

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION MINUTES

January 31, 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) - Evaluations:**

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:**

Michael Paul and Sarah Hanson were present to discuss the Public Health Contract. This has been discussed a number of times and the contracts are now ready for Board approval.

After all review and discussion, ***Commissioner Tardif moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve the Personal Services Provider Contract by and between Columbia County and the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County for Public Health and Environmental Health Services. The motion carried unanimously.***

Further, ***Commissioner Tardif moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve the Business Associate Agreement between Columbia County and the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County. The motion carried unanimously.***

**REQUEST FOR PRO TEM APPOINTMENT:**

Diana Taylor, Justice Court Judge, came before the Board to request authorization to appoint a Justice Pro Tempore. There are 2 possible candidates for the position. Teri Powers, who is an attorney and also a pro tem at Circuit Court for traffic and small claims. The other is Jim Gibson, who has no judicial experience. Her recommendation would be to go with Teri because there wouldn't be a need for any training. The Board asked if Teri lives in Columbia County. Because Diana did not know for sure, the Board carried over this discussion until that information can be obtained.

**MEDICINE WHEEL RECOVERY SERVICES:**

Mike Sahagian, Attorney for Medicine Wheel Recovery Services, was present along with Tana Howtopat, cofounder of Medicine Wheel and Pam Daniel, to discuss the contract between Medicine Wheel and CCMH. CCMH said it could not renew its contract with Medicine Wheel at the same prices it offered last year because those

rates aren't sustainable. The contract rates offered by CCMH don't cover the cost of staff time to provide services. A lot of vulnerable people depend on the services provided by Medicine Wheel. Mike laid out the roadblocks Medicine Wheel is up against and asked the County Commissioners for assistance. Commissioner Heimuller explained that the strict chain of command that dictates the reimbursement cycle is a product of the Coordinated Care Organization, that was created when the Oregon Health Plan rolled out. After discussion, the Board stated that, although they couldn't promise anything, they would reach out to regional agencies to get more information.

#### **ELECTED OFFICIALS COMPENSATION COMMITTEE:**

Jean Ripa reminded the Board that it was time to appoint the annual Elected Officials Compensation Committee. After discussion, the Board decided to have Jan Greenhalgh contact the members from 2017 and find out if they were willing to serve again. If so, they will be appointed via the consent agenda. If not, the Board will determine replacement candidates.

#### **REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF PUBLIC RECORD FEES:**

The Board has received two requests for the waiver of Public Records fees, one from the Spotlight and one from the Human Rights Defense Center. The standard procedure is to not waive these fees because of the staff time involved. Because staff time has been spent on both of these requests, ***Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Tardif seconded to deny the request from the Spotlight and the Human Rights Defense Center for a waiver of their public request fees. The motion carried unanimously.***

#### **PROPOSED COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING:**

The Board discussed a submission by Leo Mock on a proposed river crossing from Cornelius Pass, at Hwy 30, to connect across the Columbia River at the confluence of I-5 and I-205 freeways in Washington State. The Board felt this project should be submitted to the State Transportation Division to consider, as these properties are not in Columbia County, nor would there be any funding available at the county level for such a project. No action needed.

#### **EQUIPMENT PURCHASE FOR PARKS DEPARTMENT:**

Casey Garrett came before the Board to request authorization to purchase equipment for the Parks Department. He presented the quotes received for a truck, trailer and Kubota RTV and reviewed each in detail, along with the justification for the use of Title III dollars. After some discussion, ***Commissioner Tardif moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve the expenditure for the Parks equipment as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.***

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

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