

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

September 25, 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, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting to order.

REQUEST TO INCREASE PART TIME DEPUTY DA TO FULL TIME:

Steve Atchison, District Attorney, approached the Board regarding his request to increase one part time Deputy DA to full time. He has found the funding to pay for this increased position and explained where it would come from. He wanted to clarify that, at this time, there is only enough funding to pay for this year, he is not sure about the fiscal effects next year. Commissioner Corsiglia suggested the funding issue be re-analyzed prior to next years budget process. Commissioner Hyde stated that, if approved, it needs to be clear that if the money is not available next year, then the position would be reduced. After some discussion, the Board added approval to the consent agenda.

BLM REVIEW OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN EIS:

Brad Keller and Ken Morten of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), came before the Board to give a presentation on the Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement. Brad explained that his intent today is to ensure that the Board has the information they need and to answer any questions they may have. The comment period on this plan will run until November 9th. Brad then gave a brief summary of the plan. Once all public hearings have been held and comments reviewed, the plan will be finalized. Brad invited the Board to a open house in Scappoose, Thursday, September 27th. There will be a slide presentation of the plan and time for questions and answers.

CLEANUP OF ILLEGAL DUMP SITE:

Todd Dugdale, LDS Director, came before the Board regarding the cleanup of illegal dump sites. He has been informed by Community Corrections that the work crew will no longer be available for cleanup or facility grounds maintenance because of commitments made to ODOT for use of the work crew.

LDS has relied on the work crew to assist with cleanup in response to calls under the Dump Stoppers program concerning minor illegal dump sites. The Code Enforcement Officer coordinated these cleanups with Community Corrections. These dump sites are usually along County roads, on forest service roads or on remote private properties, however, the County road maintenance employees do not have the time to spend on periodic road side cleanup. Major illegal dump sites which occur on private property usually require a separate contract with a third party if the responsible owner does not do the work. Further, Facility Maintenance has relied on the work crew for grounds maintenance

at County facilities such as the Courthouse and Animal Control Shelter. In addition, the County has site maintenance responsibilities at the Transfer Station which will require attention.

LDS is considering options for providing for the cleanup of minor dump sites reported through the Dump Stoppers Program and for providing grounds maintenance at our facilities. Todd has discussed these needs with Bill Potter, Building Services Manager and Dave Hill, Public Works Director. We think that these needs together may require an additional maintenance worker position in the Building Services Division. Funding for a full time position would be \$40,000, plus the vehicle cost of \$18,000. This could come from the Solid Waste Fund which currently provides the funding for our Dump Stoppers Program. Another issue is the facility site cleanup and maintenance, which can be justified for funding under the Solid Waste program since it would include the Transfer Station and other County public facility grounds maintenance activities. Basically, we have gotten by with volunteer help around the courthouse grounds. There are also ongoing needs around the animal shelter that aren't being met. All of these are needs that are largely unmet by county resources. Todd brought this before the Board for discussion only and presented some options. He would bring back a specific request for an additional maintenance worker position at a future meeting if it is determined to be feasible.

Commissioner Bernhard expressed some concern that the work crew is being used by ODOT when the County has an apparent need for their services. Commissioner Hyde explained that the work crew was never free, because the Road Department was paying \$45,000 per year for that service.

Commissioner Hyde talked about Title III monies and the two bills that are before the Legislature now for re-authorization. We will probably have to start investing in something like this, as a requirement of the new re-authorized revenue. We have to be very specific on how we spend those Title III monies and this would be a big possibility if it is re-authorized.

Commissioner Corsiglia asked if there could be a connection between the transfer station and the fees collected there. Yes, Todd stated that all of the options presented are with the use of Solid Waste Fund resources, not general fund. Commissioner Corsiglia asked about a collections site for yard debris. Todd explained that the Transfer Station does take yard debris. There is a fee, however, it is a reduced rate. Commissioner Corsiglia expressed his amazement at the amount of garbage being dumped along the roads. Robert stated that he receives the majority of his calls on Monday because of the increased litter over the weekend. Commissioner Corsiglia feels if there was a budgeted position out of the general fund, we would take a lot of heat. However, it makes good sense to utilize the good situation we have at the Transfer Station and make it part of a working program, networked together.

After discussion on concerns and impacts, Todd will develop a more detailed list of options and bring it back before the Board at a later date. Commissioner Corsiglia suggested Todd bring it back to a staff meeting.

Bill Potter mentioned that there are two Household Hazardous Waste collection events scheduled for October, one in Vernonia and one in Clatskanie.

GRANT FOR CAMP WILKERSON RESTROOM FACILITIES AND RV SITES:

Lonny Welter, Road Department, came before the Board with a request to apply for a County Opportunity Grant for restroom/shower facilities and 12 new RV sites at Camp Wilkerson. The funding comes from State RV revenues that come back to the counties to use for Park projects. Lonny gave the Board a handout showing the improvements to be made. The grant amount is \$128,000, with a 50% county match of \$128,000. The county portion will come out of the Parks (2008-2009) budget and the Road Department will be doing a lot of work on this project to save costs. They will be taking about 10 loads of trees (at about \$4,000 per load) out of the park to make room for the improvements, which will also help recover some of the hard costs. After discussion, the Board added approval to the consent agenda.

CZ EASEMENT PROTOCOL:

Commissioner Bernhard first wanted to mention that she was out at the CZ Trail cleanup on Saturday. While there, she was asked what the Road Department could do as far as equipment and spraying the overgrowth along the trail. Lonny explained that this is the time of year to spray again, however, the Road Department cannot do any work or use road money for projects off of county improved roads, unless approved by the Board.

Moving on, Todd and Sarah wanted this on the agenda to address public requests for easements. Sarah feels there is a problem with communication and when someone comes in with questions on easements, they are sent to different offices and there is no clear policy in place. Many come to the LDS Department and Road Department. To address this, Sarah has drafted a process for all departments to use when anyone comes in requesting information on easements. A form would be completed, stating the need for the easement, with needed attachments which would then be submitted to County Counsel's office to process, with a copy to the Road Department for their recommendation. The Board agreed with this and will have Jan draft a memo to all department heads.

While in attendance, Lonny stated that the Road Department is getting a lot of calls, and they are increasing, about motorized vehicles on the CZ Trail, i.e. dirt bikes, ATV's, etc. The Board needs to consider some type of ordinance for violators and patrol/enforcement. The Board directed Lonny to meet with Spencer on this.

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


The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(e). 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 25th day of September, 2007.

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

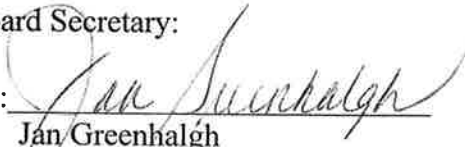
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: 
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: 
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

Board Secretary:

By: 
Jan Greenhalgh