

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

March 9, 2004

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

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting to order.

CHIEF CARTOGRAPHER POSITION CHANGES:

Jean Ripa and Sue Poling presented the request from Tom Linhares to reclassify the position of the Chief Cartographer. Several new duties have been added to this position and it has also taken on additional supervisory and management duties. Jean previously conducted a salary survey on this position and feels that with the addition of supervisory duties, it justifies the proposed one range increase. As for the budgetary effects, the cost to the county for a 12 month period would be \$2,242.45. The Board has reviewed this request and feels it is appropriate and added approval to the consent agenda.

PORT WESTWARD UPDATE AND DISCUSSION:

Dave Hill, Public Works Director and Brian Bierwagen of Parametrix, came before the Board to give an update on Port Westward and go over the schedule. To begin, the open house was confirmed for March 18, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. Brian and Dave gave a detailed overview of Phase 1(a) the construction, schedule and budget, moving on to Phase 1(b), the preliminary plans, schedule and budget. Construction plans and specifications should be ready by the end of April. If the grants come through, which they expect to happen, they will be very close to the budget numbers.

SKIP BAKER, CITY OF ST. HELENS - HOSPITAL COALITION:

Skip Baker, City of St. Helens, Brian Burright, CRF&R, Karen Punch, Hospital District, and Ann McConnell, retired nurse were present for discussion. They are here today to present information and ask the Board to refer to the voters the formation of a new Health District with a tax rate to support a Critical Access Hospital. Skip handed the Board an amended feasibility statement. He also presented copies of the resolutions from the cities within the taxing districts allowing their voters to vote on this. Skip went over the boundary map of the taxing districts. The three cities are Scappoose, St. Helens, and Columbia City. Skip explained that they are not here asking for the Board to support this, simply that they refer it to the voters. The Board has before them a draft order initiating the formation of a health district. Commissioner Hyde has reviewed this and has no problem with referring it to the voters. Commissioner Bernhard is in

agreement with sending this to the voters and asked for clarification regarding this Critical Access Hospital being able to provide emergency care on a 24/7 basis. Skip said yes, that would be the case. Commissioner Corsiglia questioned the costs involved. There was an explanation of County covering the costs up front and then, if successful, those funds would be paid back. If it wasn't successful, then the county wouldn't be paid back. There will be costs associated with public hearings and the election.

John Knight had some questions. There is already a health district in place with different boundaries. Could you, by annexation and withdrawal, create the same health district without going through this process. Skip explained that, first, it would take a fair amount to do that and secondly you can't create a new tax rate by doing that. Skip stated that to do a dissolution, you have to announce all of the assets and liabilities. That document is in the process of being completed now. The Health District Board did vote to allow the dissolution and is providing the necessary paperwork to complete at dissolution process, however, that is contingent upon the successful vote on forming a new district. John feels the two are tied together and, since there is time, perhaps the Commissioners should wait to see what the dissolution process would involve. Skip stated that the dissolution process is a separate process done by the current Board of Directors and they have to meet the requirements, this Board does not have to meet those requirements. The risk is that if the dissolution is successful, if it's not successful, then sending it to the voters would have no meaning. John stated that, by statute, the county does play a roll in the dissolution process and may want to know what they're looking at. Another question is some language in the statute that states that one district can't perform the duties of another district if there is already in place performing those duties. He doesn't know if that prevents the County from putting the creation of this health district on the ballot. John asked if legal counsel has looked at this. Skip stated that the Health District Board has already approved the dissolution contingent upon the new district, so it would be simultaneous. They do not overlap. After discussion, the matter was held over to allow John time to meet with the other attorney's involved.

JERRY SIMMONS - DEPUTY STATION IN COURTHOUSE:

Jerry Simmons, Sheriff's Office, approached the Board to talk about the deputy station. With the coffee vendor leaving, he would like to request that the deputy station be moved to that location. This is for the safety of the deputies and it would also provide some security for the computer room. The Board felt that Bill Potter should be involved in this discussion and suggested that Jerry contact Bill about this request.

JOE FLORI - FEE ORDER CHANGE:

Joe Flori stated that the current fee schedule does not include some particular data in the Assessor's office that is outside of that schedule and he feels that the county should be recouping

their costs. Jean explained that the fee schedule says that we can duplicate information onto a CD for someone, we charge \$10 per CD and \$20 for employee time. That works for regular documents, but it doesn't work for things like plats and surveys. This doesn't reflect the actual cost. The Assessor's office has received a request for the partition plats. Tom wanted to charge \$250 which he considered a reasonable fee because of all the work that goes into producing it. Under the current fee order, that \$250 cannot be charged. The request before the Board is to allow the production of this item to be charged at that amount. Sarah explained that this would need to be done by order changing the fee schedule to add this. Commissioner Hyde asked if Joe has checked with other counties to see what they charge. Joe stated that he has not, but when he quoted this figure to the person requesting the information, they felt the cost was cheap. The Board suggested that Joe contact other counties to see what they are charging so there is some justification for this.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(1)(d)(b) & (h):

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(1)(d)(b) and (h). Upon coming out of Executive Session, no action was taken by the Board.

RID TASK FORCE ISSUES:

John expressed some concerns with the by-laws and the Board agreed that some changes should be made to the language. With that, this item was carried over to the Board meeting to allow John Knight time to make some changes.

SUPPORT OF 911 COMMUNICATIONS:

John recommended that support not be done by Board order, rather just add some language of support to the consent agenda. Jan will check to see what was done last year and add it to the consent agenda.

COURTHOUSE PARKING:

Discussion was held on the issues surrounding the issues of the lack of parking at the courthouse during jury selection days. Commissioner Corsiglia stated this is only two days per month and asked what could be done to change the situation for those two days. Commissioner Bernhard feels that people need to be made aware that there is a parking lot behind St. Vincent's. Maybe a solution would be to suggest holding jury selections later than 8:30 a.m. Commissioner Hyde disagreed and felt the employees simply need to deal with it. Jurors are giving up their time to serve on jury duty and should be able to park at the courthouse. Commissioner Bernhard will send out an e-mail to all employees informing them that there is parking behind St. Vincent's on

jury selection days. Commissioner Corsiglia suggested Jean put a reminder on the monthly newsletter calendars.

WEED CONTROL:

The Board received a letter from Cindy Ball, Columbia Soil & Water Conservation District requesting support in establishing a County Weed Board. The county no longer has a Noxious Weed Ordinance and the CSWCD has observed the proliferation of some weed species now listed on the State Noxious Weed List. Commissioner Bernhard suggested this be scheduled for the next work session.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

John Knight spoke with Jean Palmetaer, ODOT, who was fine with John leasing a car to the Scappoose Seniors, at their cost. John gave the car to Julie Stevens this morning. It will be at their cost, gas, maintenance, insurance, etc. There is no cost to the county at all. He asked Julie to keep track of their trips, so they can use them in the overall county totals. John also talked with Jean about the possibility of buying out ODOT's security interest in one of the cars to donate it to the Vernonia Senior Center. She suggested, as an alternative, that we lease a car to the Vernonia Center for \$1. John told her of his concerns that ODOT defunded COLCO because they weren't up to the administrative task of keeping track of it, although most of the problem was with 5311 dollars, not elderly and disabled transportation. Jean then suggested that maybe we could get the Scappoose Seniors to run it for them. John doesn't feel that would go over to well with Metro West in the Vernonia area. Eventually, John would like to ask Metro West if they would assist the Vernonia Senior Center in the paperwork. John will explore that and then we wouldn't have to spend the \$5,000 to \$6,000 to buy out the state's interest in the vehicle. Jean is thrilled about the logo idea that Henry was proposing for the van and he promised to send her copies. He also asked Jean if the state could release it's interest in one of the vans so that Metro West could use it for recreation trips. Jean said that might be a possibility, but we aren't prohibited from using the vans for recreational purposes as long as we aren't disrupting any normal schedules. If it is after hours and weekends and open to the general public. Jean has been very flexible and John will be exploring this also.

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

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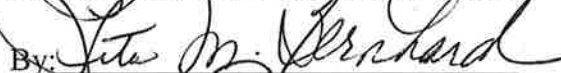
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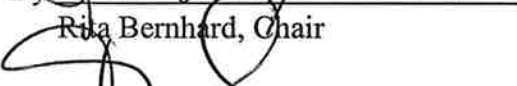
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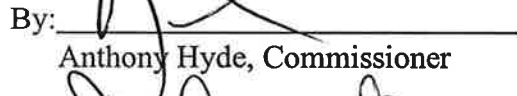
Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 9th day of March, 2004.

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

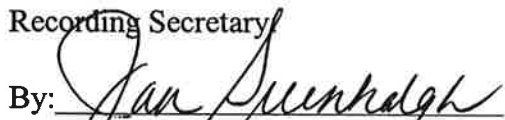
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: 
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: 
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

Recording Secretary

By: 
Jan Greenhalgh