

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2014

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

Commissioner Heimuller called the meeting to order.

**BOARD DISCUSSION:**

- ▶ The Board met with Jean Ripa and Union representatives Dean McMann, Andy Chavira, Tristan Wood and Erin O'Connell. The Commissioners welcomed them and asked if there were any issues for discussion. Erin updated the Board on the project she was working on with Jean and Todd Cunningham to obtain radios for field workers.

The group also talked about training on de-escalating violence. Jean reported that she had emailed department heads with a few different options over the past few months and had also purchased a DVD that could be easily used by any department.

Commissioner Fisher updated the group on the jail levy and the hiring process. The group talked about funding, legislative priorities and O&C funding. The suggestion was made to have the next joint meeting at the Jail for a tour. Jean will make arrangements for that with the Sheriff.

There was lengthy discussion on economic development and its value to the community.

**STATUS UPDATE ON PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION:**

Sherrie Ford, Public Health Administrator, came before the Board to give a bi-monthly status report on Public Health Services. She presented hard copies of information on the conceptual framework for governmental public health services; processing complaints and appeals; managing conflicts of interest pertaining to the Public Health Administrator; and her written report to the Board of Commissioners. General discussion was held and because this was information only no action was needed.

#### **PERS ISSUE:**

Jean Ripa, Robin McIntyre and Jennifer Cuellar updated the Commissioners on a recent mistake made by PERS wherein they incorrectly classified a PERS retiree as eligible to work unlimited hours under the County Sheriff. This will have a significant financial effect on both the employee and the County. Jean asked the Commissioners whether they would be willing to propose legislation that: (1) put a time limit on how far back PERS could go in making corrections; (2) prohibited PERS from demanding financial contributions prior to the point that they identify they made an error in

classification; and (3) allowed employers to have access to employees' retirement status classifications. After discussion, the Commissioners requested that Jean present them with a memo on the subject and they would pursue it.

#### **COUNTY DATA CENTER:**

Jean next thanked the Commissioners for identifying the move of the data center as a priority. She noted that this would be a challenging and complex project but that she wanted to make sure that, within the tight budget constraints, the County developed a Data Center that would serve it for years to come. There will be a kick off meeting sometime in later October to start the project but it is one that will take many months to complete.

#### **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.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2014.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: Not Present

Anthony Hyde, Chair

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

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

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan Greenhalgh  
Board Office Administrator