

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION  
February 27, 2007

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

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting to order.

**EMPG WORK PLAN:**

Vicki Harguth, Emergency Management Director, was present to discuss the EMPG work plan. Financial and technical assistance is provided through FEMA's Emergency Management Performance Grant. The county has until September 30, 2007 to complete the list of items on the plan. Vicki went through the required activities in the plan that need to be completed and what she is doing to accomplish these. The Board will need to approve and sign this work plan so she can get it back by March 16<sup>th</sup>. The Board added approval to the consent agenda.

**ANIMAL CONTROL/HUMANE SOCIETY OPERATING HOURS:**

Todd Dugdale, LDS Director and Lisa Bush, with the Humane Society, was present to give an update. When this was previously discussed, the Board directed staff to meet with the Humane Society to work out the issues raised by the Animal Control Officer. The Humane Society Board is requesting the public shelter hours of 7 days per week, with hours at 11:00 to 5:00 pm. Staff met with the Humane Society and found that this proposal is acceptable. Todd noted that the lease agreement with the Humane Society requires that the Board of Commissioners approve the changes in public shelter hours. The Humane Society would like to implement these changes in mid to late March when they can fill their vacant office manager position. After little discussion, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve the change in the Humane Society hours to 7 days a week 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

**RUTH METZ - LIBRARY DISTRICT:**

Ruth Metz of Ruth Metz Associates, came before the Board to give a briefing of the North Coast Library District Feasibility Study, the 2006 survey report and the next steps needed to move forward. With her is Terry Washburn, Director of the St. Helens Library, and Steve Johnson, with the NW Survey and Data Service in Eugene, who will report on the survey. Ruth gave some background on this project and processes taken to get to this point. This district would include Clatsop and Columbia Counties. Terry applied for and received a grant for a survey to determine public interest and to see if the citizens were willing to pay for it.

Steven Johnson went over the results of the survey. Residents of the county generally think libraries are an important community asset and want library services expanded and improved. The majority of the residents are supportive of the idea of a special library district if it would improve library services. The level of support for a \$0.65 tax rate is 47%. Steve feels that a campaign that focuses

on new services that are highly supported by the county residents and at the same time emphasizes the community-wide benefits of libraries might well succeed. After discussion on many of the details, Commissioner Hyde personally cannot support a levy at this time because of current funding issues, but would support the gathering of information. Commissioner Bernhard and Commissioner Corsiglia agreed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(e)(h):**

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(e)(h). Upon coming out of Executive Session, no action was taken by the Board.

**BILLING FROM LANE COUNTY ON SAFETY NET:**

Commissioner Hyde addressed the billing from Lane County to pay our portion of attorney costs for the work on the Secure Rural Schools funding. He would like to wait on this until he can report back to the Board when he returns from Washington, D.C. The Board agreed.

**MEASURE 37 CLAIM PROCESS:**

Todd Dugdale, LDS Director talked about the process for Measure 37 Claims. Sarah handed the Board a copy of the existing policy for handling M37 claims. Looking at 5 M37 claims per week until May. Todd displayed the process for pre-December 4<sup>th</sup> claims and post-December 4<sup>th</sup> claims. Staff is recommending that Todd be authorized to make administrative decisions which would be ratified by the Board. Asking for Board input. Commissioner Corsiglia asked about the appeal process and how that would work. Commissioner Bernhard would prefer to have it under discussion instead of consent agenda. Sarah explained that it would just be for claims where staff is recommending approval. On recommendations for denial, the claimant would be notified and give the opportunity to request a hearing before the Board, however, the neighboring property owners would only be allowed to comment, but not request a hearing. After discussion, the Board agreed to authorize Todd to make administrative decisions on approvals, but the Board would continue to hear denials in Executive Session.

Todd then went over the process for post-December 4<sup>th</sup> claims which is a lot more time consuming and costly for the claimant.

Sarah stated that she will provide further information regarding amending the process, so the Board can review it prior to taking any action.

**SECURITY ISSUES:**

Commissioner Hyde discussed the concerns expressed from the employees with safety issues concerning certain disorderly citizens coming into the courthouse. Steps need to be taken to help alleviate the problems. Employees badges must be worn at all times. This issue should also be taken to the Safety Committee and Courthouse Security Committee. It is becoming more frequent and the safety concerns need to be addressed.

**CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT - CASCADE GRAIN:**

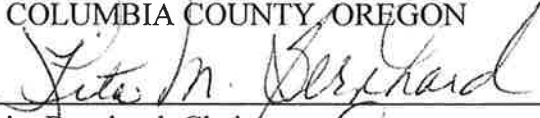
Sarah explained that Cascade Grain is trying to get their financing set up and is wanting the county to sign the consent to assignment. Sarah needs to go over this because of the number of concerns she has with the assignment as written. She has no problem with the assignment, however she would like authority to redraft the one received prior to any Board action. The Board agreed.

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

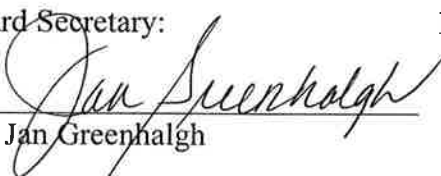
Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2007.

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:   
Rita Bernhard, Chair

By:   
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

Board Secretary:  
By:   
Jan Greenhalgh

By:   
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner