

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

August 28, 2007

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

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting to order.

DEQ GRANT APPLICATION FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY:

Todd Dugdale and Bill Potter came before the Board regarding a DEQ grant application. DEQ has funds available for worthwhile projects that have the potential of increasing the regional goal of diverting materials from the waste flow by way of reuse and recycling. The funds from this grant application would be to conduct a feasibility study to determine if such an operation would be viable for Columbia County. Bill shared the possibility of establishing a "reuse and recycle" operation and employ people with disabilities. This would create jobs and reduce solid waste in the county. Todd is requesting that the Board authorize him to submit a grant application to DEQ for a feasibility study for the creation of a Reuse & Recycling Facility to divert construction materials and reusable items from the waste stream. The Board added approval to the consent agenda.

AMENDMENT TO PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH MILLIMAN:

This matter was carried over for discussion in Executive Session.

DIANE POHL - LAND USE ISSUES/CONCERNS:

Diane Pohl, Clatskanie Mayor, approached the Board about some planning and development problems she and others are experiencing in north county. There seems to be a lack of communication in the LDS department. She wanted to stress that she is not coming here to point fingers, only to make the county aware of the problems they are facing with the planning department. If there is a problem, hopefully they can all work together to find a solution. Diane shared the many problems she experienced personally with obtaining a building permit from the Planning Department. She is not alone, there are a number of people out there that can't get a straight answer, get confusing information and are paying additional costs because of the lack of communication. Another issue is that everything has to be engineered now, even for the simple things. Diane is aware of one lady who has been waiting for 3 years for a permit and ended up losing her low interest loan. These type of situations go on and on.

Todd Dugdale stated that the code describes what meets the standard of construction, however, there are situations where engineering is required. He stated that there is a tracking system in place for time lines between inspections, etc. which he reviews, however, he understands there may be flaws in this system. He will look into the concern that engineering is being required when the code doesn't require it. Todd will look at Diane's specific application as a sample to determine where the

problems exist so they can be addressed. However, the attitude by staff with the public is something that can be dealt with immediately. Commissioner Bernhard stated that one issue could be the turnover the department has had with staff.

After group discussion, Todd will look into these situations and the system itself, along with staff's communication with the public to see where improvements can be made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(d):

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

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 28th day of August, 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