

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

WORK SESSION MINUTES

January 11, 2011

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 Henry Heimuller, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting to order.

RESOLUTION #2-2011 - MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Sheriff Dickerson was present for discussion on Resolution No. 2-2011. His main concern with the Resolution is with the language in paragraph 3, specifically the word "attempt". He feels it would be hard to campaign for a levy because it could be construed that the funding won't be there. The Enhanced Law Enforcement Advisory Committee had recommended that the Board to keep the current spending level at 24% of what the general fund will provide for the Sheriff's budget. Commissioner Hyde explained that the County is trying to get back to a zero base budget and, although the Board is totally committed here, they have to be realistic.

Jeff understands that but still feels that would leave the Sheriff's budget vulnerable. Their funding still relies heavily on the US Marshall bed rentals but that may not always be guaranteed. Commissioner Fisher would be willing to agreed to a percentage, but not a dollar amount. Jeff also pointed out that the language in paragraph 4 pretty much covers the Board and believes that would make paragraph 3 mute. Should the levy pass, the people need to know that the funding will be there. Jeff would suggest that instead of using the word "attempt", put in a percentage. After discussion on optional language, the Board directed County Counsel to make the appropriate change (by adding in the percentage) in the resolution and bring it back before the Board for approval.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CCDSA:

Jean Ripa addressed the MOU with the Sheriff's union. There are non-sworn staff that work in the Jail's control room who work the same shifts and same type of work, but non sworn and have to take their holidays differently, which is creating some problems. This MOU would allow the classification of non-sworn Control Technicians to be included as eligible under Article 4.2(A) to accrue holiday hours in the same fashion as a sworn employee. Basically this MOU fixes the problem and saves the county money. Board added the MOU to the consent agenda for approval.

E-CALENDARING SYSTEM FOR BOARD OFFICE:

Jean understands that the Board wants to do away with their PDA's and just use their cell phones for their calendaring system. She discussed the technical working of this, considering that the Board uses different phones. It can be done and, if the Board is in agreement, she will begin working on those changes.

BOARD FACILITATED SESSION:

Jean asked about scheduling a facilitator and date for the Board retreat. Commissioner Fisher has a name of a facilitator that he will get to Jean to set this up. The Board set January 18, 2011 from 9-12 at the local ESD office and will have Jan send notice of a special meeting.

EMPLOYEE ATTENDANCE AT RALPH PAINTER MEMORIAL SERVICE:

The question has been asked if the County will allow employees to attend the service of Ralph Painter this Friday. The Board discussed the extenuating circumstances issues of authorizing county employees to attend service of Ralph Painter on county time and agreed that would be appropriate. The Board will add formal approval to the consent agenda.

APPROVAL OF CHARITABLE REQUEST:

Jean explained that County resources have been used recently in connection with notifications, arrangements, etc. for Rainier Police Chief Ralph Painter. Jean explained the rules pertaining to use of county time/equipment and stated the Board would need to formally approve this. The Board agreed and added approval to the consent agenda.

NOTIFICATION TO EMPLOYEES ON INCREMENT WEATHER SITUATIONS:

This is just to remind the Board about the process to use when bad weather effects a possible closure of the courthouse. She spoke with Commissioner Heimuller on the process and provided the full Board with the written procedures.

EOC GRANT UPDATE:

Derek White was present to update the Board on the Emergency Operations Center. Basically, the appraisal came back much lower than they had anticipated when the project was first started several years back. This means that the county will need to find more money for the match to the grant or surrender part of the grant dollars available and go with a much small facility. Further, he recently

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received word that the State will not approve a grant contract until CRF&R transfers their property over to the County. This will cost the county several thousand dollars (out-of-pocket), although those dollars can later be used as a match. After discussion, Commissioner Hyde directed Derek to get together with CRF&R and CCOM to discuss these issues and go from there.

MOU WITH ODOT - USE OF TIMBER RD DURING HWY 26 TUNNEL CLOSURE:

Dave Hill, Public Works Director, reviewed the draft MOU with the State regarding the use of Timber Road during the closure of the Hwy 26 tunnel. Dave has been discussing this with Ron Kroop of ODOT and because ODOT is the agency forcing highway traffic onto Hwy 47, Dave believes they should be responsible for performing pavement maintenance as a result of increased traffic. To address this, Dave has included an indemnity clause in the MOU but has not heard back yet from ODOT on whether they agree with the added language or not. Regardless, ODOT will be detouring traffic onto Timber Road on 1/19/11. Robin has reviewed the MOU and agrees with including the indemnity clause. After discussion, the Board stated that they are in agreement with the MOU and recommended that Dave Hill present it ODOT, with the additional language, and see where it goes.

ROAD CLOSURES DUE TO COLD WEATHER:

Dave updated the Board on the condition of certain roads due to the cold weather and thawing.

The Board signed an order on 1/6/11, which will be ratified tomorrow, limiting the weight on certain county roads.

REMOTE VIDEO SURVEILLANCE TRAILER:

While present, Dave shared information on an opportunity for the Road Department to obtain a remote video surveillance trailer through the Public Work group of UASI, at no cost for the equipment. The value of the unit is approximately \$50,000.

Lonny explained the number of uses for the equipment that would benefit the county. The equipment can be remotely monitored from the office. There is a monthly service fee of \$70.00 staff would be need to monitor the surveillance.

Commissioner Fisher asked if this is something that the county really needs or not, considering the monthly fees involved. Lonny and Dave both feel there are benefits, to not only the Road Department, but all county departments and outside agencies. If there are no great concerns from the Board, Dave will move forward with obtaining this equipment.

GENERATOR FOR WATER PLANT IN VERNONIA:

Lonny reported that, as part of the UASI public works group, he has obtained a generator for a backup system for the Vernonia water plant.

RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - RFP UPDATE:

Sarah, along with other members of the Risk Management Committee, gave the Board an update on the RFP process for a consultant to research property liability, health insurance coverages, etc. for the County. Proposals are due 2/11/11 and will then be reviewed by the Risk Management Committee, then a recommendation would be submitted to the Board. After discussion, there was Board consensus to move forward with advertising the RFP.

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

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(d)(h). Upon coming out of Executive Session, no action was taken by the Board.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 11th day of January, 2011.

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

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By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____

By: _____

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary