

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

March 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.

**DAVE JOHNSON - OREGON FORESTRY DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Dave Johnson, Mike Simeck and Bob Gustafson, with the Oregon Department of Forestry, came before the Board to give an annual update on the forestry program and revenue projections. Bob started by going over the revenue projections and amounts to be dispersed to Columbia County - \$1.3 million for this year (FY 07) and up to \$1.4 next year (FY 08). He noted that these are only projections. The revenue distributed to Columbia County over the last 10 years (1997-2006) is \$8.9 million.

Commissioner Hyde talked about the serious condition of our county roads and the effect of logging trucks, etc. on the roads. Mike stated that before a logging operation starts, the Oregon Department of Forestry is supposed to be notified 15 days in advance of the operation. That information can be shared with the County if that would help. Commissioner Hyde agreed it would and stated that the Board will be holding a round table discussion with truckers and loggers this Thursday evening and that it might be helpful to have someone from ODF present. Mike offered to attend that meeting on Thursday. Mike then gave a brief update on the "Community Welfare Fire Protection Plan" and the action plan to put this into effect. The plan should be complete this year and will be formally presented to the Board.

Dave Johnson handed the Board an ODF newsletter with information on the Governor's recommendation for crafting a community forestry initiative.

**PATRICK CUNNINGHAM - EXECUTIVE SESSION STATUS:**

A few weeks back, the Board of Commissioner's adopted an Executive Session policy, which included an application process for those who felt they should be allowed to attend Executive Sessions. Patrick Cunningham has submitted his paperwork and is here to discuss that.

John Knight has reviewed the information Mr. Cunningham submitted to establish his credentials as part of the news media. John went over the criteria in the policy and how Mr. Cunningham may or may not comply with it. Basically, he feels that Mr. Cunningham may qualify however it is up to the Board to decide.

**Patrick Cunningham, 15734 Riverfront Road, Clatskanie:** He feels the Clatskanie Chief paper said it best in that, a reporters job when going to an Executive Session is not revealing what transpires other than activities that transgress against the rules for Executive Session. In the same article, Debbie from the Chief stated that Patrick's activities and the materials he generated were supportive in her covering of the story and aided her in its accuracy. He cooperates with the other newspapers, and not just the local ones, several of which were not on the list. Commissioner Hyde stated that the list was not exclusive and wasn't meant to be. It was just the ones that regularly attend the meetings. Patrick stated that he is in the news business because he realized that there is only one newspaper in his area. His articles are lighthearted but it announces subjects and gets information out to the public. Commissioner Hyde has no issues with Mr. Cunningham attending the Executive Sessions. After discussion, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the Lower Gorgeous News Agency, Patrick Cunningham as a representative to attend Executive Sessions. Commissioner Corsiglia abstained based on the fact that he believes this entire process is unconstitutional. He isn't opposed to Patrick Cunningham being in the session, because there is hardly anyone he would be opposed to being in session we're attacking. We are attacking who we are letting into the session, when what we should be doing is writing a policy that has teeth in it that deals with people who breach the session, which is not what we are doing. His view is that we have had the Spotlight and the Chronicle, over the years, breach and we do nothing about it and continue to allow them to come in and yet we are scrutinizing over people who have never caused us problems. He thinks this whole thing is ludicrous. After the vote, the motion carried.

**RE-DESIGNATION OF THE ST. HELENS/COLUMBIA CITY ENTERPRISE ZONE:**

Brian Little, City of St. Helens, is requesting that the County approve a resolution which would authorize him to file for re-authorization of the existing Enterprise Zone which is set to expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Sarah has drafted a resolution for this, which also includes the existing local incentives. After little discussion, the Board added this to the consent agenda for approval.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(h) - LITIGATION:**

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(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.

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

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

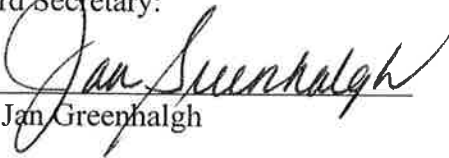
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By:   
Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By:   
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

Board Secretary:

By:   
Jan Greenhalgh