

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION
July 26, 2005

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

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting to order.

GEORGE LAMMI / O.K. CREEK SURFACE MINE – CLOSURE ORDER:

Todd Dugdale, Director of Land Development Services, Robert Crain, Code Enforcement Officer, and Sarah Tyson, Assistant County Counsel, were here to update the Board on the status of the Lammi closure order. Sarah indicated that this matter was on tomorrow's agenda for deliberations. She had a conversation with Mr. Lammi last week, who wanted to update the Board about his contact with DEQ, who informed him they would not be able to inspect the property for four to six weeks. Sarah informed Lammi the record was closed and, for the Board to consider any additional information, he would have to ask the Board to re-open the record. Commissioner Bernhard asked that, if they approve the closure order, can Mr. Lammi still get what he needs to by doing what he is supposed to do. Todd stated all that would need to be done is to lift the closure order. Robert confirmed that Mr. Lammi's only violation is failure to obtain an NPDES permit. Todd indicated that Mr. Lammi was also in violation of submitting reports and paying the fees, but has got that taken care of. Discussion ensued on how to get this information of payment into the record.

ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM:

Todd Dugdale and Robert Crain then updated the Board about the changes to the animal control program. Since LDS took over the program on July 1 there has been one challenge after another, and they are doing their best. The former animal control officer resigned and recruitment is under way. In the interim, trying to keep this program together without an animal control officer and one of the kennel workers quitting, has been the biggest challenge. Robert contacted Washington County who graciously agreed to allow one of their animal control officers to fill in on her days off, which are Monday and Tuesday. They have hired Roger Kadell on a temporary basis, who is also an applicant for the position, who works on some of the other days. They may extend by a couple of hours the work of the Washington County officer. They are also recruiting for the animal control specialist and two kennel worker positions, half-time. Robert stated that, when we lost the animal control officer we also lost the certifications, like the one needed for euthanasia. Washington County, in the interim, will contract our animals who need to be put down and do the cremation. Robert would recommend getting away from euthanasia and the crematorium, which is falling apart. If the old crematorium were removed, the space could be revamped to allow additional kennel space. Robert discovered two electrical wires at the rear of the property out in the open and a safety hazard; Maintenance will be repairing this soon. The roof needs to be re-roofed or "snow sealed". The other main areas of concern are safety issues ... trip hazards and the like. He would like to see if jail crews are available to sand the bumps back down to concrete. The Board directed him to proceed.

Todd indicated that the grounds are in shabby shape, and Robert has talked with the community service work crew who have agreed to help out. Todd indicated there are three vehicles, but one needs to be disposed of properly. They are going to not only have to operate the animal control vehicle, but a vehicle to transport animals to Washington County. Robert showed the Board some pictures of an animal control vehicle which would serve our purposes. Todd indicates some savings will be realized in this interim period to offset expenses. The price of the vehicle is \$8000 and with shipping it will be closer to \$11,000. Todd says they will be looking for cost saving measures throughout the program, and they intend to start an aggressive dog licensing campaign.

Todd stated that he believes we need to seriously look at some of the services that have been provided and determine whether to carry that forward. Specifically, taking in cats is one area that should be looked at. Robert indicated that cats are not licensed and there is no room to show the cats, so most of them will end up euthanized. Livestock is another issue, with the old officer handling livestock calls, generally, after hours. Commissioner Hyde indicated that if the animal control office doesn't handle it, the sheriff's office will have to. Robert stated that, until this agency gets into making some profit, this responsibility should go to the sheriff's office. Once the agency is built back up, they can look at taking this up again. Another area that should go to law enforcement is the criminal investigation aspect of animal abuse, etc. Wildlife calls should go to OSP or the ODFW; in the past, we responded to bears, cougars, raccoons, etc.

Finally, Todd indicated they are reviewing the fees, fines, etc., and will be coming to the Board with suggestions on increasing these. Robert is researching the programs in other Counties and finds that Columbia County's services are lacking. He will report more on this in the future. Tony indicated that he feels they are on the right track, and need to communicate with the Sheriff's office. He also agrees that not dealing with cats is probably best, but the public will need to be made aware. Robert indicated he intends to have alternatives available to help people who have problems with cats.

OREGON ROAD RALLY:

Vicki Harguth, Director of Emergency Management, and Dave Hill, Public Works Director, came before the Board to discuss the impact of the Oregon Road Rally event in Vernonia. The Rally submitted a deposit of \$2,500. Dave has put together a tally of hours spent pre-event and post-event, including gravel and grading costs. The total fees for labor and materials comes to \$4,700. He has provided a copy of the photos of the roads. Dave was surprised that there wasn't as much damage this year. Staff time on this project adds up to \$1,304. There was some displacement of the gravel. Dave would like to recover the administrative costs from the deposit, and use the rest to fix the roads. If this was to happen next year, with the Rally using the same road, he would like to let them know there will be a fee to be paid up front and after the rally the Road Department will put ten loads of gravel out there, rather than having to go through the administrative time of monitoring this whole process. If the Rally was to again ask to use Schaffer Road, which is well maintained by the County, then a different approach would need to be taken. He would recommend that the Rally be informed that, for this year, the administrative costs will be recovered and they have the option of putting the remaining deposit toward 10 loads of gravel or re-gravel themselves. Vicki will call Mr. Nagel and set up a meeting to discuss this. Dave stated that, at the meeting, he will tell them they need to be more pro-active in advance before any other rallies.

BRIAN GREY, MORSE BROS

Mr. Grey wanted to address the Board with regard to the letter to the editor regarding the concerts, and he will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow when this is being discussed. Mr. Grey would ask that before any decisions are made, there be a round-table meeting of all involved parties. In talking with Lowell MacGregor, getting rid of one concert could jeopardize the whole series. Commissioner Bernhard stated that she certainly is willing to hold off a decision until a meeting can be held. She has talked with local merchants, who have indicated there definitely is some economic benefit. She does not want to be in the position of having to censor concerts, and they should give it a lot of thought before making a decision. Mr. Grey agrees. Joe questions whether Lowell or MBI will be responding to this letter. Morse Bros. will not be responding to the letter to the editor. They feels that, over-all, the concerts have been a great benefit to the community. Commissioner Bernhard stated she has suggested to Lowell that there might some sort of disclaimer about the use of this type of language. Mr. Grey stated that Lowell has indicated he wanted to respond. Commissioner Hyde indicated that he has talked with some of the people who have supported the ideas expressed in the letter and they were all under the impression that the property was owned by the County. Mr. Grey indicated that Lowell really values and needs community support and is willing to work for it.

Commissioner Hyde agrees that there needs to be a meeting of the central players before any decision is made. Commissioner Corsiglia stated that the concerts have been a benefit to the local businesses, but the particular concert being complained of has raised the thermometer of a lot of people much higher than the other concerts. He is not ready to cancel the entire concert series, but he is ready to cancel the Warped Tour. He disagrees that there have not been any problems with the concerts. Commissioner Bernhard stated that she doesn't believe there have been any significant problems with the concerts in the last four years. In defense of Lowell, Mr. Grey indicated that he has been working very closely with several County departments. Morse Bros. does not get a dollar from the concerts; the only reason they are doing it is for the community. If the community should start feeling differently, Morse Bros. would likely go the other way.

Commissioner Corsiglia indicated that he believes the folks he has talked to have certain standards, and they are fearful of the standards being brought into the County by the Warped Tour. He stated that the citizens tend to blame the commissioners for what ever goes wrong, and would like to see someone respond to that letter. Vicki Harguth, Emergency Management Director, stated she has attended the two concerts held so far, and was impressed by how professionally they were run, and she commends Lowell for his responsive to the County's concerns. Commissioner Corsiglia stated that he feels the parties need to weed out the problems and show the public that they care about their concerns.

CONTRACT WITH PAUL VOGEL d/b/a VOGEL COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Hyde stated that he wanted to bring the parties together to talk about this project. Present were Phil Derby, Sheriff; Sgt. Jim Carpenter; Dean Bolan of Intercept Research; and Ted Grove, Circuit Judge. Sarah Tyson, Assistant County Counsel, advised the Board about the status of contract negotiations with Paul Vogel, who is being retained to provide assistance to the County and the Sheriff's Office in addressing the expected challenges facing a new Sheriff's levy. Commissioner Hyde asked Mr. Vogel to come due to the different levels of communications and expectations with regard

to the Vogel contract. Commissioner Corsiglia indicated that he is concerned about the time frame, and is disappointed they weren't able to take advantage of the County Fair to promote the sheriff's levy. Mr. Vogel agreed the time issue is a problem, but believes when time is short there is no time to make mistakes, to try something, and if it doesn't work, try something else. He would argue things need to happen quickly, but believes his assistance will still be valuable. He feels strongly about doing research, and especially due to the time frame. Mr. Bolan agreed that the research is necessary, and stated it can be completed in 7 to 10 days. It would be a random sample of the County's registered voters, 5% or 400 people. They have drafted a questionnaire, which needs to be finalized, but Mr. Bolan believes they can have results by the Board's meeting on August 10.

Ted Grove stated that going to the Attorney General's office and DHS to tell them they need to fund the people needed in juvenile matters will be unsuccessful. Judge Grove feels there is a large group of people involved in children's issues, including CASA, which contains a larger number of people and has a very influential Board. He believes these groups feel very strongly about addressing this problem and are willing to do whatever they can to assist in a successful levy. Commissioner Hyde has heard from Mr. Vogel, Commissioner Corsiglia and others that adding a deputy district attorney may cause the levy to fail, so he believes the survey should address this as well. Judge Grove stated that the need is for 1/2 to a 3/4 prosecutor, estimated to cost about \$150,000. A 3/4 prosecutor would be ideal, and given the current cuts from the legislature, the D.A. cannot fund this position any longer. Commissioner Corsiglia stated that he believes that increasing it to 40 cents per \$1,000 will kill the levy. To answer Commissioner Corsiglia's question, Mr. Bolan stated that the survey contains several questions about meth. Commissioner Hyde believes it will result in valuable information.

Judge Grove indicated that the D.A. appears in only 10 percent of delinquency cases, and makes no appearance in dependency matters. He believes the survey can couch the question about juvenile justice. The overriding problem is methamphetamine in both juvenile dependency and delinquency matters. Mr. Bolan believes questions pertaining to the juvenile issue can be added to the survey in a general fashion.

Mr. Vogel indicated that if they could get started tonight, they can have some preliminary results back by the end of next week.

The Board agreed that they will recess the work session on August 9 and reconvene at 2:00 at the Sheriff's Office to meet with the consultants and the focus group to go over the results of the survey and plan the course to follow to make this successful.

The Board recessed and reconvened shortly after 1:00 p.m.

METRO WEST'S TEMPORARY OFFICE ACCOMMODATIONS:

Janet Wright, Staff Assistant and coordinator of Columbia County Rider, came before the Board to discuss the temporary office space requested by Metro West. After inspecting the suggested site for this office at the old Parks Department space, Henry Heimuller has some requests. The first is adding a light to shine on the area where the vehicles will be parked. Janet has requested that some night lights and/or a fence be installed. Another request was to have the air conditioning fixed and the holes in the

bathroom walls fixed. Commissioner Bernhard stated that she thinks the Board authorized Janet and Bill Potter to proceed to prepare this space. Janet believes the fencing would consist of a panel or two with razor wire, and believes it can be rented. Janet confirmed that there is no budget for this type of thing, and she needs direction on where the money would come from. Commissioner Corsiglia suggested talking with the City about getting some lighting added to Oregon Street.

Commissioner Hyde directed Janet to do whatever it takes to get the light installed, and to check on the cost of fencing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(1)(I) - PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

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

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

The Board came out of executive session at 1:45, and immediately went back into executive session as allowed under ORS 1292.660(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 26th of July, 2005.

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

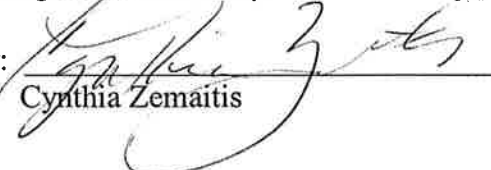
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: 
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

By: 
Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

Acting Board Secretary:

By: 
Cynthia Zemaitis