

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

December 21, 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.

NW NATURAL GAS - CONFERENCE CALL:

Dave Weber, CEO of NW Natural Gas Storage, and other representatives of NW Natural, met with the Board via telephone regarding the notice of default for the Adams Underground Storage Lease that the County sent to NW Natural on December 13, 2016. Also present was Steve Planchon, County Natural Resources Administrator (via telephone), and Robin McIntyre, Assistant County Counsel. The notice of default gave NW Natural 10 days to cure the default or dispute the County's demand for payment. Mr. Weber asked the Board to consider a 90-day extension to that deadline. After discussion, ***Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve a 90-day extension to the deadline in the notice of default. The motion carried unanimously.***

WAIVER OF KENNEL FEE FOR COLUMBIA HUMANE SOCIETY:

Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to waive the \$250 kennel fee for the Columbia Humane Society. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD OFFICE SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT PROCESS:

Jean Ripa reminded the Board that they are allowed to conduct employment interviews under executive session as long as they approve the recruitment process and criteria in public session. She noted that a large number of applicants (63) had applied for the position of Office Specialist in the Board's Office. Under Civil Service rules, the top 25 candidates have been sent for consideration to the Board and Jan Greenhalgh. Jean Ripa suggests that Jan conduct an initial review of the applicants, determine which of the 25 should be brought in for an initial interview with her and also take a written test designed for support positions. From that process, a smaller group can be invited to interview with the Board as a whole. After discussion, the Board indicated that they would like to interview a group of no more than 6.

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 returning to regular session, Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to decline FOPPO's offer of mediation related to the Sadler grievance. The motion carried unanimously.

LOWER COLUMBIA ENGINEERING - RAINIER TRANSIT CENTER:

Michael Ray, Casey Garrett and representatives of Lower Columbia Engineering met with the Board to provide an update on the status of the CC Rider Rainier Transit Center project. Lower Columbia Engineering's, Steve Alexander presented conceptual plans of the existing project design and discussed a variety of details and circumstances that have led to its current format. In addition, there was a brief discussion that included an update on the engineer's estimated project budget and project schedule. No action needed at this time.

PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

Michael Ray, CC Rider, presented the update of the CC Rider Coordinated Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan. The Plan is required by ODOT for all transit agencies. ODOT provides funding and staff to complete the plan for transit agencies.

The 2016 Plan is an update of the 2013 Plan. The Plan is used by the transit agency and by ODOT to ensure funding under the 5310 Grant Program is used to implement strategies identified in the Plan.

The Board expressed their concern that this update is nothing more than the previous plan with a new date attached. They requested that Michael go through the plan and suggest changes that will make it a better tool for going forward.

After Michael revises the Plan, the Board will take it through the public hearing process before they take action on adoption. In the meantime, the 2013 Plan will be the plan used for 5310 and STF funding decisions.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 21st day of December, 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh
Board Office Administrator

By: _____
Earl Fisher, Commissioner