

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION MINUTES

November 21, 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 Heimuller moved and Commissioner Tardif seconded to approve the Personnel Action for Sarah Hanson. The motion carried unanimously.***
- Senator Betsy Johnson and CCET Director Chuck Daughtry were present to discuss funding for the Rainier Drainage Improvement Company levee certification. The Senator mentioned that there is \$100,000 available in regional Solutions, but those funds can only be used for construction, not operations or feasibility. Commissioner Magruder's only concern is that there 14 other districts in the county that might also need financial support for re-certification. Commissioner Heimuller had 2 concerns: 1) the amount of money being requested seems to be a moving target; and 2) there would be expectations that those who contribute funding be responsible to fix any problems found. The only thing the Board has to work with is the letter from Terry Deaton. The Board needs something that details the specific request. Chuck stated that he would work with Business Oregon to provide a final proposal to the Board.
- Commissioner Magruder and Commissioner Heimuller met with representatives from Washington and Multnomah counties on the upcoming improvements to Cornelius Pass. The plans are not defined and it would be nice for the Board to have a definite schedule of the closure dates. Senator Johnson suggested that a meeting be scheduled with all three counties, Washington, Multnomah and Columbia to confirm information on the schedule, improvements, etc. There simply needs to be better planning and communication.
- The Board discussed the idea of closing the Courthouse to county employees on Christmas Eve. This questions should be posed to Jean Ripa before any decision is made.
- Commissioner Heimuller met with Mike Russell and Tristan Wood on the recent transportation town hall meeting held 11.14.18. It appears that Mike wasn't treated too well by the public at that meeting. Commissioner Heimuller suggested that at least one Board member attend these types of meeting, to support the employees.

- Commissioner Heimuller asked Tiffany Johnson why the county reimbursed payments for her Bar dues. Robin McIntyre, Assistant County Counsel, explained that it is a requirement of the job and because the County is their only client, the county pays the Counsel's dues.
- The Board briefly discussed the membership on the JOCAC committee. It was decided to have Karen Kane do a posting to solicit applicants for this committee.
- Commissioner Heimuller had lunch with Brian Pixley today to talk about his transition into the Sheriff's position. Brian assured him that things are going well and the Steve Sallee has been a big help with that transition.
- Commissioner Magruder met with Public Health Foundation Board members Michael Carter and Rita Bernhard. They reported hearing that Columbia County wants to take over the Public Health Foundation. Commissioner Magruder assured them that is definitely not the case. Michael Carter had also expressed his concerns with the lack of communication between Michael Paul and Sherrie Ford. Commissioner Magruder explained that both have been informed about that and are working on better communication efforts.

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.

GENERAL SERVICES STAFFING:

Casey Garrett, General Services Director, came before the Board for authorization to hire an Administrative Assistant 1 position to replace the current Department Secretary position, who has taken a job in Land Development Services. Casey also proposed an adjustment to the current personnel funding arrangement between the Facilities Services Program and Parks Program. He explained that the Director wages are currently split at 80% Facilities Services and 20% Parks, while the current Department Secretary wages are split at 10% Facilities Services and 90% Parks. The proposed adjustment would fund both, the Director's and new Administrative Assistant's wages equally between programs, which would result in a slight savings to the General fund and a slight increased staffing budget in the Parks Fund.

Commissioner Tardif wanted assurance that increasing staffing costs towards Parks would not jeopardize the stability of the program. Casey explained that the increase would be minimal and still significantly less than staffing costs had been historically when there was a full time Parks Director. Casey also explained that revenues had significantly increased since launching online reservations services, and he expects to continue to see increased revenues moving forward as new camp sites are established.

Casey recommended that the new Administrative Assistant position be included in the 1442 Courthouse Workers Union, rather than the Local 697. The Board agreed and directed Casey to consult with Jean Ripa on the necessary steps to move forward with hiring an Administrative Assistant 1 position as presented.

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

This Executive Session was canceled.

FINANCE/TREASURER OPTIONS:

This matter was carried over to 11.28.18.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

Michael Paul informed the Board that he attended the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County Board meeting. He discussed priorities and public health modernization. He reviewed feedback he received with the Commissioners. Discussion followed.

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

Dated this 21st day of November, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Chair

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: _____
Alex Tardif, Commissioner