

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

WORK SESSION MINUTES

August 10, 2010

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled work session at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioner Anthony Hyde and Commissioner Rita Bernhard, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary. Commissioner Fisher was not present.

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting to order.

VETERANS SERVICES LOCAL OPTION TAX LEVY DISCUSSION:

Sarah has received the revised draft, explanatory statement and notice of measure election from Community Action Team for the Veterans Services Local Option Tax Levy. She has been working with Rocky Johnson on this and believes they now have a final recommendation for the Board. The proposal is 3.5 cents per \$1,000. The discussion was between 3 cent and 5 cents and the Board had asked that CAT come back with a recommendation. Rocky stated that they are trying to come up with enough money to establish and sustain (2) Veterans Services Officers. The 3 cents was a little short and felt more comfortable with the 3.5 cents. Once this gets going, there is going to be an expectation and demand for services and we want to make sure there is enough support staff to sustain those services. Sarah has drafted an Order calling for the election. She asked that the Board review the order and explanatory statement to make sure they are comfortable with it prior to approval. The Board expressed their huge support of this but will need to share this information with Commissioner Fisher before taking any action. Commissioner Hyde did suggest that the word "and their families" be included in the explanatory statement. Sarah stated that once the Board is comfortable with this, she will have it added to the consent agenda for approval. Rocky mentioned that he has testimonials from veterans in support of this but because the explanatory statement must be impartial, he will simply add them into the Voters' Pamphlet.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS POLICY:

To update Commissioner Hyde, who was not present for the previous discussion, the Board needs to make a determination on what to do with the minimum insurance requirements on all county contracts. The Risk Management Committee (RMC) has looked at this at length and is recommending that the insurance requirement stay

at the \$1 million for use of county property, such as parks and the courthouse plaza. The Tulip coverage that people buy to reserve the parks hasn't caught up with the Oregon Tort Claims increases so people renting these spaces are not able to buy insurance over \$1 million. The second part of the recommendation deals with contracts the county enters into. The RMC is recommending that we increase it to at least the minimum of \$1.5 million Tort Claim Limit, which is now \$1,066,067.

Insurance doesn't come in \$66,000 increments, so it would be \$1.5 or \$2 million.

Sarah feels that for the larger contracts the county enters into for construction project it should be increased to the \$2 million. Also, for the public road events, i.e. Hood-to-Coast, Portland to Seattle, should require the minimum tort claim limit. Whatever the Board decides, they needs to be some consistency. Sarah is comfortable with a \$2 million requirement for contracts and \$1 million for use of county parks. After discussion, Sarah was directed to draft the appropriate language for final review and approval.

ELITA DAVIS - CULVERT ISSUES:

Elita Davis, Hwy 202, Mist: Ms. Davis is here to discuss her situation and obtain support from the County to replace/repair the culvert that goes under Conyers Creek Road and drains water onto property. Commissioner Hyde read the minutes from the Transportation and Road Advisory Committee (TAC) who has recommended that the county is not responsible for this problem and will not pay to have it corrected. Elita presented the Board with photos of her property and the PUD facility which is where all of that water is coming from and down across the road to her property. The road needs to be ditched and a culvert installed to eliminate the water from deteriorating the road and stop the water flow onto her property.

Dave addressed the ditching issue, which would need to be a 6 foot ditch and, at a cost of \$15,000, would not be cost effective. Dave does not feel that this is a county road issue. The TAC had suggested the County send a letter to the PUD about this issue, which has been done, but not sure they are going to have any interest in this. Elita noted that the PUD did not do a impact report on any additional water runoff which should have been done.

The question before the Board is if the county should use public dollars to mitigate Ms. Davis' water issue. Although the Board understands this is an unfortunate situation and the frustration involved, they cannot justify using county dollars to mitigate this matter.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 10th day of August, 2010.

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: _____

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____ Not Present

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____

Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary