

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

March 23, 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.

STAFFING IN FINANCE & TAXATION OFFICE:

Jean Ripa and Ruth Baker approached the Board. Jean gave some background on the staffing in the Finance & Taxation office. Ruth has taken over the Treasurer's duties with no additional personnel. At this time, Ruth is requesting the half time person in her department be increased to a full time position. Ruth explained that she needs some relief in her department because if the essential job duties are not performed, it will reflect in the audit. Jean noted that the County is saving \$80,000 with the elimination of the Treasurer's position. The cost for this position would be an approximate \$30,000 increase to her budget. After discussion, the Board added approval to the consent agenda.

CLEAN UP OF COUNTY ROADS AND PARKS:

Phil Derby and Jim Stewart approached the Board to discuss the work crew situation. Phil explained that with the contract with Aramark, they are required to have so many inmates working in the kitchen and it is difficult to use them for road cleanup. Further, they don't have a deputy to oversee the program. Jim stated that community service workers are being used 5-6 days per week, but not specifically for road cleanup. Jim gave some examples of the work they are performing and where. Commissioner Hyde suggested that Jim Stewart make contact with Robert Crain, the Code Enforcement Officer, to coordinate information. Discussion was held on the money going into the Sheriff's budget to pay for clean up. The Board suggested that Phil Derby, Jim Stewart, Dave Hill and Robert Crain meet to coordinate efforts and discuss the funding issues.

Robert Crain noted that he did issue a \$500 citation for the illegal dumping on Cater Road.

AGREEMENT WITH SHERIFF POSSE:

Commissioner Bernhard brought up the issue of the posse using one of the buildings at the Jail and the Red Cross is also storing things in there. There were some concerns as to whether or not the county is covered if something happens to the Red Cross items. This is something that needs to be looked into along with the agreement to see if changes are needed. Sarah stated that the

agreement with the posse is not signed yet. She drafted an agreement some time ago and sent it to the Sheriff for review. She has not yet received it back. Sarah spoke with Jim Gibson about the Red Cross lease. The County received a lease form from the Red Cross, but hasn't signed it yet because the format is incorrect. Sarah will work with the Sheriff on both of these items.

BLAHA ROAD:

Dave Hill, Public Works Director, came before the Board to discuss Blaha Road. The first quarter mile of Blaha Road is paved but a 1/4 mile section is gravel. The question is how do we get the gravel section oil matted. Dave has established a policy to ask the residents along the road to pay for the materials. To oil mat this section would be about \$4,600. There are 27 homes on this road so the cost per home owner would be about \$170 per home. With 27 property owners, it may be difficult to collect this and not all may be willing to pay. The county has scheduled some major chip seal projects for this year and the county may just want to include this road. Commissioner Corsiglia asked about an LID process. Sarah stated that the County could possibly initiate an LID on its own and that it doesn't have to be by petition of the residents. She stated that this is a local access road and the county cannot spend money on a local access road without making findings that it is in the public's best interest. However, there is a petition pending from 60% of the property owners that needs to be dealt with. To do an LID, the process would have to be followed as outlined in the statutes, unless the property owners withdraw the petition. The Board needs to decide if they are willing to spend county dollars on this or not. Commissioner Hyde feels that it will only cost about \$4,600 and we'll spend that much on attorney fees. Why not just do it and bill the owners. If they pay, they pay. Dave suggested sending a letter to all owners, once we get 70% of the cost, the road improvements will be scheduled. There is still a petition pending so perhaps a hearing should be held. After discussion, the Board directed Dave to work with Sarah on this to decide the best way to handle the situation.

SALE OF SPRAGUE PROPERTY:

Cynthia Zemaitis updated the Board on the Sprague property. She stated that the property line adjustment has been completed and she has received a check from Dan Nielsen, the adjoining property owner. She has prepared an order for the Board to approve the sale of this lot to Dan Nielsen. The Board added this to the consent agenda.

OFFER TO PURCHASE TAX #3224-023-01700:

Cynthia Zemaitis presented an offer to purchase county owned property known as Tax Account #3224-023-01700 from Scott Sylvester. She received a check in the amount of \$486, representing the offer of \$441, and the \$45 recording fee. The current assessed value is \$440. Although this property has not previously been placed for auction, given that the lot is not

buildable and has an assessed value of less than \$5,000, the county is free to sell the property by private sale. Cynthia would recommend that the Board authorize her to publish Notice of Private Sale in both the Chronicle and the Spotlight and send a copy of the notice to the two adjoining property owners. If at the end of the required 15 day period, no higher offers are received, she will then ask that the Board approve the sale to the Sylvester's for \$441. After discussion, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to authorize Cynthia Zemaitis to publish Notice of Private Sale in both the Chronicle and Spotlight and send a copy of the Notice to the two adjoining property owners. The motion carried unanimously.

OFFER TO PURCHASE TAX ACCOUNT #4104-013-06800:

Cynthia Zemaitis presented an offer from K&B Ventures, LLC to purchase county owned property known as Tax Account #4104-013-06800. This parcel was offered for sale at the October 2002 auction with a minimum bid set of \$24,000 and letters were sent to the adjoining property owners and no bids were received. The County may now sell this property without any further notice, for a price no less than 15 percent of the minimum bid or \$3,600. K&B have offered \$4,000. The Board now needs to decide whether or not to accept this offer. Because the land is zoned commercial and may be buildable, the Board rejected the offer at this time and directed Cynthia to do more research and perhaps do a site visit.

REQUEST TO SUPPORT COUNTY WEED BOARD:

Margaret Magruder, Soil Water & Conservation District, was present for discussion. The Board received a letter from the CSWCD requesting support to establish a County Weed Board. The SWCD talked about this at length at their last meeting and there was consensus that they didn't want to have any enforcement authority, this is more of an outreach and education project. With the blessing of the County Commissioners and participation of the county, it would help them access grant funding to do some projects. Commissioner Hyde stated that they are currently funding a weed cessation program through Title II monies. Margaret stated that they have formed a mutually organized group with the Road Department, Watershed Councils, Department of Fish & Wildlife and other agencies who are interested in this and called it the Invasive Weed Partnership. This partnership is participating in the regional partnership that is funded by RAC. Margaret is here today to simply ask for a letter from the Board supporting their efforts. The Board agreed to support this.

CLATSKANIE GROUP TO DISCUSS PORT WESTWARD:

Preston Polasek, Ron Bussey, Chip Wiesenmayer approached the Board. Preston first wanted to thank the County for all they have done to this point and the leadership of Commissioner Hyde in getting this project going. Without that leadership, we wouldn't have a Port Westward. They are here today to talk about one improvement that isn't getting the attention that they feel it needs.

Back in November, the City of Clatskanie sent a letter to the County summarizing all their requests for design improvements they felt were needed in the city regarding Phase 1(b). This was a result of hearings before their Planning Commission and city council. Basically, all of those issues are being taken care of except for one improvement that they feel is very important, which is the signal at Van Street and Highway 30. They are here today to see if they can get, through the Urban Renewal, those improvements paid for and committed to so they can plan on those improvements and regulate their development effectively. They would like to have this particular intersection as part of the URP and some commitment that those improvements are going to be made, if not immediately, hopefully in the near future. Commissioner Hyde stated that the light and turn lanes are part of the Urban Renewal Plan that they all passed through a series of public hearings and it is clearly articulated in the plan. There was a suggestion made at the recent town hall meeting, that at least a turn lane be put in to address the traffic congestion. Commissioner Hyde was informed by Dave Hill, after that meeting, that a turn lane will cost over \$1 million. The turn lane recently completed on the hill cost \$1.2 million. This doesn't mean we are not going to do the intersection. It is clearly articulated in the plan that they can and will put signalization at Highway 30 and Van Street. Two issues that are stopping them at this point are that ODOT hasn't given them the go ahead to do that and second, is where are we going to get the money. Preston understands they are on the verge of getting approval by ODOT for the signal based on the development pressures in the area as well as a look at making that truck route safe. Dave Hill stated that the consultant was asked to look into what preliminary estimated costs would be for a turn lane. Commissioner Hyde stated that even if ODOT holds back their authorization for the signal, we can still go forward with the turn lane once the money is there. Commissioner Hyde reiterated that the signalization is in the plan, it's just a matter of funding it.

Commissioner Hyde stated that the Sheriff is present because of a proposal from the City of Clatskanie for law enforcement. Preston explained that, in connection with Port Westward, the city is trying to come up with funding and justification for an additional officer. One idea is, through an IGA, the city could take over the patrol and profit responsibilities along the route to Port Westward. The city could then write all the tickets into justice court and the county would get a flat amount. Together, the city and county would share in those traffic enforcement revenues and help support an additional officer. Preston asked if that was something the county may want to pursue.

Sheriff Derby responded. He has been in law enforcement for over 30 years and he does not feel it is appropriate to fund an officer from ticket revenues.

APPOINTMENT TO PARKS COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Corsiglia asked that this be on the agenda for the possible appointment of Kathy Taylor to the Parks Committee. Commissioner Bernhard commented that there is no

representation on the Parks Committee from either Clatskanie or Scappoose. She would like to advertise for potential applicants from these areas before making any more appointments. She referred to the current Park Ordinance which requires this. The Board agreed.

BOB CANTINE - ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES:

Bob Cantine, Executive Director for the Association of Oregon Counties, came before the Board. He is retiring in June and wanted to visit with all the counties before he retires. He talked about the Leadership Education Project which is designed to assist Commissioners in building stronger relationships with legislators and insure their understanding of the connection between the state and counties. Bob ended with saying that he has enjoyed working with everyone over the years.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 23rd 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