

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2013

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Henry Heimuller and Commissioner Earl Fisher. Commissioner Anthony Hyde was not present.

Commissioner Heimuller called the meeting to order.

**MEETING WITH UNION REPRESENTATIVES**

Commissioner Heimuller and Commissioner Fisher, along with Jean Ripa, met with Union representatives Pam Benham, Erin O'Connell, Dean McMann, Jeff Peterson and Andy Chavira. After introductions, Commissioner Heimuller asked if anyone had any particular questions or issues they wanted to discuss. Pam asked about the timber money. Lengthy discussion followed on options and issues, including unknowns such as PERS costs and the fate of the County Jail. The Commissioners asked Pam to get some input from Local 1442 members about which they would find more valuable - buying back some furloughs this fiscal year or banking money to reduce furloughs next year. The group recognized that many employees have settled into their furlough schedules and would have difficulty changing those mid year. The group also discussed the dysfunction of the tax system in Oregon and how both parties have interest in that subject.

On a good note, the group talked about some nice things that have happened lately as employees (union and non-union) have banded together to support other employees in need.

**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.

#### **SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY:**

Jean Ripa reviewed the plans for the annual Employee Service Recognition Ceremony which will take place during the Board meeting on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. No changes were made.

#### **OPTIONS FOR SERVER ROOM:**

Jean Ripa and Todd Dugdale were present to discuss some options surrounding the use of different space to move the Courthouse server room, which the Commissioners were interested in doing. The concept would be to follow the current facilities plan and, once the EOC is vacated, move the Building Inspectors into that area. Then IT would move their desks and work space into the Inspectors old area and the IT office space would be converted to a data center. The cost is estimated to be between \$30,000 -\$50,000, although this is a very broad estimate at this point. This work would be an ideal use of a portion of the remaining loan proceeds. Jean and Todd both proposed that this project be started by obtaining services of an experienced design firm so that any new Data Center built would last far into the future. Commissioners Heimuller and Fisher gave their general consent to proceed with obtaining an initial design so that a cost proposal could be firmed up.

#### **FRONT END LOADER:**

Dave Hill was present to discuss the disposition of the Front End Loader that was originally slated for auction. It was pulled because there was a request from the City of St Helens Public Works Department, that the County donate this equipment to the city. Dave mentioned that the City and the County have a good working relationship and it is valuable to the County to continue to develop this relationship. Therefore, Dave would recommend that we donate the loader to St Helens. After discussion, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve the donation of the

1976 Caterpillar 920 Front End Loader to the City of St. Helens. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION CONTRACT:**

Sarah Hanson met with the Board to discuss the Public Health Foundation contract. The Board addressed the Foundation's proposed changes and discussed the next steps to respond. The County has hired Sherrie Ford as a .1 FTE County employee so we are compliant with the State's requirement in that respect. We are not technically compliant with the enforcement or complaint process requirements. However, we're not really out of compliance either unless or until an enforcement matter or complaint arises. Because funding goes directly to the Foundation, the Foundation bears the risk.

Commissioner Fisher indicated the he would meet with Dan Garrison to discuss the remaining issues and will let Sarah know if there is a need to have a meeting with the Foundation Board.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(e) - REAL PROPERTY:**

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

**LETTER OF ELECTION FOR SRS PAYMENT:**

Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the letter to the State of Oregon detailing the decision by the County to receive the SRS payment, along with percentage elections to Title II and Title III projects. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Meeting Minutes

12/4/13

Page 4

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

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

Henry Heimuller,

Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Not Present

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

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

Jan Greenhalgh

Board Office Administrator