

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

February 14, 2006

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

Commissioner Corsiglia called the meeting to order.

FEE CHANGES TO ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM:

Todd Dugdale, LDS Director, Robert Crain and Roger Kadell, came before the Board to discuss the Animal Control program. After review of the program, staff is recommending the addition of some fee categories and changes. Roger went over the proposed changes, some of which have not been changed in years. He did not increase the licensing fee because he would rather have compliance than writing a lot of citations. Roger explained the purpose of the increases, i.e., gas costs, shots, disposal, etc. The euthanizing fee is going up from \$45 to \$65 for dogs that they know need to be euthanized. Roger noted that these fees are generally lower than most other places. He noted that there is the possibility of a waiver of fees if someone simply cannot afford it, however, waivers need to be approved by the Board. He discussed the issue of responding to complaints regarding livestock at large, which can be time consuming, with no compensation. Roger is recommending that the Board adopt an order establishing a \$75 call out fee for all after hours call out response by the Animal Control Officer, to include livestock at large. After review of the fees, the Board agreed with the changes and added approval to the consent agenda.

ENFORCEMENT OF DEPLETION FEE PROGRAM AND AUDITS:

Todd Dugdale and Robert Crain were present for discussion. The last audit on several mining operations who were delinquent in depletion fee reporting and/or payment recovered \$30,000 in fees, penalties and interest, which was a net collection, over audit expenses, of over \$20,000. Staff would like to discuss an "audit lottery" process for determining how and when future audits are conducted. He explained how that process would work. All surface mine permits would be placed in a hopper each year and then blindly draw three mines to be audited for that year. However, Robert noted that there is a problem with the language in the existing ordinance which states that the county "**shall perform an audit**". Robert suggested that the language be changed to say that if we demand the audit, we pay for it, but if they cause an audit, the mining company shall pay for the audit. Commissioner Hyde would not support a change at this time only because there are a number of other changes that need to be made to the Depletion Fee ordinance and he can't see going through the whole process for one change. The Board stated that, under the existing ordinance, Robert would still have the ability to do a lottery type audit. The Board suggested that Robert take this to the Surface Mining Committee to discuss the mandatory audit language in the ordinance.

RELOCATION OF VA SERVICES:

Katie Harris, VA Services and Rocky Johnson, Community Action Team were present for the discussion on the possibility of moving VA Services from their existing site at the Road Department to the CAT location off of Columbia Blvd. Commissioner Bernhard had previously talked with Rocky about the possibility of this move. Rocky handed the Board their annual report which explains all their services. They currently serve veterans through other services and feels this move would fit into their program. CAT would need to do an analysis and then it would be taken to their Board for discussion. Commissioner Hyde explained that there are two issues here for CAT to consider, housing the VA Services and also contracting directly for VA services. Rocky stated that would be something for CAT to look at. The Board will get Rocky a copy of the current contract with Washington County to review. There is also the funding issue for VA services. Katie informed the Board that there will be a request taken to the voters to use 1% of lottery dollars to help fund VA Services.

ORDER NO. 13-2006 - LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT LEVY:

John Knight has drafted a ballot title, resolution and explanatory statement based on discussions with the Board last week. He received comments from Jean Ripa that should be discussed, which deals with Patrol Deputies. He wants to be sure of the number of deputies before anything is sent out. We still have a month before the deadline, but it still needs to be reviewed by the Sheriff. John will send an e-mail to the Sheriff asking for comments and request that he be present at the 2/28/06 work session.

SURVEYOR ORDINANCE:

John Knight has drafted an ordinance that would provide for a referral to the voters to change the Surveyor from an elected position to an appointed position. John checked with other counties that have tried this, some successful, some not. John explained that March 9th is the deadline for filing, should anyone want to file for the position. Because of that possibility, John would suggest waiting until after that date to proceed with the ordinance process. Jean would suggest that the ordinance not be so rigid that changes could not be made, should they be needed in the future. The Board agreed that it should be kept simple. After discussion, the Board agreed to hold over further discussion to the 2/28/06 work session.

CHAPMAN LANDING DEED:

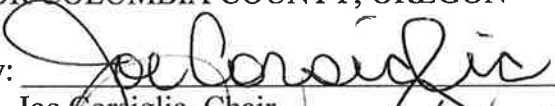
John reviewed the deed with the Port of St. Helens on Chapman Landing. As the Board will recall, the county contributed \$50,000 and in exchange were supposed to get a bike path. The City of Scappoose contributed around \$95,000 in exchange for a road and the Port was supposed to get Chapman Landing. Scappoose got its road, but the County hasn't got the bike path. The Port wants to give the County Chapman Landing, but if we fail to use it for park purposes, the language provides that the Port will get the property back. John can live with the language because of the county's intent to use this for recreational purposes. Unless the Board has any changes in this document, John will take it to the Port's attorney and then bring it back before the Board.


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

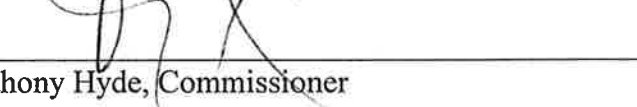
Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 14th day of February, 2006.


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: 
Joe Corsiglia, Chair

By: 
Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

By: 
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

Board Secretary:
By: 
Jan Greenhalgh