

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

June 8, 2004

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

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting to order.

DEER HILL ROAD WEIGHT LIMIT REQUEST:

Dave Hill, Public Works Director, came before the Board to discuss the request to place a weight limit on Deer Hill Road. This road is a local access road, located off of Lost Creek Road. It is a public road under the jurisdiction of the County, but not maintained by the Road Department. Mr. Barnes has asked that a weight limit be put on the roadways because he is concerned that log trucks from the adjacent property will damage the road and then the residents in the subdivision will be required to pay for the repairs. He has also indicated that they will be logging in the area sometime soon. To Dave's knowledge, this is the only access to adjacent timberland and a weight limit on this road would certainly impact any harvest of timber in the area. The subdivision is completely built out (approximately 27 homes). This is an older subdivision with a chip-sealed road, which is in relatively good shape. Dave agrees that heavy truck traffic would most likely cause damage to the road. Therefore, he would recommend that he be authorized to post and enforce a 25 ton weight limit on this roadway. Although this may impact the harvest, this would not restrict the trucks from using this road, but anything over 25 tons, they would need to get a permit from the Road Department and they would be responsible for any damage done to the road. After discussion, the Board directed Sarah to prepare an order for approval.

ROAD WORK ON 4TH STREET IN COLUMBIA CITY:

Commissioner Bernhard received a call from a property owner, Mr. Biggs, regarding the road construction on 4th Street in Columbia City. There are safety concerns and Mr. Biggs wants to see the full road be more than 20 feet wide where the homes are located. Dave explained the situation. The City of St. Helens is building a treatment plant at the end of the 4th Street. The City of Columbia city limits are on one side, the City of St. Helens city limits are on the other side, with a county road separating the two. Dave referred to a map to explain the situation. Dave's professional opinion is that a wider road is not necessary and the current plan will not create a traffic hazard. Both cities have agreed to this and it should therefore be left up to the City of St. Helens Planning Commission. If the property owners had any problems with this, they should have appealed the decision made by the Planning Commission.

PROPOSED ASSESSMENT & TAXATION SYSTEM:

Ruth Baker and Sue Poling approached the Board to discuss the proposal for a new A&T computer system. Sue presented some information on the proposal and the costs. Sue spoke with Dennis Day, Polk County Assessor, regarding the Oregon Counties Assessment and Taxation System (ORCATS) software. This system is owned by Polk County and was developed for Oregon. Currently, Umatilla and Jefferson counties are "in line" to switch to this system in the next two years. Because of this, no other counties will be able to purchase this system until at least 2006. Although the funding is not yet available, it is important to make a commitment now for a purchase 2 to 3 years from now. Sue went over the alternatives, which are not very good.

Ruth feels the benefit of using this system is that four other counties are already using this system and it is made for Oregon. We wouldn't have to pay for the system until we receive it, however, they need a written commitment for us to get in line.

Jean Ripa explained how the new system in the Clerk's office was set up to support this new system, however additional IT support will be needed.

The Board feels there is really no choice in the matter because it is obvious that a new system is necessary. Sue will contact Dennis Day to see what they need for a commitment.

APPOINT ADA COORDINATOR:

Jean Ripa explained that the County Personnel Rules already covers this and she has returned the completed form.

SETTLEMENT ON THEFT OF MINI-CARTS & TRAILER:

This matter was covered in Executive Session.

CELLULAR PHONES:

Commissioner Hyde asked for an analysis on cell phone usage from General Services about a year ago. The two departments with the most usage is the Sheriff's Department and LDS. Commissioner Hyde stated that one county uses the "either/or" method. He will put something together for discussion at a later date.

JEAN RIPA ITEMS:

Jean wanted to confirm that the Board will allow the LA Weight Loss program to come to the county for their program. The County would provide a room, allow the use of county e-mail. Employees could attend these meetings on their lunch hour. There is no cost to the county. The Board agreed.

Regarding the COLA freeze to non-union employees, who will be sending out the letter, the Board or Jean. The Board directed Jean to send out the letter.

There has been another request to use the county e-mail for a Cancer Walk. Jean stated that there are a number of these types of requests and she would recommend this type of use be limited. Jean would suggest that this recent request be denied because it may conflict with the County Picnic requests for donations.

AMENDED CDBG GRANT:

Commissioner Bernhard received an amendment to the CDBG grant application for the Columbia County Family Resource Center from CAT. The new amount requested is \$500,000. After little discussion, approval was added to the consent agenda.

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

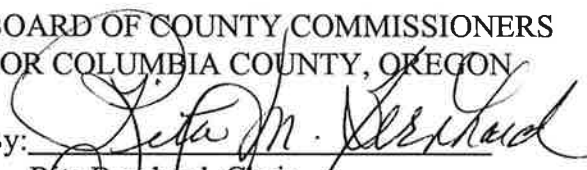
The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(1)(d)(h). Upon coming out of Executive Session, no action was taken by the Board.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 8th of June, 2004.

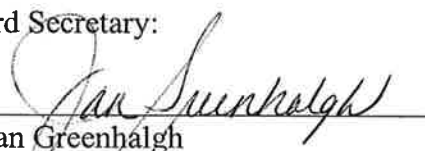
NOTE: A tape of this meeting is available for purchase by the public or interested parties.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: 
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: Not Present
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

Board Secretary:
By: 
Jan Greenhalgh