

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING

WORK SESSION MINUTES

February 23, 2010

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled work session at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioner Anthony Hyde, Commissioner Earl Fisher and Commissioner Rita Bernhard, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, and Jan Greenhalgh Board Secretary.

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting to order.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT APPLICATION:**

Derek White, EOC, presented the Board with a copy of the Emergency Management Performance Grant application. He will also be presenting this to HSEMC for their input. After a brief review of the grant, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the Emergency Management Performance Grant application and authorize the Chair to sign. The motion carried unanimously.

**SHERIFF DICKERSON - REQUEST FOR FUNDING:**

Sheriff Dickerson and Captain Jim Carpenter came before the Board regarding funding requests for capital improvements for the Jail facility and Sheriff's Office. The good news is that spending is down in the Jail due to delays in filling positions.

Jim addressed the Jail needs. They plan to remove the carpet, which is over 10 years old and stain the concrete for easier maintenance - cost of \$30,000. There is no security camera/ recording system in some areas of the Jail and will be installed at a cost \$16,000; the existing hood vent in the kitchen instantly cools food and the surrounding area. This has never worked correctly and needs to be replaced at a cost of \$28,000; half of the smoke dampers don't work and to get them back into working order will cost \$12,000. Lastly, there are areas in the facility that have no heat and the re-ducting those areas will cost approximately \$6,500.

Jeff addressed the improvements to the Patrol side. He explained the need for computer hardware to be mounted in the squad cars at a cost of \$70,000 for 10. He noted that these computers can be removed from the car and docked at the facility. As the Board is aware, many of their vehicles are getting old and need

to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$74,000. He explained the APHIS machine, what it is used for and how it will eliminate repetitive fingerprinting for a cost of \$15,000. The last two items are a SQL server for \$8,000 and changes to the phone system for \$30,000.

After some discussion, the Board will take this under advisement and address the more time sensitive requests this week.

#### JANET WRIGHT - DRAFT MEDIA PLAN:

Janet Wright presented the draft media plan that was received from Eric Schmidt with AOC. Janet is looking for direction from the Board on how to proceed with this. Commissioner Hyde feels that the Board needs to look at our policy with regards to communication with the public. Commissioner Fisher feels that the first step should be the Board meeting with Janet to develop a communication plan/policy and then include department heads. The full Board agreed. Janet will schedule some time with the Board to meet with herself and Eric Schmidt.

#### JOHN PETERSEN, TIDE CREEK ROCK:

John Petersen, Tide Creek Rock, recently sent a bid to the county for the sale of rock for a county project. His bid was quite a bit lower than what the county is now paying for the same type of rock from Knife River. John believes this is happening because of something that took place years ago. In 1996, there was a slide on Tide Creek Road because of the heavy rains. He told Dave Hill to put the culvert in a certain place to fix the problem but Dave put it in down below instead. John made a negative comment to Dave at the time, and since then, the County no longer buys rock from him. John doesn't feel it's right for the County to be paying more elsewhere because of Dave's feelings towards him. His last issue is with the situation and cost of the bridge work near the Shilo basin, which is another concern he has with Dave Hill's work.

*Commissioner Hyde left the meeting for another meeting offsite.*

#### BRIEFING ON PROPOSED RATE ADJUSTMENT:

Todd Dugdale, Roy Weedman and Bill Potter came before the Board to give a briefing on the upcoming hearing on proposed rate adjustments. It has been almost 12 years since there has been a rate increase. Bill explained that when the Transfer Station opened in 2003, there was a decision not to adjust the rates until they had some history on the operating costs. They now have those costs and they are reflected

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in the rate increases. Roy went over some of the details of the rate adjustments and the charts submitted in his handout.

Commissioner Bernhard feels that, with the economy in the shape it is, this isn't a very good time to be raising rates and is concerned with doing that now. She asked about possibly phasing in the new fees. If rates are increased, she is concerned that it will create more road side dumping. Todd stated that one option is to cut services. We need to either meet our costs or cut our services.

Commissioner Fisher asked what the cost is to the county if rates are not increased. Roy estimated about \$400,000 annually. This is a classic case of "no funding - reduce services". He wants to ensure that the public is aware of what these fees pay for in terms of services and programs.

Lengthy discussion was held on other issues, the cost effects, services and possible cuts if rates are not approved. The Board will be taking testimony at the March 3, 2010 public hearing.

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

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(h). Upon coming out of Executive Session, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to authorize the Animal Control Officer, Roger Kadell, to sign adoption agreements with Olympic Animal Sanctuary for the adoption of Pit Bulls 6934A and 6935A. The motion carried unanimously.

*The Board recessed the meeting at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 2:30 at the Vernonia Learning Center to meet with the Oregon Solutions Team in Vernonia, Oregon.*

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2010.

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

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FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

Anthony Hyde, Chair

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary

Rita Bernhard, Commissioner