

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION MINUTES

February 21, 2018

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Margaret Magruder and Commissioner Henry Heimuller. Commissioner Tardif was not present.

Commissioner Magruder called the meeting to order.

MEETING WITH UNION PRESIDENTS:

The Board met with Jean Ripa, Erin O'Connell, Micaela Shapiro-Shellaby, Deb Jacob, Tristan Wood, and Chris Hoover. Commissioner Heimuller updated the Union officers on the status of the FY19 budget. It started out at \$3.5 million in the hole but the Board is working on whittling that down with no layoffs or furloughs, if possible. He also discussed some of the bigger cost drivers such as the COLA (higher than it has been in years), PERS, health insurance. He outlined how our costs are going up but our revenues are not.

Erin O'Connell asked that the Commissioners start to regularly read the minutes of the Safety Committee. She referenced the work that a sub-group has been doing related to Field Worker Safety. She and Tristan Wood both spoke to the need for employee safety to be a priority at the County, which does not seem to be the culture now. Tristan noted that only a couple managers regularly attend the Safety Committee meetings but a few rarely do. Jean Ripa noted that state and federal law require that Safety Committees be evenly divided between management and non-management staff. Erin and Tristan talked about the importance of having management staff present and engaged. The Commissioners were encouraged to watch the list of items which need addressing and to see how many go for so long (in some cases years) without update. They were also encouraged to require managers to make safety a focused priority. Both Commissioners requested that the Safety Committee prioritize the current list and Jean Ripa said she would put that on the next Safety agenda. Commissioner Heimuller also requested that Jean Ripa prepare an attendance list of Committee members for the Board. Jean reminded the group that the positions on the Committee were defined by the County's Safety Charter which had carefully taken into consideration those positions which had particular affect on safety issues (which usually involved people and/or equipment/facilities) as well as ensuring balanced representation from all County facilities.

Deb Jacob mentioned her frustration that LDS employees did not seem to have access to the latest ordinances. Discussion followed regarding who posted these items online. The Commissioners wondered whether the postings were delayed until they were actually in affect. They requested that Jean Ripa place this item for discussion on the next department head meeting agenda to determine how to post to ensure that the County's various policies and procedures are appropriately updated, maintained and distributed.

Chris Hoover, FOPPO President, updated the Commissioners on changing requirements for ongoing training for DPSST certified officers and said, in his opinion, POs needed to have more than annual firearms qualification and regularly attend defensive tactics training.

FY19 BUDGET DISCUSSION:

Current deficit is around \$150,000 for the General Fund. This is approximately the amount expected in additional property tax that would accrue to the County from an anticipated CCDA underlevy. Board guidance to the finance director is to use this as the final budget balancing action at this time.

Board's request of the Clerk to make a study of potential staffing savings which resulted in a personnel budget reduction of approximately \$10,000 stands at this time. The HR Director was requested to work with the Clerk to do a staffing study in that office to determine whether this budget saving measure taken is realistic. Findings from this work will be discussed with the Board and, at that time, any budget implications will be folded into the FY19 budget process. Hopefully timing will work for any required budget update to be incorporated into the budget appropriations in June; if not, a supplemental budget process will be made.

Discussion of the proposal regarding elections equipment also took place. Finance Director asked that not only financial criteria be taken into consideration as the Board deliberates on these options but that system security risk also be reviewed with alternative technology options.

After the budget discussion, Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Magruder seconded to ratify the letter sent to the Transit Administrator. The motion passed unanimously.

Jean Ripa requested that the Board give her some direction on the Transit Administrator recruitment. After discussion the Board agreed that the prior processes used would be used in this recruitment: Jean Ripa would review applications for basic qualifications; the Commissioners would then review applications and determine which would be interviewed. Depending on the number of candidates, the Board may choose to ask an outside Transit expert to sit on the interview panel. After further discussion, the Board agreed to set aside the 4.4.18 work session agenda for interviews. If more than 4-5 candidates need to be interviewed, they will pick another day.

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

This Executive Session was pulled - not needed.

CHANGES TO RECYCLING MARKETS:

Kathleen Boutin-Pasterz, Solid Waste Coordinator, was present along with members of the county's Solid Waste Advisory Committee and staff from the county's two waste

hauling franchisees. Discussion was held on the upcoming changes to the recycling program due to drastic changes in the market for recycled materials.

With China no longer accepting bales of recyclable materials from the Pacific Northwest, other markets need to be found and secured. These new markets require materials have less contamination than current bales of materials contain. To achieve these lower rates of materials the sorting line at the materials recovery facility in Vancouver (Waste Connections) needs to slow down processing line and add staff. This has increased costs of operation and the new markets do not pay as much as China has paid for materials last year and in some cases they just take the materials at no charge. Recycling is now costing \$141.00/ton while landfilling is costing \$89.00/ton. Last year at this time Recycling was costing the county \$48/ton to process.

Discussion included removing aseptic cartons and all plastics #3-#7 from the accepted recycling materials list and considering a recycling surcharge to cover the increased costs.

The Board asked the franchisees to talk with the cities and inform them of the situation and get buy in for the surcharge and modified accepted recycling list. At such time when cities and the county agree on the course of action, information (designed by Franchisees and then approved by SWAC and county staff) will be sent out to customers at the same time.

REQUEST TO NAME PRIVATE ROAD - NIMS WAY:

Glen Higgins, LDS, came before the Board regarding a request to name a private road "Nims Way". Glen explained that there are three houses using the same private easement driveway. Ordinance requires the road to be named if three or more dwellings access the same driveway, so that first responders can locate the physical address as easily as possible. The proposed name has been cleared to use by Columbia 911, CRFR, Road Dept and Cartography.

The Board had no concerns with this request and directed staff to prepare an Order for an upcoming consent agenda.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONTRACT:

Mike Paul was not present due to weather conditions. This item was carried over to the 2.28.18 work session.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 21st day of February, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____

Margaret Magruder, Chair

By: _____

Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: _____

Alex Tardif, Commissioner