

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

July 25, 2006

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

Commissioner Corsiglia called the meeting to order.

REQUEST TO CREATE PARKS SUPERVISOR POSITION:

Dave Hill, Public Works Director, reviewed his request to approve the creation of a Parks Supervisor position. This was discussed and approved during the budget process. The Board added approval to the consent agenda.

PROPOSED GATE ON COUNTY ROAD (MEISSNER RADIO SITE):

Dave Hill, along with Steve Watson of Columbia 911, came before the Board to address the need to place a gate across Lookout Road, a county road, specifically to reduce unauthorized public access to critical public safety radio site communications equipment and facilities. This radio site serves Columbia 911 Communications, County Road Department, Emergency Management. The site also houses critical voice communications equipment for the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Rainier School District and ARES/RACES amateur radio group. This is basically a security need because it has long been the location for late night parties and illegal dumping.

Commissioner Corsiglia brought up the issue of astronomers that may use that site and asked that there be some flexibility to work with legitimate users, however, he is not opposed to having a gate there. Discussion was also held on the posting of sign(s) warning of the gate.

Sarah stated that a Board order would need to be drafted to approve the gate on a county road and will work with Dave to prepare that order.

VAN STREET ROAD IMPROVEMENTS:

Dave Hill and Brian Bierwagen came before the Board to address the Van Street road improvements. Brian and his staff have looked at how to best make the improvements to Van Street and are wrapping up some of the right-of-way issues. Overall, we've got probably three or four appraisals that need to be finalized. The Evenson's, whose property is at the corner of Nehalem and 5th have requested the signal be removed and some modifications to the curb line, so that's been done. We need to show them the plan and they'll sign off. The owners of the Lavender Farm have requested a letter from the County stating that they are not precluded from developing in the future on the easement. These issues are being taken care of. The project is going well with the exception of a couple of parcels, the Poysky and Trask properties on Van & 5th Street. Mr. Poysky has

stopped all negotiations on his parcel at this point. Brian has re-designed the project to hopefully eliminate the need for a taking on the Poysky site. Basically, Mr. Poysky does not want the sidewalk and wants at least two accesses.

Brian then addressed the turning radius for trucks at the intersection of 5th. Originally, it was going to be a 50 foot radius, but that put the trucks just over the corner of the Poysky property, so they looked at reducing it down to 45 feet. When Dave asked about the turn movements for all trucks, they ran some different scenarios. At 45 feet, they won't be able to make the turn without moving into the adjacent lane of traffic.

Commissioner Bernhard stated that problem happened on Highway 30 when they widened it at Gable Road. The trucks had a problem making that turn so they had to tear it out and re-do it a few years later. We don't want to go there with this road. Dave believes that a truck and tanker, which is probably typical of what Cascade Grain will have, could make it on the 45-foot radius and not impact the Poysky property. Basically, truckers know how to drive and if they see another truck coming, they wait for them and then go into the other lane to make the turn. At this point, Dave doesn't know if they should continue negotiations with Poysky or if we just do what Brian suggests.

Commissioner Hyde feels we're dancing around a safety issue because some guy has a grudge against the city. We're talking about less than 1/50th of an acre. Basically, if he is not willing to negotiate, then we take it. Commissioner Corsiglia doesn't object to the taking, but will it complicate the time line. Dave understands that once the condemnation process is started, you can go ahead and do your work. Then you go through the process and figure out how much it's worth later. Commissioner Hyde feels the bottom line is safety. It's a very small piece of property and we don't need to create a safety hazard. Sarah suggested this discussion take place in Executive Session.

Brian then addressed the parcel on the other side of Van Street on 5th. There is a discrepancy on who owns the 20-foot strip of right-of-way. That used to be the old railroad right-of-way and the county surveyor doesn't feel there's enough information to make a decision as to if it's public or not. So his ruling is that it's part of the Trask property. So we only have actually a 30-foot strip in here that's public and the whole railroad right-of-way is non-public. Brian stated that they are negotiating with Trask Family Trust and feels they can come to terms with him on the 20 foot strip of land. In exchange, the county would pave in front of their building where they have their log trucks, which would be about a 40 x 200 foot strip of asphalt. We would do a 3" overlay with some grading, probably \$8,000 to \$10,000 dollars. By the time you figure the cost of appraisal, etc., this would be much cheaper. Commissioner Bernhard feels we need to make it clear to the public that this is what we're doing and why we're doing it.

MONTHLY UPDATE ON HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Vicki Harguth was not present.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:

Todd Dugdale, LDS Director, went over his memo regarding appointments to the Planning Commission. Todd is recommending that current alternate, Benita Saatvedt, be appointed to fill the regular member position vacated by Liese Katterman, term to expire on 12/31/2008. The Board discussed the appointment of Gayle Lee to replace Peter Brewer's position.

After discussion, the Board added the appointment of Benita Saatvedt and Gayle Lee to the Planning Commission on the consent agenda and directed staff to re-advertise for Planning Commission members.

BUTTERFIELD ROAD ISSUE:

There will be neighbors on and around Butterfield Road attending the Board meeting tomorrow to discuss a three day motorcycle run/concert. When complaining about the noise, the neighbors were told by the Sheriff's office that the Commissioners had approved permits for this event. That did not happen. The Board asked that Todd, Sarah and the Sheriff's office determine what type of permits that are required for this type of venue and who approved this one. They would like that information by tomorrow for the 10:00 am Board meeting.

NEW SWCD STAFF INTRODUCTIONS:

Bill Eagle, SWCD, came before the Board to introduce Scott Gall and Janet Crop who are replacing Kendra and Anna in the local SWCD office. The Board welcomed both.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(1)(h) - 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.

HERMO ROAD PROJECT AT PORT WESTWARD:

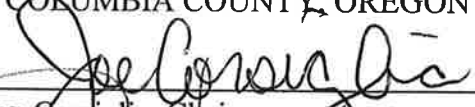
Dave Hill talked about the Hermo Road project, which is Phase 2 of the road access to Port Westward. The biggest piece of this is going to be the environmental piece and to determine what type of permits and review from the Corp of Engineers and DSL will be required so Dave has given Parametrix notice to proceed on that piece of it. However, he has not given them the notice to proceed for the actual engineering of the road and explained why. The Board will need to let him know if and when to do that.


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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 25th day of July, 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