

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION MINUTES

September 26, 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:

The Board met with the Union Presidents for general discussion and updates. Present were Jean Ripa, Ken Border, Erin O'Connell, Jeremy Tull, and Micaela Shapiro-Shellaby. Commissioner Magruder ask the Union leaders what they had on their minds. Ken Border, President FOPPO, brought up several safety concerns: the new PO hires were having difficulty in getting their County provided cell phones; radios that do not work well throughout the County are a problem; and there is lack of Courthouse security, such as metal detectors and screeners at the entrance. Jean reported that she understood that the cell phone purchasing was in the process of being centralized under IT. She also noted that she knew that new radios had been purchased for all the POs, among a batch of others, and that those were awaiting programming through CCOM. Commissioner Heimuller noted that, unfortunately, due to the geography of the county, there will be difficulty with good communications. Discussion followed on the court screening process, including the high cost as well as the fact that the basic County administration and general public services are mixed up in the same facility as the Courts. Unfortunately, the State will not provide funding to appropriately house the Courts. There is a recognition among all parties of the security issue and the unfortunate high price tag associated with fixing it.

Commissioner Heimuller asked the group their opinion on the concept of arming County employees. Several concerns were raised such as liability, the fact that 70% of law enforcement officers who are shot, are shot with their own guns and the difficulty that would arise for responding law enforcement to identify which is the bad guy and which is a County employee who is shooting in defense. The Commissioners stated that they knew there would be many details to consider for such a program.

Ken also brought up that he felt more safety policies needed to be developed, primarily at the department level. He thought a member of FOPPO should be on the Safety Committee. Jean invited Ken, as well as any other employee, to attend the monthly Safety Committee meetings, which is open to all employees. Right now, another employee of Community Justice fills the designated slot for a member from the Justice Facility. Erin also suggested more needs for individual policies to be read and signed as read by employees on a regular basis.

Ken also told the Board that the POs would love to have them come out and see what they do on a daily basis.

There was further discussion on how the Board communicates with employees and ways for employees to learn more about what is happening at the Board's level as they are involved in the community and region.

Commissioner Heimuller asked Jeremy Tull how things were going in the Road Department. Jeremy said there are some growing pains with a new Director but, for the most part, people are excited about the changes and moving forward.

There was further discussion on other items such as centralized vehicle maintenance which was supported by the group present.

Lastly, Ken noted that there had been no janitorial services in their offices for over a year. When the cleaning services were canceled, there just isn't time with the existing Facilities staff at the Justice Facility to take on janitorial duties. Instead, POs and other staff are taking their time to clean offices.

Erin reminded the Board that a survey had been done with indicated that there was a great lack in janitorial services in the Courthouses as well. Everyone understands that this is not the fault of the Facilities staff and that they just don't have time to do the needed level of janitorial work as well as all the other projects assigned. Erin noted that the survey and the cost analysis shows that a consideration of a return to a cleaning service should logically be considered. Micaela hoped that the Commissioners would have found the survey results illuminating and consider the appropriate method of addressing the issues that also led to the resolution of the grievance. The Commissioners agreed that they would address this issue.

MONTHLY TRANSIT UPDATE/PROGRESS REPORT:

Todd Wood, Transit Director, came before the Board to introduce newly hired Angela Garrett, Administrative Asst and John Dreeszen as acting Transit Coordinator. Todd is happy to have his full staff finally in place. In addition, the following updates were provided.

- The grant agreement just approved and signed by the Board today, provides for changing the next round of bus purchases from diesel-powered Transit vans to larger, gas-powered cutaway buses. These buses will provide more versatile upgrades to the current aging fleet.
- Service and route changes were briefly discussed, noting that no changes at all are planned for Lines #2 (PCC) and #6 (Vernonia), while reductions in the number of runs are being evaluated for all other lines, with the goal of realizing the highest possible savings with the lowest possible impact on ridership. No service is expected to be removed completely, and preliminary indications are that service cuts will not necessarily result in reduced ODOT grant funding.
- Todd is working to add to the membership of the existing Columbia County Transit Coordinating Advisory Council (CCTCAC) so that it can also serve as the required STIF Advisory Committee. The joint Committee's Bylaws still need to be updated and the Committee will need to meet as often as weekly in October

to prepare and approve a plan for the STIF funding.

- Todd and John will be attending the upcoming Oregon Transit Association conference in Bend, October 28-31, 2018.
- MTR's drivers will vote on 9.27.18 on whether or not to join the Amalgamated Transit Union. It is not yet known when contract negotiations will begin or what the possible outcomes will be, but this may eventually add to the overall operating costs of CC Rider. Best efforts will be made to anticipate these additional costs in determining proposed service reductions.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT:

- Michael Paul postponed discussion on the Public Health Preparedness Project until after the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) triennial review on Oct. 24. An OHA representative will visit on 10/24/18 to review the County work plan and deliverables.
- Environmental health licensing funds. Michael provided a letter from the County to the OHA for BOC approval. The letter requests OHA to conduct a fiscal audit to determine whether licensing fees were used solely to administer the licensing program.
- Amendment to contract with the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County (PHFCC). Counsel presented draft amendments to the contract with PHFCC. They had previously requested an amendment to the contract to incorporate an appeal process for any mis-expenditures identified by the OHA. The Board reviewed the amendments and directed staff to send to PHFCC for their approval. No action taken at this time.
- Trauma Informed Care Grant. Michael presented a request from the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County (PHFCC) to use \$13,000 of WIC funds to make improvements to the waiting room at their office on Gable Road. PHFCC needs Board approval because the County owns the office building and lot. Michael Paul was unable to answer some of the Boards questions about the project, so they asked that Mike contact PHFCC to have them attend and present the project and answer any questions.

LDS PUBLIC HEALTH RE-ORGANIZATION:

This matter was carried over one week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(b) - Bargaining

This matter was carried over one week.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT (CCI):

Glen Higgins, Planning Manager, presented a list of potential CCI members consisting of: 1) 3 members of the Planning Commission; 2) 15 individuals elected to an area CPAC, and 3) 7 individuals that completed interest forms for serving on a committee for citizen involvement. The Board reviewed the membership recommendations from the Planning Commission and Staff. After reviewing other possible appointments, trying to get broad representation on the Committee, the Board chose to appoint a committee made up of members as recommended by staff. Appointments will be added to next weeks consent agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(e) - Real Property:

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

MUSEUM ITEMS:

Les Watters, Museum Coordinator, came before the Board to request approval of the payment for the rental of a U-Haul truck to relocate museum items, currently lodged at the old Fat Boys Pizza building, to a shop at his home. There was Board consensus for Les to move forward with the U-Haul rental.

While present, Les also requested approval to open the old Courthouse on October 13th & October 20th, during Halloweentown for tours from 1:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. each day. They had no concerns with allowing this.

ADULT CORRECTIONS:

The Board addressed their concerns with the Corrections Director to complete the required staff evaluations, even after being directed by the Board to do so. No action at this time.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING:

Commissioner Magruder asked if the Board was ready to take some action on the issue of transitional housing. This has been discussed a number of times and she would like to get it put to bed. After discussion, it was determined that Commissioner Magruder draft a letter explaining the Board's position on this matter.

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

Dated this 26th day of September, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Chair

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

Jan Greenhalgh,
Board Office Administrator

By: _____
Alex Tardif, Commissioner