RAC prioritizes each of the projects and then chooses those they feel are most important. They generally try to keep the funds in the County, but if all the funds are not used they would be carried over to another county.

Dave Hill, Roadmaster for Columbia County, is working with RAC on these projects and recommends their approval.

Dana says he has no particular new projects to recommend for next year other than those that were not recommended for this year. The ones he believes have a lot of merit are those that help support partnerships, such as with the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council. He hands out a one-page summary on which those projects are listed.

Commissioner Bernhard indicated that the CZ trail appears to be an ongoing project and wonders if funding needed to complete this project can be added in the future. Commissioner Hyde agreed they can and indicated that this will be the County's focus for the next several years.

Commissioner Corsiglia indicated that the Board is satisfied.

## **CYNTHIA ZEMAITIS – REQUEST TO PURCHASE COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY**

Cynthia Zemaitis, Legal Assistant, came before the Board with ODOT Right-of-Way's request to purchase county-owned property known as Tax Account No. 3201-030-03200. This is a very small piece of property that ODOT needs to complete the work at the intersection of the Scappoose-Vernonia Highway with Hwy 30. Dave Hill recommends this sale move forward; Tom Linhares has agreed the price is reasonable; and Joe Flori has approved the legal description. Cynthia seeks the Board's approval to move forward with this sale, but through a quitclaim deed and not the form warranty deed provided by ODOT.

Commissioner Hyde stated that he is concerned about the potential impact the reconfiguration of this intersection might have on completion of the Linear Trail, and stated that he would like this sale

conditioned upon ODOT's agreement to collaborate with the design work at the end of the trail. With that, the Board approved the sale of this property to ODOT.

**JEAN RIPA – HOLIDAY GIVING POLICY:**

The County has a policy that staff not be involved in soliciting for anything unless a Board order has been approved. An employee has asked that she be allowed to solicit gift giving for Operation Christmas Child, which involves filling shoeboxes with gifts for children. Jean looked into the group and discovered that it supports a religious organization and that Christian literature would be added to each shoebox, and so recommends the Board not approve workplace solicitation. The Board agreed and asked Jean to draft a note of thanks to the employee explaining why the Board cannot approve this solicitation.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Cynthia Zemaitis