

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

May 28, 2014

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

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting to order.

MEETING WITH UNION REPRESENTATIVES:

The Board met with Union Presidents Erin O'Connell (AFSCME Local 1442), Dean McMann (AFSCME Local 697), AFSCME Council Representative Andy Chavira and Jean Ripa. Randy Sanders was also present.

The group talked about the effect of the new Jail funding.

Commissioner Fisher discussed the budget process and announced that no further cuts would be needed than those already known. The good news is that the furlough days have been reduced from 26 to 12. The Commissioners all expressed hope for the County's financial future.

The group talked about economic development and how vital development was to bringing jobs to the County and, correspondingly increasing County revenue. Commissioner Hyde educated the group on SIPs and how they work. The Commissioners volunteered to make a presentation on these issues at any time to represented members.

Erin updated the Commissioners on the progress that has been made (through the Safety Committee) of addressing safety of workers in the field.

Commissioner Heimuller talked about available training opportunities he hoped to bring to the County.

Dean mentioned the concern from employees about members of the public approaching the Commissioners with complaints and the perception that the Commissioners did not get both sides of the story. The Commissioners all assured the group that they checked in with the department in question before acting.

FY 2015 FURLOUGH ORDER:

The Board reviewed the draft FY15 Furlough Order provided by Jean Ripa in their packet along with the letter to furloughed employees. They discussed the option of keeping the Courthouses closed on Fridays and other details. They agreed with the proposed Order and, contingent upon Counsel review, directed that it be placed on the consent agenda the following week. The Commissioners then reviewed the letter and dictated some changes. It will also be placed on the consent agenda for approval and Jan will send them out next week.

JANET EVANS EXPECTATION LETTER:

Jean Ripa then reviewed the expectations letter provided in the meeting packet and Personnel Action for new hire Janet Evans. After reviewing and providing changes, *Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve the letter presented with the indicated changes. The motion carried unanimously. Further, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve the Personnel Action for Janet Evans, effective 6/2/14. The motion carried unanimously.*

UPDATE ON HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE & INSURANCE:

Jean Ripa then reviewed the process the Health Benefits Committee had undergone over the prior several months, obtaining quotes from other carriers and looking at different plan design in an attempt to find a reasonable package that lowered the health insurance premium cost. Nothing was found that was competitive enough to switch

plans. The Committee has well prepared its various groups that premium sharing was on the horizon. The Committee has done very well in keeping premiums paid until now.

Jean also reported that several new optional items for employees will be included in this year's open enrollment including an FSA debit card, long term disability insurance and voluntary child life insurance. The long term disability insurance will require a minimum number of participants and Jean expressed uncertainty as to whether or not the County would reach that level.

REQUEST TO HIRE CORRECTIONS LIEUTENANT:

While present, Jean asked, on behalf of Sheriff Dickerson, if the Board would authorize the Sheriff to begin the recruitment process for the one new supervisory position funded by the levy. While there are many details to take care of in the next month before the other recruitments are begun, it is vital that the supervisor be on board to assist in all the processes required by the number of new hires that will be occurring. Jean said she thought the Sheriff was on an upcoming agenda to discuss those other recruitments. *Commissioner Heimuller move and Commissioner Fisher seconded to authorize the Sheriff to hire a Correction Lieutenant. The motion carried unanimously.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(d) - BARGAINING:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(h) - LITIGATION:

The Board immediately recessed the regular session to go back into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(h). Upon coming out of Executive Session, *Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to ratify the Diversion Agreement with Sheri Gustafson-Orange for solid waste violations and authorize Robin McIntyre to sign. The motion carried unanimously.*

Further, *Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to authorize County Counsel to proceed with sentencing on the Gustafson-Orange solid waste violations. The motion carried unanimously.*

MEETING WITH PORT OF ST. HELENS ON SENATE BILL 766:

Port Director Patrick Trapp and Port attorney Gary Shepherd presented written information to the Board on SB 766 and the impact of the designation of Port Westward and other properties in the County as Regionally Significant Industrial Areas. Gary walked the Board through the written material and explained that the Port will not submit an application to the State for Port Westward without the County's support. The Commissioners asked questions about the timing of the application, among other things. Patrick responded that the State is required to have at least five sites certified by the end of June and the State has asked the Port to submit an application. The Port also responded to questions from citizens in attendance, Jim Lichatowich, Daryl Whipple, and Nancy Warren. The Board took no action but will consider the information presented.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 28th day of May, 2014.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____

Anthony

Hyde, Chair

By: _____

Heimuller, Commissioner

Henry

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: _____

Jan Greenhalgh

Board Office Administrator