

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

WORK SESSION MINUTES

March 24, 2009

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Rita Bernhard and Commissioner Earl Fisher, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, Spencer Parsons, Assistant County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary. Commissioner Hyde was not present.

JAIL MANAGER POSITION:

Jean Ripa, Human Resources, came before the Board to discuss the position of Jail Manager. In December 2008, the position was advertised and 9 applications were received, with only 4 meeting the minimum qualifications. After the interview process, none were considered very good. Rather than hiring a less than outstanding candidate or re-advertising, the Sheriff would like to offer the position to Jim Carpenter. Although Jim did not apply for the position, he has been performing the duties of the Jail Manager since July 2008 and doing very well. The Sheriff believes that Jim would be a very good candidate for the position. If Jim were to accept this position, his current position as Corrections Sergeant would need to be filled.

After discussion, the Board agreed with the recommendation and with that, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the reclassification of Jim Carpenter from Acting Jail Manager to Jail Manager, effective April 1, 2009, and exempt this particular appointment from the hiring rules outlined in the Personnel Rules. The motion carried unanimously.

SPRING CLEANUP EVENT:

Todd Dugdale addressed the annual spring cleanup events being held in the county. The Board has received a letter from the City of Clatskanie seeking funding support for their annual cleanup, as has the City of Columbia City. In the past, the County has paid these costs for the cities. Last fall when this was discussed, there was Board consensus that the County should not be paying for the city cleanup costs. However, if the Board decides to grant this request, a fair policy would be to do so for other similar community events. If so, the estimated costs to the county would be \$5-6,000. Todd would also suggest firm guidelines be established to outline exactly what the county will pay for. Further, these costs would be budgeted for annually.

Commissioner Bernhard feels that by holding these types of events and allowing people to dump at a reduced cost, it could quite possibly eliminate some of the road side dumping, which ultimately costs the county. This is a benefit to the community and she would like to see them continue.

Having previously worked this event in Clatskanie, Commissioner Fisher could see that it allowed citizens who didn't normally take their junk to the dump, did so during these events because the costs were reduced. He agreed these are good events and with the County contributing some of the costs, however, he doesn't want to see the funding open-ended.

After discussion, the Board agreed to continuing payment for this particular county wide event and directed Todd to draft a policy regarding community cleanup event disposal costs and bring it back to the Board.

RFP FOR ADDITION TO COUNTY TRANSFER STATION:

Bill Potter, Building Official, addressed the addition to the Columbia County Transfer Station. We are now at the point to hold a public hearing and submit the formal RFP. Sarah stated that the public hearing cannot be held until the findings are complete because that is what the RFP is based on. After review, there was Board consensus to have Bill Potter move forward with the process and schedule a public hearing date once the findings are complete and reviewed by County Counsel.

COMP PLAN AMENDMENT FOR 2030 POPULATION FORECAST:

Todd Dugdale stated that the Portland State Center for Population Research and Census has completed a 2030 Population Forecast and Report for Columbia County and our cities. The forecast was developed with oversight and participation of a Project Committee made up of PSU researchers, city managers from the six cities and LDS Project Manager, Erika Owen. Under state land use rules, the County is required to complete a coordinated City/County forecast. The forecast is to be included in County and City Comprehensive Plans as a basis for all planning activities, i.e., UGB Expansion requests, public facilities planning, etc. At this time, Todd is requesting that the Board initiate the Plan Amendment. After discussion, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to initiate a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to consider adoption of the 2030 Population Forecast for Columbia County and its cities. The motion carried unanimously.

APPLICATION FOR JAG GRANT:

Andy Moyer, Undersheriff, addressed the JAG grant, which replaces the old Law Enforcement Block Grant. This grant requires zero match dollars and can be used for law enforcement programs such as equipment, training and technology. It is required that the City of St. Helens and Columbia County apply jointly and enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement as part of the application process. St. Helens Police Chief Steve Salle has started the application process and drafted an IGA for the County to review and approve. The deadline for grant submittal is April 15th. After discussion, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to authorize the Sheriff's Office to submit the JAG grant and authorize the Sheriff to sign the grant application and prepare an IGA with the City of St. Helens for County Counsel review. The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST TO HIRE DEPUTIES THROUGH COPS GRANT:

Jeff Dickerson, County Sheriff, addressed the COPS grant, which is part of the stimulus package, for 2 deputy positions. This grant requires no match from the county. In four years, there will be a need for more deputies due to retirements, so he would like to start building now. These would be entry level positions, which will be a lower hit to the budget. The Board sees no problem with this grant and with that, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to authorize the Sheriff to apply for the COPS grant. The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF PROMOTIONS IN SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

Sheriff Dickerson wants to eliminate a level of authority in the Jail, by eliminating the rank of Corporal and then promote three positions to Sergeant. That would allow for a Sergeant position for all three shifts. The financial piece is that they save money and, at the very least, would be a wash. He has reviewed this with Jean Ripa, who has signed off her approval. After discussion, the Board added approval to the consent agenda.

AMENDMENT #1 TO THE FIREARMS RANGE LEASE:

Sarah gave a detailed review the Amendment to the Firearms Range Lease, which addresses the insurance endorsement requirement. She would recommend approval on the consent agenda.

ORDER #19-2009 - ADOPT LICENSE & AGREEMENT FOR FIREARMS COMPLEX:

Sarah briefly reviewed Order 19-2009, which adopts the form License and Indemnity Agreement for the Columbia County Firearms Range Complex. This order also adopts a fee schedule which is under discussion. After review, the fee remained at \$10 but noted that it could be amended by order if there is a future need. The order was added to the consent agenda.

SOCIAL GAMING LICENSE ORDINANCE:

Sarah gave some background on what her knowledge is on the Social Gaming Ordinance. The Board talked about the amount of the annual fee of \$500 and feels that is extremely high. Sarah explained that we should not be charging a fee for more than the cost to administer it. The fee can easily be amended by order. Jan will check with other counties to see what they do for social gaming and, if anything, what the license fee is. This will be addressed again by the Board after additional information is gathered.

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

The Executive Session was not held.

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Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 24th day of March, 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

Work Session Minutes

3/24/09

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By: _____

Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: _____ Not Present

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary