

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION MINUTES

September 5, 2018

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

Commissioner Magruder called the meeting to order.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Commissioner Magruder shared a letter received from BPA, who is proposing to help fund the US Fish Wildlife Service to translocate up to 50 Columbia white-tailed deer from an island in the Columbia River to the Columbia Stock Ranch. The Board did not see any problems with that, except that the ranch is right on Hwy 30 and could have some negative traffic issues. This is basically information only
- Cheryl Young, Mayor of the City of Columbia City, is retiring the end of this year. She is the longest serving Mayor in Oregon. The Board discussed what they might do to recognize her long term service. It was suggested that the Board take her to lunch.
- Commissioner Magruder brought up the issue of transitional housing. The Board received a letter from the Judges and a response from Janet Evans. This issue needs to be put to bed - either keep the existing policy or change it. Commissioner Magruder will contact Janet Evans to find out what other counties in the State are doing and will report that information back to the Board.

RES 32-2018: EXTENDED ENTERPRISE ZONE BENEFITS - COMPOSITES:

Chuck Daughtry, CCET Director, was present to answer any questions the Board may have on the Extended Enterprise Zone Benefits for Composites Universal Group. Commissioner Tardif asked why 5 years and not just 3. Chuck explained that the 3 years is a given, but if a company wants a 5 year extension, it needs to be approved by the zone sponsors. As for Composites Universal, this company is thriving, they have increased their employees in the county, have diversified and has now outgrown their facility. The extended benefits are a tool used to retain existing businesses in Columbia County. After discussion, ***Commissioner Tardif moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve Resolution No. 32-2018, "In the Matter of Authorizing Extended Enterprise Zone Benefits for a Fourth and Fifth Year to Aero Investment Strategies, LLC, dba Composites Universal Group, Located in the South Columbia County Enterprise Zone". The motion carried unanimously.***

REVENUE PROJECT UPDATE:

Mike Russell, Holly Miller, Jennifer Cuellar, Steve Pegram, and Sarah Hanson met with the Board for follow up discussion on the Revenue Project. Also present was Karen

Kane. Sarah reminded the Board that in prior discussions about potential revenue sources, the Board asked for additional information related to those sources and other potential revenue sources. This discussion is to provide follow up information. The Board was provided 2 memos with specific information regarding a few revenue options and their potential revenue generation. Sarah reported on transient taxes and also provided additional information about timber taxes in Oregon. Holly Miller gave an update on the Franchise Program. Mike Russell provided additional information about Capital Improvement Bonds and Registration Fees. Todd Wood, Director of CC Rider, attended the last part of the discussion and provided the Board with information regarding alternatives for formation of a Transit District. There was discussion about the tax/fee burden in Columbia County relative to other counties. Staff was directed to contact Eco Northwest for assistance with that question and to provide additional input about revenue potential.

REQUEST TO FILL ROAD DEPARTMENT POSITION:

Mike Russell, Road Department Director, met with the Board to request authorization for him to proceed with filling Road Department positions consistent with prior discussions related to the department's budget and personnel. After discussion, ***Commissioner Tardiff moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to authorize the Road Department Director to fill the positions of Assistant Road Department Director, to promote three positions to Lead Workers, and to fill 2 vacancies for Road Worker. The motion carried unanimously.***

FOLLOWUP ON SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Jean Ripa reminded the Board that they had requested that she and Casey Garrett report back to them on a regular basis on the status of various safety issues. A list of those issues and the progress as of the last update in late July was included in the Board's packet. The issues were reviewed and discussed. Jean will update the list and send copies back out to the Board and the Safety Committee.

Casey updated the Board on progress made on prioritized safety projects prioritized by the Safety Committee.

UPDATE ON COLLECTION OF PROPERTY TAXES:

Maryann Guess, Deputy Tax Collector, came before the Board to inform them that the St. Helens Federal Credit Union will no longer be collecting property taxes for the County. She noted that, last year, they took in approximately 1,300 payments. They have been doing this for 15 years, but the law has changed and financial institutions are no longer able to take these payments. To hopefully alleviate the confusion and frustration, MaryAnn will have Karen Kane to do a press release, notice will be posted at the counter and she will be changing the voice mail message in the Tax office.

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Casey Garrett, General Services Director, came before the Board to review 4 applicants, Ken Tennafus, Gerry Tinkle, Steve Persons and Courtney Elder. Parks Advisory Committee, staff and Commissioner Magruder have reviewed those applications. It is recommended that all four be appointed. Jan will work with Teresa to determine who is replacing who on the committee.

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 coming out of Executive Session, no action was taken by the Board.

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

Dated this 5th day of September, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Chair

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: _____
Alex Tardif, Commissioner