

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

January 13, 2009

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Anthony Hyde and Commissioner Earl Fisher, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary. Commissioner Bernhard was attending a meeting out of town.

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting to order.

SALARY RANGE FOR UNDERSHERIFF:

Jeff Dickerson, County Sheriff, introduced the new Undersheriff Andy Moyer. Andy comes from the Oregon State Police and has a wide variety of expertise. Jeff explained what Andy's responsibilities will be as Undersheriff. As outlined in his memo to the Board, Jeff went over what new efforts will be taken to make the Sheriff's Department more efficient and ways to save money. That said, there is an immediate need for staffing in the Sheriff's Department. Due to the recent budget cuts and subsequent hiring freeze, the Sheriff's Department suffered the loss of nine FTE. This has placed the office at critical levels in criminal investigation, law enforcement and jail management. Jeff talked about the use of volunteers, search and rescue and the posse and how important they can be to the Sheriff's Department and the County. Regarding funding sources, Commissioner Hyde wanted to point out that the timber money that has been restored comes with specific language on what the counties can and cannot do with that money. Jeff informed the Board that the Sheriff's Office is exceeding its revenue over what was budgeted for by about \$100,000 for the year. Also, the Marshall has contacted him about increasing their prisoners and they have also renegotiated a rate increase. Further, Multnomah County is also looking at options for housing inmates.

At this time, Jeff is requesting authorization to immediately restore the FTE positions to the Sheriff's Department for the rest of the fiscal year. All of these positions are critical to the success of the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Hyde stated that the Board will need to take this request under consideration prior to any decisions being made.

DEPARTMENT STAFFING FOR CCCCCF:

Jan Kenna, CCCCCF Director, came before the Board to address staffing issues in the CCCCCF Department. Jan is requesting approval to create a Fiscal Assistant position at 10 hours per week, at salary range 23 and the reduction of the Administrative Assistant position to 10 hours per week. This will save her department approximately \$11,000 for the year. After discussion, With that, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve the reduction in hours of Administrative Assistant position in CCCCCF to .3 FTE and approve creation of position of Fiscal Assistant, at .3 FTE, and assign to salary range 23. The motion

carried unanimously.

While present, Jan Kenna wanted to compliment Janet Wright on the great job she is doing as the county's Public Information Officer and the press releases she has been putting out. Jan has also heard compliments from others about Janet's good work.

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE:

Jean Ripa, Human Resources, explained that during negotiations, bereavement pay was increased and she is requesting approval to include non union employees to that. If the Board is willing, she has prepared an order for County Counsel's review and Board approval.

REQUEST TO FILL (1) VACANT PO POSITION IN CORRECTIONS:

Walt Pesterfield, Community Corrections, came before the Board requesting authorization to fill one PO position. Commissioner Hyde explained to Commissioner Fisher how the Corrections Department is funded. Walt stated that there is money to cover this position. After discussion, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to authorize Walt Pesterfield to fill one Probation Officer position. The motion carried unanimously.

FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE:

Dave Hill, Public Works Director, came before the Board to discuss the Federal Stimulus Package. AOC put together some paperwork that would show what will go to each county. The State of Oregon is also working on a stimulus package. Commissioner Hyde stated that funding and distribution will depend on how the language is drafted. AOC came out with a list stating that Columbia County would receive about \$879,000. The money would have to be spent on one of the major roads. Dave went over some of the projects that would be done with this funding. Commissioner Fisher had concerns that this could be good money after bad. If the money is used for overlay projects, will the roads just have to be done again in 4-5 years. Maybe we should just wait until the roads can be made better first. If a road needs to be fixed, it should be done correctly. Commissioner Hyde explained that the stimulus money is to get people back to work now. If we don't use the money now, we lose it. Dave feels that the first priority should be the Scappoose-Vernonia Hwy. To do it right, the cost estimate is \$63 million, so the County will never have enough to do it right. Dave noted that the county projects for this funding must be submitted by January 16, 2009.

While in attendance, Dave has been talking with Todd about the surface mining program and proposed having the Road Department take over the administration of the depletion fee program.

This would relieve Todd of the work and put it in the Road Department. The fees would pay for the weighmaster who would also oversee the depletion fee program.

On a separate issue, the Board would like to start meeting with the various committees to let them know what the Board is looking for and they types of things the Board is looking for from these committees. This Board will start scheduling these meetings soon.

UPDATE ON CC RIDER:

Janet Wright gave a brief update on CC Rider. The Columbia County Rider increased miles traveled (demand response and fixed route miles) by 41% and increased ridership by 85% over FY 06/07 years. At some time in the near future, she would like to discuss with the Board some options and funding priorities as a result of the recent transit plan.

On another issue, Janet explained that the County has to comply with the rules and regulations of the federal and state agencies for transit grant funding. Every year, the county receives a Certification and Assurance to meet that requirement. She would ask that the Board approve this and authorize Commissioner Hyde to sign. After some discussion, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to authorize Commissioner Hyde to sign the FY 2009 Federal Transit Administration Certifications and Assurances. The motion carried unanimously.

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

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(e)(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 13th day of January, 2009.

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: _____
Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary