

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

July 27, 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.

JUSTICE COURT ISSUES:

Rod McLean, Justice Court Judge, approached the Board to discuss issues regarding the Justice court. The State Police are writing all their citations into Circuit Court. The County is writing citations 3 to 1 into Circuit Court. A lot of these citations should be going through the Justice Court system. Only felonies are required to go through Circuit Court. Because of this, the county is losing revenue and a portion of this revenue goes into the Courthouse Security Fund. He asked if the Board had any authority to direct the Sheriff to have the deputies start sending these citations through the Justice Court. The Board explained that the Sheriff is an elected official and the Board has no authority over him. However, the Board will look into this and mention this to the Sheriff.

HIRING PROCESS FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Jean Ripa, Human Resources Director, came before the Board to discuss the hiring process for the Emergency Management Director. She gave each Board member a copy of the updated job description. Commissioner Hyde has had some discussions with outside agencies, i.e., fire, police, cities, etc. to discuss this position and the new direction it will be taking. He would like to see a panel made up from these various agencies for the interview process. It was noted that the actual hire may not take place until at least October because of the lack of funding. Commissioner Hyde suggested adding this to the upcoming City/County meeting agenda. Some discussion was held on the actual interview process. Jean asked the Board to review the job description and determine if they want to require 3 years experience in emergency management. Commissioner Hyde suggested, and the Board agreed, to change the language to simply say "experience in emergency management". After discussion, Jean was directed to work with Commissioner Hyde on the hiring process.

REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS TO COMPLETE ACCESS APPROACHES:

Sarah Tyson briefly reviewed the previous discussion held on the access approach permits. She has a stack of appeal forms that have been received to date. The property owners are requesting a 60 day extension of time to complete the work. Sarah has prepared letters to be sent out and recommended two motions for the Board to approve. With that, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to deny the appeals made by Chris Campbell, Ken Hunt, Aaron Meyers, Michael Shaw, Paul Vandor and Sandy Elander, Brad Blackburn, Dan and Lisa Carpenter,

Robert Caldwell, Richard and Carolyn Townsend, David Welch, Bernard Temple, Gary Nelson, R.C. Smith and Daniel Horness, but to grant an extension of time in which to complete the access approaches for 60 days to avoid forfeiture, and to authorize the Chair to sign the letter. The motion carried unanimously.

Further, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to ratify the denial of appeals by Ray and Linda O'Harra, Tim and Paula Bronleewe, Dean Harper and Louis Jones, but grant a 60 day extension of time in which to complete the access and avoid the forfeiture. The motion carried unanimously.

Sarah stated that all of the appeals received so far have been under the 1991 ordinance. Under the 1998 ordinance, the people are actually entitled to an appeal hearing. She is working with Roger and Jan to compile these appeals and a hearing will be scheduled for all of them at one time.

INTEREST IN TAX ACCOUNT #5128-042-00900:

Cynthia Zemaitis, Paralegal/Natural Resources Administrator, came before the Board to discuss the sale of Tax Account No. 5128-042-00900. The Board previously approved the sale of this property to the Cooks, adjoining property owners. When Cynthia published the Notice of Private Sale, she was contacted by Leahnette Rivers, Columbia City City Manager. Columbia City is preparing to replace the "L" Street bridge over the railroad tracks and believes the city may have a need for this property. She asked that the County hold off on selling the property until their preliminary report is drawn up in mid-September and they will know better at that time. Mr. Cook is upset by the idea that the county might sell, or give, the property to Columbia City. There are large, old trees on this property which act as a buffer between the Cook property and the tracks. He does not want the trees cut down. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was to take no action on selling the property at this time. The Board directed Cynthia to return Mr. Cook's check and advise him that the County will wait until the City of Columbia has completed their preliminary engineering report before making a final decision. The letter should also advise Mr. Cook that the county will do what it can to ensure that the trees on the property are protected.

AGREEMENT WITH NORTHERN RESOURCE CONSULTING - HUDSON PARK:

Janet Wright came before the Board to review the agreement with Northern Resource Consulting. This is for the soil and equipment testing at Hudson Parcher Park due to the suspected drug lab. The cost for this testing is \$2,667.00. Sarah stated that the Parks Department intends to go after the suspects for this cost, although it is doubtful the county will recoup any of it. Sarah has prepared a contract and would recommend approval. This was added to the consent agenda.

TREASURER'S BOND FOR EDA GRANT:

Sarah Tyson - the County recently received a large EDA grant for work out at Port Westward. One of the requirements for this grant is that the person at the county responsible for the EDA funds be bonded. Sarah reviewed the details. After discussion, Commissioner Hyde moved and

Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to authorize the County to increase the Treasurer's bond to the amount of \$300,000 for the duration of the project. The motion carried unanimously.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR LIBRARY:

Commissioner Bernhard received a letter from Terry Washburn, St. Helens Library, requesting a letter of support on an application for a second-year Library Services and Technology Act grant. This is the same grant they applied for last year, which the Board supported. After little discussion, the Board agreed by consensus to send a letter of support.

SUPPORT OPPOSITION OF BALLOT MEASURE 34:

Commissioner Hyde received a request from Commissioner Tim Josi, Tillamook County asking for support in opposing Ballot Measure 34. If passed, this would have devastating effects on not only Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook counties, but the entire State. The Board directed that the attached resolution be added to the consent agenda for approval.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(1)(h) - PENDING LITIGATION:

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(1)(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 27th of July, 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

Board Secretary:

By: 

Jan Greenhalgh