

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 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.

**PROCLAIM "FOOD DAY":**

At the request of Food Day Oregon, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to proclaim October 24, 2013 at "Food Day" in Columbia County. The motion carried unanimously.

**INSURANCE WAIVER FOR KUHN AUCTIONS:**

Cynthia Zemaitis advised the Board that Kuhn Auction Sales have requested that the policy requiring \$2 million per occurrence insurance coverage be waived and that the contract be revised to reflect that. *Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve the insurance waiver request. Under discussion, Robin McIntyre recommended that the Board not waive the policy, as tort claim limits rise every year and this may be creating an equal rights issues. After consideration of those comments and the vote taken, the motion carried unanimously.*

While present, Cynthia also asked the Board about the status of the FEMA trailer. She has heard that the City of Vernonia has requested that one of the trailers be transferred to them but, if that is going to happen, it will be to be done prior to the auction. The plan is to sell both FEMA trailers at auction. Cynthia was directed to contact Bill Haack with the City of Vernonia, or a formal request to donate one of the trailers to the City.

**NEW LIFE INSURANCE CARRIER:**

Jean Ripa reported the problems the County had with their life insurance carrier, Reliance-Standard. After describing the problems, she asked if the Board would approve the new carrier, LifeMap, and retroactively authorize her signature on the application and agreement form. The Board directed Jean to add this item to the next consent agenda.

#### **LEGAL COSTS FOR NON-REPRESENTED LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL:**

Since the Board had not yet seen the proposed Order covering legal costs for non-represented law enforcement employees, she describe the issue and emphasized the importance of providing legal counsel for non-represented law enforcement personnel who may be involved in an on-the-job use of force. This is something that is provided for all represented law enforcement personnel through their unions. It is an important protection for the both the employee and the County. The Order implements parameters, including limiting the amount of coverage (maximum \$1000). Jean noted that the Order was merely a draft and still needed legal review but that she hadn't want to have Counsel spend time on it until the Board had given its general approval of the concept. The Board gave such approval and directed Jean to have the Order reviewed by Counsel and brought back before them.

#### **SCHEDULE MEETING WITH UNION PRESIDENTS:**

Jean asked the Board if they had settled on a new date to meet with the Union Presidents - which was originally set for November 27<sup>th</sup>. After checking their calendars, the Board indicated that November 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm would work best for them. Jean will notify the Union Presidents and have it added to the staff meeting agenda.

#### **ROAD DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ISSUES:**

Dave Hill was present to request approval of two Road Department personnel issues. With Jewel Japs accepting the position in the County Counsel's office, that leaves an Office Specialist position open. Additionally, there have been several retirements over the last few years which has left a disparity of 6 Road Maintenance Worker I positions and 3 Road Maintenance Worker II positions. Dave believes there should be an equal split between the I's and II's and would therefore request authorization to promote two employees to the Road Maintenance Worker II position. He noted that the last time that happened was back in November 2008. Jean has reviewed and supports this request. *After some discussion,*

*Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve both personnel requests as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.*

**POSH HEARING:**

Robin spoke briefly with the Board about the Port of St. Helens Zone Change application hearing that is being continued to tonight in Clatskanie. The Board discussed leaving the record open for written submittals after the close of oral testimony and continue deliberations to November 13, 2013.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 9<sup>th</sup> 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