

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

November 22, 2005

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Anthony Hyde, Commissioner Joe Corsiglia and Commissioner Rita Bernhard, together with John Knight, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting to order.

TRANSIT/PCC REQUEST:

Janet Wright discussed the proposal to get transit services to the PCC Rock Creek campus. She spoke with a David Goldberg, a PCC representative, who stated that an analysis would need to be done. He asked if the County could do a community survey to justify the need, then he would have something to take to his Board. The question was asked who would pay for the survey. Commissioner Hyde feels that if PCC wants a survey, they can do it and bear the cost. The county continues to get the run-around on this issue and it is very frustrating.

REQUEST TO DISPOSE OF UNUSED TRANSIT VEHICLES:

Janet Wright presented some information to the Board on three unused transit vehicles, which have all passed their useful life. Because the vehicles are not being used, it makes sense to sell them and put the money to use on another vehicle or other transportation related project. She noted that all of these vehicles are valued at below Blue Book. At this point, Janet is requesting authorization to dispose of these vehicles and offer them for purchase by other county departments prior to public sale of the vehicles. After some discussion, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to authorize Janet Wright to move forward with negotiations to dispose of the three unused transit vehicles. The motion carried.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE (2) USED CATERPILLAR IT'S FROM LANE COUNTY:

Dave Hill, Public Works Director, and Terry Miller, Shop Supervisor and resident equipment expert were present. Dave submitted some information to the Board to summarize his request to purchase (2) used Caterpillar IT's from Lane County. The equipment is in very good shape. The cost is \$135,000 and there is money in the Road Department budget to purchase these vehicles. After discussion, Commissioner Corsiglia moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to authorize staff to prepare an IGA with Lane County for the purchase of (2) used Caterpillar IT's, not to exceed to \$135,000. The motion carried unanimously.

COMPENSATION FOR NEW COUNTY SURVEYOR:

John Knight stated that the Board recently appointed Jerry Keenon as the County Surveyor, however, his compensation needs to be determined. Jean Ripa presented two proposals to the Board and

reviewed both. The preference by the Board is to put Jerry on the payroll. John Knight feels that it should be a salaried position, not an hourly rate and explained why. The Board agreed and with that, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to offer Jerry Keenon a minimum flat payment of \$500 per month plus an hourly rate of \$26 for actual hours he works each month, with a maximum payment of \$5,000 each month. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYGRA - PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST:

John Knight explained that the District Attorney overturned the decision John made on the public records request from Tammy Maygra. After a brief explanation, John would recommend that the Board not appeal the decision by Steve Atchison. The Board agreed.

JUDGE GROVE AND OTHERS:

Judge Grove and several members of the public were present to discuss a crisis in the Juvenile Dependency arena. The Judges received information from the District Attorney last summer that, due to funding issues, he would have to discontinue prosecuting juvenile dependency petitions. The DA believes that is a State function and was not able to continue funding it. Since that time, Judge Grove has spoken with the District Attorney and Commissioner Hyde, the Budget Officer. The DA has discontinued representation of his office at the dependency matters as of August. It took about one month for the problems to fully develop. At the first jurisdictional hearing, there was no one there to proceed with the representation on the petition and so the matter had to be dismissed. Judge Grove explained how these cases come about and the normal procedure that is followed. The DA agreed to help out until the levy vote. When it didn't pass, he agreed to help until December 31, 2005. At that time, it is his intention to no longer handle these matters. At this point, Judge Grove wants to know if there is any emergency funding that could be made available to provide a 3/4 time Deputy DA from 1/1/06 through 6/30/06.

Commissioner Corsiglia feels there are a number of things that need to be looked at but doesn't see how the Board could make any commitment today.

Commissioner Hyde explained that AOC fought hard on this issue during the past legislative session. We knew it was out there; we told the state and we told the ways and means chairs, in particular Kurt Schrader, who for some reason has a complete disregard for the District Attorney's Office in general. Not only did they not continue current funding for the District Attorney's Office, they cut funding for the District Attorney's Office, while increasing funding for indigent defense, which creates a very lop-sided situation. We told them these are state functions and that Board rooms all across the state are going to be full of people expecting the county to pick up the slack for the State. Essentially, the State is balancing the budget on the backs of the county citizens.

Commissioner Bernhard understands there are concerns about many of the services that have been cut. The Board understands the need and is sympathetic, however, it is very difficult for the County, because we don't have the funding to take up the slack.

Commissioner Hyde feels the first line of defense is to get some legislators i.e., Senator Johnson and Brad Witt to represent us in an E-Board situation and let them know how important this is and ask them if they will accompany and represent us with the E-Board for some interim funding. He will contact Senator Johnson and then get a hold of Judge Grove.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(1)(d) - BARGAINING:

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

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

The Board immediately recessed the regular session to go back 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 22nd of November, 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