

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2013

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Henry Heimuller, Commissioner Anthony Hyde and Commissioner Earl Fisher.

Commissioner Heimuller called the meeting to order.

REQUEST BY CITY OF VERNONIA FOR (1) FEMA TRAILER;

The Board received a letter from the City of Vernonia, signed by Airport Committee Secretary, Georgeanna Seager, requesting one of the FEMA trailers for use as a pilot lounge at the Vernonia Municipal Airport. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hyde will contact the City of Vernonia to obtain the details of this request before taking any action.

DONATION TO THE OREGON WWII VETERANS MEMORIAL:

Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve payment of \$1,000 towards the State of Oregon WWII Veterans Memorial. The motion carried unanimously.

FY 2014 GENERAL FUND/PERS RATES/O&C:

Jennifer Cuellar, Finance Director, met with the Board to discuss a variety of issues that impact the financial status of the general fund, i.e. projected FY14 beginning general fund balance; PERS reform and rates; O&C one year extension and known negative budget items. No decision was made at this time regarding specific uses of any additional funds available to the general fund. Jennifer will schedule time at the 10/30/13 staff meeting revisit these issues.

FREEMAN ROAD:

Dave Hill and Lonny Welter were present to discuss issues regarding Freeman Road. Dave referred to the information previously submitted by Mr. Booker who is requesting the County “protect the stub access from encroachment, infringement, obstruction or diminishment from abutting property owners”. Mr. Booker also explains in the letter that he has long truck loads of firewood delivered and he cannot have the right-of-way blocked. He has also requested that he be allow to place a gate across the right-of-way in line with the previously vacated centerline of the road to "stop unwanted animal and human trespass". Dave explained that one possibility would be to place no parking signs around the perimeter of the area which would prohibit any parking within the right-of-way. The Board was concerned that the “no parking” signs would not be enforced because of a lack of Sheriff deputies and it would be an ongoing issue to install, maintain and enforce the no parking signs. The County has not heard form the adjacent property owner and this matter seems to be an issue that needs to be resolved between neighbors. The Board suggested that the Road Department write a letter to all three abutting property owners requesting them not to park in or restrict the use of the right-of-way, and to cooperate with and respect the desires of their neighbors.

SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:

While present, Dave mentioned that through the jurisdictionally blind safety program administered through ODOT, Columbia County was selected to receive safety improvements on Scappoose - Vernonia Road, Canaan Road and Apiary Road. The projects would include rumble strips and fixed object removal on these routes. Dave and Lonny will be working with ODOT to further develop the scope of these projects.

OAK RANCH CREEK CULVERT REPLACEMENT:

Tristan Wood, Road Department, came before the Board along with Andrew Niemi of Lower Columbia Engineering, to discuss a proposal to close Apiary Road next summer to construct the lower crossing of Oak Ranch Creek. Andrew, who is the registered engineer for the project, presented information on detour distance routes along with the additional cost to create a temporary crossing. With the significant cost increase for a temporary crossing, it is in the best interest of the project to have a 10 day closure on Apiary Road. The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council has received funds for the

planning of such a closure and informing effected residents with an open house to discuss the project. Further details become available will be a priority as the project timing comes closer. With support from the local trucking community and the local watershed council, the Board unanimously supported the road departments plan to close Apiary Road for a 10 day period.

VERNONIA SCHOOL PROJECT:

Jim Tierney and Dan Brown, Community Action Team, were present to update the Board on the Vernonia School project and the significant activity in the past two weeks. One of which was the Vernonia School Districts payment of \$15,000 to the City of Vernonia. No action was needed by the Board.

VETERANS PROGRAM:

While present, Jim and Dan also updated the Board on the Veterans program. They discussed the new funding opportunities, ie the \$10,000 received for outreach, plus additional competitive grant program is now open through the ODVA. There has been positive changes in the program generally and new Vets program staffer is digging out from the back long of beneficiary applications. There is the possibility that the competitive grants could tie into transportation and CAT will follow up on that with Janet Wright at CC Rider. Jim explained that CAT does not plan to apply for funds unless there is a promising project to pursue. He will continue to keep the Board updated on the various projects and programs.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 2nd day of October, 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____

Henry Heimuller, Chair

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: _____

Jan Greenhalgh
Board Office Administrator