

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2016

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.

SHERIFF DICKERSON MONTHLY UPDATE:

This item was pulled and carried over to 2/3/16.

UPDATE ON TRANSIT SERVICES:

- Janet Wright and Michael Ray were present for discussion on the amendment to the First Transit contract and how the process was progressing for the County to take over dispatching and maintenance duties. They are working on a time frame for getting the current First Transit employees who do dispatching and maintenance over from First Transit to the County. Initially, this transfer would be through Cardinal Services. Cardinal would provide the service for 6 months, after which the County would need to absorb those employees into its budget. Luckily, this would occur in the next budget cycle, so that allows time for planning a possible transfer.
- Discussion then centered on the “liquidated damages” letter that Janet and Robin are working on. The letter outlines the problems the County is having with how First Transit is handling their contractual duties. The letter states which parts of the contract First Transit is in violation of and also lists all of the violations that have occurred over the quarter from October 2015 thru December, 2015. It was

determined that staff schedule First Transit for the 1/20 Staff meeting to meet with the Board.

- Fare Reductions: Michael discussed CC Rider's proposal to lower fares on certain segments of certain routes. The segments being proposed include weekday Line 4 and weekend Line 7 between Columbia City and South County (St Helens and Scappoose) and all of Line 5 – Kelso. The current fares are extremely high for the distance covered; \$5 and \$6 dollars respectively. Line 3, which is a route of similar distance cost a passenger only \$2. CC Rider is hoping that by lowering the fare, ridership will increase. The Board agreed with the proposal based on the information provided in the Staff Report. There is a public hearing scheduled before the Board of Commissioner next Wednesday, 1/13/16.

TRANSIT RECRUITMENT:

Jean Ripa asked the Commissioners what type of process they wanted to use in the recruitment for the Transit Program Administrator. After some discussion, the Board decided to invite a panel of Transit experts to act as an initial interview panel, with the final candidates coming to the Board for interview. Jean will begin the recruitment process next week. Given that this is a specialized type of position and might be difficult to fill, she will hold it open for awhile. She will also send the job description to the Board for review. Janet will give Jean a list of contacts through which she can distribute the recruitment announcement, as well as a list of possible interviewers.

FACILITIES UPDATE:

Casey Garrett and Todd Dugdale were present to provide the Board with an update on facilities services and projects, i.e. elevator update; Jail showers; and County Counsel office space remodel in the old Courthouse. No action was needed.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 5th day of January, 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: _____

Jan Greenhalgh
Board Office Administrator