

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

August 23, 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 Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting to order.

TRANSFER STATION - OFF SITE IMPROVEMENTS:

Todd Dugdale, LDS Director, came before the Board to give an update on the off-site improvements for the Transfer Station, which includes the rail crossing. Commissioner Hyde understood that the City of St. Helens was going to take over Railroad Avenue once it was brought up to city standards. Dave explained that there are still some concerns on their part with the railroad crossing. They said they would take ownership if there was a second overlay done, which the Road Department did, however they had questions about the quality of the overlay. Extension testing was done on the overlay and no problems were found. Commissioner Corsiglia feels this issue needs to be resolved soon.

Todd gave the Board a packet of information and reviewed the off-site improvements to be done, i.e. utility construction on Railroad Avenue, sewer lines, water line replacement. There are two scenarios here for opening. We could open in November because the site construction would be complete, but the off-site construction wouldn't be. Given the pros and cons of the traffic considerations and waiting until all off-site construction is done, it may be better to open in January. Some discussion was held on the Red Line tavern using the right-of-way for parking and what is being done to resolve that issue. Todd went over the traffic impact study and presented some traffic control features that they felt would address some safety issues at the intersection and also maintain an acceptable level of service through opening of the station and beyond. Todd will continue to keep the Board informed.

ANIMAL CONTROL ISSUES:

Todd Dugdale and Robert Crain came before the Board to discuss some Animal Control issues. Todd presented an agreement, which has not be reviewed yet, with Washington County to provide euthanasia and cremation services for animal control. The current crematorium is old and inefficient for a variety of reasons. Most important is that it has to be watched the entire time it's in use, which is 3-4 hours, because the heat can't go over or under certain temperatures. Robert has checked on prices for a new one, and they range from \$35,000 - \$60,000 installed. Robert feels that it would be much cheaper to contract with Washington County until something else can be done. After discussion, the Board authorized Todd to move forward with the contract with Washington County. After discussion, the Board instructed Todd to have County Counsel review the contract with Washington County prior to any Board action.

While still in attendance, Robert wanted to discuss dog licensing penalties. He is asking that the Board raise the fines on citations issued to citizens who fail to license their dogs within Columbia County. Currently, it is more beneficial for an individual to not license their animals because the citation and fines are so low. Robert is recommending that bail is \$500 for each violation per day. His goal here is not to cause punitive damages to those who are licensing their dogs, it is those who are going past the system and not licensing their dogs. They would be fined \$500 after one warning. In reviewing the records, he believes there are approximately 5,000 dogs licensed within the county, but 7,000 to 8,000 not licensed. That is a large amount of money that could be coming into the county. The current citation amount is not working. Some discussion was held on micro chipping the animals and the benefits of doing this. As for the \$500 fine, Robert feels that January 31st would be a good time to implement it. If approved, he would put out press releases to inform the public. The Board authorized Robert to move forward with increasing the fine to \$500.

Another issue is a canopy for the Animal Control vehicle. There is a new truck for Animal Control, but no canopy equipment, which doesn't allow for catching dogs. Unfortunately, there are only a few manufacturers throughout the nation that manufacture these. Robert has checked and there is only one canopy made that will fit the Ford Ranger. Hopefully, with more dogs licensed, it will pay for the canopy. At this time, Robert would ask that the Board approve the allocation of \$12,500. The Board approved.

KENDRA MORGAN - WEED CONTROL PROGRAM:

Kendra Morgan, Columbia Soil & Water Conservation District, approached the Board along with Margaret Magruder and Dan McClain, all here presenting the Columbia Invasive Weed Control Partnership. Kendra provided the Board information to review. The partnership was formed in 2004 with the objective to provide a comprehensive and county-wide approach to invasive weed management. The information presented includes a list of all partners. The organization is made up of voluntary representatives from state, federal and local agencies, as well as members from the private sector. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is providing a lot of technical assistance. The Partnership is trying to avoid the problem of different agencies doing the same work. The Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District is proposing the activation of a county weed management agency. They are aware of the resource limitations that led to the termination of the County Weed Board and have adjusted their goals accordingly. The objective of the proposed agency is to provide education and technical assistance to local landowners. Where possible, the agency would connect local landowners with potential funding sources. Due to their unique role of providing assistance through voluntary compliance, they do not desire to provide enforcement. The CSWCD and local Watershed Councils have acquired funding through the State for limited work on controlling selected invasive weeds. With that said, Kendra is asking that the CSWCD be designated as the County Weed Management Agency and has prepared a letter for Board signature. After discussion, Commissioner Hyde stated that the Board will look at this and review it with County Counsel before any decision is made.

ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS FOR TAX PAYMENTS IN 2005:

Ruth Baker, Finance & Taxation: The Oregon Association of County Tax Collectors have discussed

the process of accepting e-checks and credit cards for tax payments. Most counties are looking to accept this method of payment this year or next. Ruth has met with two companies regarding this: BankServ and Official Payment Corporation (OPC). While BankServ is less expensive than OPC, 2.35% on credit card transactions versus 2.5%, they are limited to two credit cards. OPC accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express. For this reason, she would recommend that we proceed in setting up Official Payment Corporation to be our processing agent. There would be no cost to the County because convenience fees are paid by the user. IT is willing to set up a computer station at the tax counter to allow people to use it to pay their taxes, however, this is only a link to another site. Ruth is requesting the Board approve the agreement OPC, after review by County Counsel. The Board authorized Ruth to move forward with this.

REPLACING PATROL VEHICLE:

Sgt. Jim Carpenter came before the Board to request the Board approve the replacement of a patrol vehicle that was involved in an accident and totaled by the insurance company. They will pay off a total of \$3,000, with a \$500 deductible and charge \$300 to allow us to buy back the car. The radio alone is worth \$600, so it is cost effective to buy back the vehicle. Jim presented a proposal for a newer vehicle and the Board authorized him to move forward with the purchase of the newer vehicle.

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

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(1)(h)(d). 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 23rd of August, 2005.

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

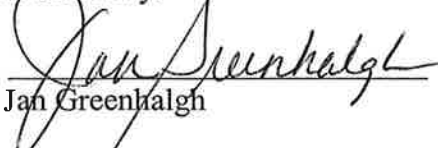
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: 
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

By: 
Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

Board Secretary:

By: 
Jan Greenhalgh