

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION MINUTES

January 24, 2018

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Margaret Magruder, Commissioner Henry Heimuller and Commissioner Tardif.

Commissioner Magruder called the meeting to order.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(I) - Evaluation:**

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

**PUBLIC HEALTH CONTRACT DISCUSSION:**

Mike Paul, Public Health Administrator, was present to update the Board on the status of the contract for public health and environmental health services. He informed the Board that a draft contract was sent to the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County (PHF) and that he is waiting for a response. He received some initial feedback from Sherrie Ford, Director of PHF, who is concerned that the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) often amends the financial assistance awards and that the contract did not include provisions to ensure the County would pass the state funds to the Public Health Foundation on a monthly basis. Mike then provided a summary of the amendments to the current contract and the changes to the current awards. Commissioner Heimuller and Commissioner Magruder asked about the specific amounts and whether the provision should also allow for the County to decrease the payment if the OHA sends less money to the County. Mike is working on language with County Counsel that will allow for quarterly amendments to reconcile the payment amounts. Mike stated the issue is related the Public Health Foundation's lack of reserves. Commissioner Tardiff asked about the payment provisions in the contract and also whether the amounts were reasonable. Mike responded that during negotiations the County agreed to pay PHF on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, but PHF agreed to provide a quarterly expenditure report so the County can adjust payment based on actual spending. Mike then informed the Board that the subcontracts have not been provided for review. PHF has a subcontract with Columbia Community Mental Health (CCMH) to provide mental health services at the school-based health centers, as well as a contract with Yakima Valley Farmworkers, which is the medical sponsor for the school-based health center in Clatskanie. Mike spoke with the state coordinator and was instructed not to distribute funds for that school-based health center until YVFW responds to the Oregon Health Authority's notice of noncompliance. Mike informed the Board that the County would have an intergovernmental agreement with Clatsop County Public Health for a Health Officer. He talked about the contents of an email from Dr. Steven Krager, the Medical Director of the PHF. County Counsel will review whether there is a conflict of interest or other barriers to entering a contract for services. Mike does not believe Dr. Duncan should be a long-term solution, and ideally, the County should find a local medical doctor without a conflict of interest who is willing to work for an amount similar to Dr.

Duncan. Mike stated that he has reviewed the budget with Jennifer Cuellar Smith. He plans to continue to investigate the Foundation's expenditures and explore different options to deliver services, such as cross-jurisdictional agreements, but the focus is on forming an agreement with the PHF so there will not be a gap in services starting on February 1.

The Board asked whether they could assist with anything. Mike stated that there could be a need for a meeting with the PHF and a Commissioner to negotiate the final terms of the agreement. Commissioner Heimuller agreed to provide Mike some times when he would be available.

Mike noted that he is also working on fulfilling other requirements the County has never had to consider, such as serving as the overall responsible party for Orpheus, reviewing the Healthspace website (environmental health licensing), and setting up a webpage.

### **FY19 BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

Jennifer Cuellar, Finance Director, was present to give the Board an update on the FY19 budget. She had hoped all instructions from prior meeting would get us to a balanced budget, but some negative news in the interim has come in. Primary drivers of current budget gap of \$214k are re-projection of CPI from 2.4% to 4% - total \$148k - and almost \$50k of higher public health costs than previously anticipated.

Discussion was held on the new PERS rules that allow some flexibility of reducing the PERS reserve further, without eliminating the opportunity to put the reserves to work in the PERS system itself (min contribution is now 250k vs 1M and can make up to 2 contributions per year). An employer incentive program is being proposed by the Governor which would give a 25 cent match for every dollar contributed to a side account that is not generated from a PERS bond, offering another piece of potentially very good news for the County. Because we have just such a PERS cash reserve we could use to take advantage of an incentive plan.

The impact of the fully allocated support services costs to the special revenue funds was also discussed. The additional amounts that the funds would have to cover are listed. Weighing whether further cuts to the general fund should be considered against the impact to the funds is something the Board wants additional time to think about.

Further, there is the potential that it may be in the interest of the CCDA to consider an underlevy scenario for FY19, which would impact the property tax revenues received by the overlapping districts, of which the County is one.

Jennifer will follow up on: review CCSO staffing in budget; more information on the Portland CPI; schedule next budget discussion for the 2.21.18 work session; and provide any updated information on the FY19 budget projections that come in during the interim.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(d)(f):**

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

**ANIMAL SHELTER KENNEL PERMIT:**

Roger Kadell, Animal Control Officer, was present for discussion on a County Kennel Permit. Under the new animal rescue permit requirements, the county has had to hold a kennel permit. Roger did a recent walk through of the animal shelter and provided the Board with a copy of his report. The Board suggested that an outside agency conduct the kennel inspection, to avoid the issue of the county inspecting themselves. Roger will work on that and get back with the Board.

**REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF PUBLIC RECORDS FEE:**

This matter was held over to the 1.31.18 Work Session.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret Magruder, Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alex Tardif, Commissioner

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