

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

April 13, 2004

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Rita Bernhard and Commissioner Anthony Hyde, together with John Knight, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary. Commissioner Corsiglia was not present.

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting to order.

COUNTY WATERFRONT PROPERTIES:

Cynthia Zemaitis began with Tax Account #7404-010-01300. She has received several calls from Ted and Beverly Bush, claiming this property has been in the family for 100 years and didn't understand how the County gained ownership. The county foreclosed on this property in 2002. She noted that the county also foreclosed on Tax Lots 600 and 700. They have requested that they be allowed to purchase #01300 back from the County for the back taxes of \$500. She explained that the county rarely, if ever, sells waterfront property, as river access for the public is scarce and valuable. The Bush's responded that the only way to reach this spot of land is by going over their land. Originally, the Bush's claim they wanted the property back to fish off of and build a small dock. However, in my latest conversation with Ted Bush, he indicated that they were going to sell their property next year and this piece would increase its value. Cynthia needs direction from the Board on how to proceed.

Commissioner Hyde asked about Tax Lots 600 and 700. Cynthia said they have not asked about that, but believes if they knew that belongs to the county, they would also be asking for that back because that property also belonged to them. Tax Lot #01300 is just a very small piece and wonders if the Bush's are aware of that or believe they are asking for all of it. The Board suggested that Cynthia check with them first before taking any action on this.

The second waterfront property is Tax Account #8431-020-00600. Cynthia explained that a Mr. Dale Leino came to the office about a problem developing on a parcel of county-owned property fronting on Wallace Slough. Mr. Leino owns property farther down the road. According to Mr. Leino, the Herber's, who also owns property there, are kicking fishermen off the county owned property, claiming it belongs to them. This is a favorite fishing spot for the locals and Mr. Leino asked if there is anything the county can do to protect the access to this property for the fishermen. The county foreclosed on this property back in 1965. Cynthia located a survey that was done back in 1947. Cynthia suggested having Dave Reynolds go out to the property to locate the corners. Commissioner Hyde stated that the county could post signs that this is public property and open to public access, however, until we know where the corners are, it would be hard to post. Cynthia was directed to contact Dave Reynolds to locate the corners.

DAVE SAHAGIAN - SCAPPOOSE BAY WATERSHED COUNCIL:

Dave Sahagian, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, came before the Board to give an annual update on projects they have done over the last year. The SBWC continued its mission of supporting the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds by serving as a source of information about the watershed and by coordinating restoration and enhancement efforts among watershed stakeholders. The council's activities in 2003 included restoration and enhancement, data gathering, community education and outreach, fundraising, and partnering with watershed stakeholders. Dave then gave a brief summary of the number of projects done in 2003. Dave noted that from the time of the it's formation in 1997, the SBWC has received over \$1,000,000 in grant funding and over \$600,000 in matching funds. Research shows that for every dollar spent on restoration projects, 80 cents stays in local communities with a multiplier ranging from \$1.68 to \$2.50. Based on these figures, the positive economic impact of watershed restoration investments in the SBW is between \$2,150,000 and \$3,200,000.

COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Bernhard asked for this to be on the agenda for some discussion. A committee was formed some time ago, but are not meeting anymore and haven't for some time. Perhaps it is time to reactivate it. However, Commissioner Bernhard doesn't see the need for the great number of members on this committee. Commissioner Hyde agreed. The Board directed Janet to work on this to development a focus and a list of potential members.

RESOLUTION #23-2004, INITIATING THE FORMATION OF A HEALTH DISTRICT:

John Knight has drafted a resolution initiating the formation of the health district. Prior to recommending that the Board adopt this resolution, John wanted to review all of the documents received. At this time, John would recommend the Board initiate the formation by adopting the resolution. He noted that the resolution is a draft and he will be making some changes to it, one being the change in title to just "Columbia Health District", as opposed to "Columbia **County** Health District". There is another issue that needs discussion with regards to repayment of election costs. The county is covered in case the election is unsuccessful however the IGA is not adopted yet, but there is still time to do that. If they don't agree to the IGA, then the Board can make the decision to not go ahead with this. John reviewed the statutes, which are somewhat confusing. The Health District has voted that, if the election is unsuccessful, they will pay the costs. We can ask them to also pay the cost if it is successful. Because of the number of issues that will be on the ballot, discussion was held on what the district would pay. Although the district is not required to pay the costs, if they agree to it by IGA, that is good enough for the Board. John noted that this does not need to hold up the approval of the resolution tomorrow because that simply initiates the proceedings. After discussion on a possible hearing date, the date was set for June 2, 2004. Resolution No. 23-2004 was added to the consent agenda.

GARBAGE ALONG HWY 30 AFTER CONCERTS:

Commissioner Bernhard spoke with Lowell McGregor regarding the concerts and the amount of garbage left along the highway. Lowell suggested that some language be added to the agreement, where Double T will be responsible for the garbage pickup along Hwy 30 after each concert. John will contact Lowell about this.

There was no Executive Session held.


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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 13th day of April, 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

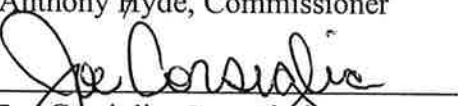
By:


Rita Bernhard, Chair

By:

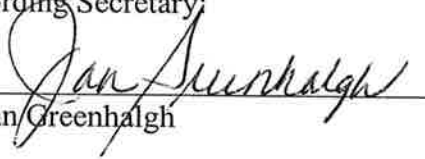

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By:


Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By:


Jan Greenhalgh