

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

June 12, 2007

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

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting to order.

CRPUD - PROPOSED PURCHASE OF FAIR PROPERTY:

Cynthia Zemaitis, Public Lands Administrator, came before the Board along with Kevin Owens, Val Koss, Steve Hirsh of the Columbia River PUD, St. Helens, to discuss the possible purchase of a portion of the Fairgrounds property. CRPUD submitted an appraisal of the property for the Board's review. Steve referred to an oversized map to explain the area they wish to purchase for a neighborhood substation. Kevin stated that the CRPUD entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the County about a year ago, starting the process to purchase this property. He explained what improvements would be made to the approximate 2 acres, such as security fencing, landscaping, etc. He noted that nothing would be done with the property until around the year 2010-2012.

John Knight asked if the appraised value of \$225,000 is acceptable to CRPUD as a purchase price. Kevin stated that the \$225,000 is a little more than they expected because not all of the 2 acres is usable. CRPUD plans to offer \$200,000 for the property and negotiate from there.

The Board stated that they would like to take some time to review the appraisal before starting into negotiations.

Deb Parmley, Fair Board member, asked if the zone change will require a public hearing and does anyone anticipate any opposition to this. The Board stated that a public hearing will be required for the zone change, however, the Board cannot anticipate any objections.

Kathleen Worman asked when CRPUD anticipates a building on the site. Kevin stated again that it would not be until around 2010 to 2012 and for the purpose of building a substation.

CZ TRAIL PROJECTS:

Shawna Sykes was present to discuss the Ford Foundations selection for grant projects and has selected the CZ trail in the area between Scappoose to B&B market. They are looking to the county for some assistance, first their blessing, and any resources the county can commit to for clearing the property, installing rails on one of the bridges, etc. Shawna has met with Dave Hill and Lonny Welter and they were concerned with making any firm commitments. The grant is for \$5,000 with a required 100% match, at least \$2,500 in hard cash and the other \$2,500 can be in-kind services.

Commissioner Hyde stated that there is bike path funds that are committed to bike trails, but he is not sure of the amount and cannot make a commitment today about that funding.

Janelle St. Pierre asked about any county requirements. John explained the details of the county being the fiscal agent and some options. Sarah stated that all workers would need to be volunteers. Discussion was held on what Road Department services could be provided and how that would be considered as part of the cash match. Janelle asked who the point person should be for coordinating work, questions, etc. The Board stated that should be Dave Hill because of his knowledge of the project and his department would possibly be doing some of the work. Shawna stated that the project needs to be completed within a one year time frame. Commissioner Corsiglia suggested that Shawna get in contact with Jean Ripa to iron out the details for volunteer workers. Jean felt it would be good to designate a volunteer coordinator to work on the details of volunteer services. Commissioner Hyde suggested that Janet Wright also be kept informed on the details of this project. Jean Ripa, Human Resources Director, first wanted to encourage the Board to keep control of the volunteer services for the CZ trail.

SCAPPOOSE BAY WATERSHED COUNCIL ANNUAL UPDATE:

Janelle St. Pierre, 57420 Old Portland Road, Warren and Mike Delaney, PO Box 487, Columbia City, both with the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, came before the Board to give an annual update. Janelle went over a list of projects that have been completed and projects in the works, i.e. installing culverts, restoration projects, fish enhancements, weed control, improvements to creek beds, etc.

Discussion was held on the negative effects of stripping the creeks from wood debris, which causes erosion of the banks and increases the risk of flooding.

The Board feels this is a very proactive watershed council and thanked them for the work they do and the update.

EMPLOYEE EVENTS:

Jean Ripa addressed two employee events. The first being the holiday lunch. We will be losing part of our space in the old extension service area when the Surveyor moves in. Although this is early, she just wanted to Board to be aware of that issue.

The other event is the annual picnic. Plans for the picnic should have started 3-4 weeks ago. She hasn't had time to work on it and it's very hard to get volunteers to work on this and the current volunteers are getting tired. Jean reminded the Board that these events are put on to increase morale of the employees. Discussion was held on the picnic and possible alternatives. Commissioner Hyde has seen a decrease in attendance at the picnic. Commissioner Bernhard suggested canceling the picnic for this year and look at it again next year. Perhaps a lunch at the city park next door at noon. The Board suggested that Jean send out an email survey to employees to get their thoughts on this. Jean will bring back the results of that survey in a couple of weeks.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BUDGET - FTE:

Jean Ripa is working on job descriptions for changes in personnel and will bring those before the Board in two weeks. Regarding the part-time employee in IT - that position will be going to full time and she would like permission to inform him of that now, instead of later. The Board agreed and added this to the consent agenda.

EVALUATION:

Jean Ripa asked the Board when they would like to consider doing these again. Commissioner Bernhard suggested in the fall. Commissioner Corsiglia feels it is valuable to the department heads and should be done. After discussion, Jean was directed to bring this up again in a couple months to see what the Board plans to do with the evaluations.

APPOINTMENTS TO FAIR BOARD:

Ronda Courtney, Fair Administrator, explained that the Fair Board has recommended the appointment of Crystal Andre to the Fair Board and are excited about that. Commissioner Bernhard stated that it was on the agenda last week, but was pulled because of some concerns expressed by Commissioner Corsiglia. Commissioner Corsiglia explained that there are some serious budgetary problems with the Fair and it doesn't seem that the Fair Board has been able to correct this to make it more self-sustaining. He wanted to make it clear that he is not anti-Fair, it is simply a budgetary issue. Kathleen Worman just sent in an interest form for the Fair Board. He would suggest that the Board interview both Crystal and Kathleen before making any appointment. Commissioner Bernhard stated that the question of the Fair being self-sufficient has been around for years and doesn't feel it ever will be. Ronda stated that the Fair Board is now at a point where everyone gets along and they are moving forward. Commissioner Corsiglia feels there is still a "good ole boy" attitude with the Fair Board and would like to see that change.

Commissioner Hyde would like to know the Fair Board members prior to appointing them and would agree with interviewing potential members.

Commissioner Bernhard stated that she is in favor of interviewing first, but does not want to appoint someone that just wants to destroy the program. The Board has almost always taken recommendations from the different committees for appointments.

Ronda invited the Board to attend the Fair Board meetings so they can meet the members and see what issues they are facing.

After discussion, the Board directed Jan to set up interviews with Kathleen Worman and Crystal Andre.

MEETING IN PORTLAND ON SATURDAY WITH SENATOR MITCH McCONNELL:

Commissioner Hyde had a conference call with Senator Smith this morning. He stated that Senator Mitch McConnell, Co-Chair of the Finance Committee in Washington, DC, will be in Portland on Saturday at the World Trade Center. He will be here to listen to county representatives on the re-authorization of PL 106-393 and the effects on counties if not re-authorized. Commissioner Hyde felt it important to note that this Senator controls 54 votes. Commissioner Hyde will be on vacation and out of the State so he cannot make it, however, he can't stress enough how important it is that someone from Columbia County be there. Janet Wright stated that she would be attending.

PROPOSED JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ORDINANCE:

John Knight discussed the proposed Justice of the Peace Ordinance and reviewed the substance and what it would accomplish. He has included an Emergency Clause to have it become effective July 1, 2007 and would recommend that the Board approve that so the revenue could start going into the Justice Court instead of the State courts. If the Board wants to go through with this, John will prepare a public notice for the hearing on June 27th. The Board directed John to move forward with this.

AMENDMENT #1 TO THE LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES AGREEMENT:

John Knight reviewed the last version of the budget details in the amendment to the Local Public Health Services Agreement. The Board has reviewed this and will add approval to the consent agenda.

JOHN KNIGHT COMMENTS:

John updated the Board on his health issues. His doctor wants to hospitalize him, but John doesn't know where or for how long. He will be meeting with the doctor on Wednesday so he won't be at the Board meeting or the Staff meeting tomorrow. Therefore, he wanted to give his input today on two issues coming before the Board tomorrow at their staff meeting.

John gave the Board some options on how they can deal with the biennial agreement with DHS for CCMH. John would recommend that the County eliminate their liability and withdraw from this program and have CCMH deal directly with State.

Regarding the Surface Mining topic, John recommends that the County pull out of the Surface Mining administration and give it to DOGAMI to administer. He explained there would be a process to do that and will meet with the Board after their decision.

The Board recessed the meeting at 12:00 noon and reconvened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. with all present.

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting back to order.

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

The Board immediately 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.

STATUS OF COUNTY COUNSEL'S OFFICE:

Sarah Hanson wanted to update the Board on some transitional issues in the County Counsels office. Because John Knight has been out ill for some time and may be in the hospital for a while, Sarah is suggesting that Spencer, the new Assistant County Counsel, be allowed to come on board earlier than July 1st. After she speaks with John about this, she will be bringing this back to the Board for their comments.

Regarding the schedules in County Counsel's office on Fridays. She is suggesting that she, Cynthia, and Spencer take alternating Fridays off so that there will be someone in the office every Friday. The Board would like to see that office covered on Fridays and agrees with the alternate schedule.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 12th day of June, 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