

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOARD MEETING

WORK SESSION MINUTES

June 12, 2019

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

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Jan Greenhalgh asked the Board to review the job descriptions for the Board Office Specialist and the Board Office Administrator so they can be adjusted and finalized so that the Board Office Specialist position can be filled. It was determined that the best way to fill the position initially, is to go through Cardinal Services. The Board will review the job descriptions.
- Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, met with the Board to address the real estate transfer to Alan Horton and Marilyn O'Leary, former owners of property that was deeded to the County for non-payment of property taxes. Sarah explained that she has been working with Bob Lucas who represents a lien holder to transfer the property back to the prior record owners. Mr. Lucas has requested that approvals be expedited to avoid additional interest charges which accrue on the 15th of each month. Sarah explained that four motions are required to complete the transaction. Recording is contingent upon receipt of funds. With that:
 - ***Commissioner Magruder moved and Commissioner Tardif seconded to approve C64-2019 - Purchase and Sale Agreement with Alan Horton and Marilyn O'Leary for Tax Map ID No. 4N1W04-CB-01600 and Tax Account No. 10774. The motion carried.***
 - ***Commissioner Magruder moved and Commissioner Tardif seconded to approve C102-2019 – Release and Indemnity Agreement with April Plummer and authorize the Chair to sign. The motion carried unanimously.***
 - ***Commissioner Magruder moved and Commissioner Tardif seconded to approve Order 46-2019, “In the Matter of Conveying Certain Real Property in St. Helens, Oregon, to Alan Horton and Marilyn O'Leary, DVM, Tax Map ID No. 4N1W04-CB-01600 and Tax Account No. 10774”. The motion carried unanimously.***
 - ***Commissioner Magruder moved and Commissioner Tardif seconded to approve the Quitclaim Deed to Alan Horton and Marilyn O'Leary for Tax Map ID No. 4N1W04-CB-01600 and Tax Account No. 10774 and authorize the Chair to sign”. The motion carried unanimously.***

DOJ COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:

Jeff Auxier, District Attorney, presented the Board with a copy of the agreement with the Department of Justice for Child Support Services. After a brief review, ***Commissioner Tardif moved and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve C98-2019: Department of Justice Cooperative Agreement #19291 for Child Support Services and authorize the Chair to sign. The motion carried unanimously.***

SOLID WASTE RATE REVIEW:

Kathleen Boutin-Pasterz, Solid Waste Coordinator, came before the Board along with the members of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Public Works. Presentations were made by Hudson Garbage/Waste Connections and Waste Management regarding their respective collection service detailed cost reports and related rate requests on May 2, 2019.

Based on a review of detailed cost reporting information submitted in support of the franchise haulers (Hudson Garbage/Waste Connections and Waste Management) requests, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and County Staff recommend approval of the collection franchisee rate adjustments in addition to the 1.9% CPI Disposal Pass-Thru; a 4% rate increase for rural Clatskanie, 5% rate increase for rural Rainier and a 6% rate increase for the rural St. Helens service areas and a 1.4% increase in the rural Vernonia service area. No increase (except for the 1.9% disposal pass-thru) was requested for rural Scappoose. Kathy noted that a public hearing has been scheduled to address these rate adjustments on June 26, 2019. Action can be taken after the hearing is closed and deliberation ended. The proposed rate increases would go into effect on July 1, 2019.

DRONES ON COUNTY PROPERTY:

Senior Assistant County Counsel Robin McIntyre met with the Board to hear their concerns about drones flying on County property. Commissioner Heimuller expressed particular concern about drones being able to film inside County offices as well as causing damage or injury to County property and people on County property, including the Courthouse, Jail and the Fairgrounds. Robin explained that Oregon law provides some prohibitions for drones flying over "critical infrastructure facilities"; however, the courthouse and fairgrounds do not qualify. Correctional facilities and law enforcement facilities do. Oregon law also provides penalties for those who fly drones to harass or annoy private landowners, which would exclude the County. The County can, however, bring a civil action as a remedy. The law allows for treble damages for injury to property or person caused by drones. Finally, the statute includes a preemption provision that precludes local government from enacting laws that regulate the ownership or operation of the drones. Robin will do more research into the legislative intent to determine if the County can regulate drones on its property.

MEETING WITH ECONORTHWEST:

The Board met with Sarah Hanson, along with Lorelei Juntunen and Sadie DiNatale, with ECONorthwest. Lorelei and Sadie presented the Board with a power point of the

project to date and provided a memorandum entitled draft Revenue Project Proposed Recommendations. Lorelei and Sadie discussed the recommendations and how the recommendations were developed (staff team, advisory committee and Board input). They informed the Board that since the last meeting with the Board, the citizen advisory committee met and was supportive of the proposed timeline and phased approach discussed at the Board level. The first phase includes the transit service district and local option levy renewal for the Jail, as well as the System Development charge rate changes currently under review and the transient lodging tax and vehicle registration fee. Phase two may include a general obligation bond and timber tax. In phase 3 a public safety service district is proposed. The Board commented that the revenue projects in later phase 1 through phase 3 are not certain and may change depending on public input and changing financial circumstances post 2020. The Board asked for additional comparison information related to the comparative counties as impacted by the new potential revenue sources. The next steps will be for a draft final report to be prepared for review.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 12th day of June, 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Chair

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By: _____
Alex Tardif, Commissioner

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh
Board Office Administrator