

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOARD MEETING

WORK SESSION MINUTES

August 28, 2019

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

Board Discussion:

At Commissioner Tardif's request, Sr. Assistant County Counsel Robin McIntyre brought before the Board, Order No. 69-2019, "In the Matter of Prohibiting the Parking of Vehicles Along Certain Public or County Roads in Columbia County." The order expands parking prohibitions to include Johnson's Landing Road and the west side of Dike Road in the Scappoose area. Vehicles have been parking along the side of the road, which has a very narrow shoulder. Because of the insufficient width, the parked vehicles are creating a safety hazard. Robin confirmed that Public Works Director Mike Russell is in support of the expanded parking prohibition. Commissioner Tardif moved for approval of Order No. 69-2019; Commissioner Magruder seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners discussed having a formal lunch meeting with the three Judges at Columbia County Courthouse to discuss concerns regarding issues within the workforce and the community. Commissioner Tardif will draft a letter to be sent to the Judges.

PROBATION OFFICER POSITION:

Janet Evans came before the Board to request to fill the open Probation Officer Position. This position is budgeted and has become vacant due to a recent retirement. Commissioner Magruder moved, Commissioner Heimuller seconded. The motion carried. Commissioner Tardif abstained.

SCAPPOOSE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN BREIFING:

Alexandra Rains, Assistant to Scappoose City Manager, and Elaine Howard, consultant to the city, presented the City's Urban Renewal Plan and Report to the Board. Ms. Rains and Howard explained the purpose of the plan, revenue sharing, and impacts of the tax increment financing. No action was taken.

MTR RATE INCREASE REQUEST:

Transit Director Wood presented a request for a rate increase from MTR Western. The request was to increase the current contract rate from \$57.96 to \$63.23 per hour. Mr. Wood stated that the reason for the increase request was a dramatic increase in the

insurance rates that MTR pays for the vehicles that CCRider uses for service. MTR has stated that this increase was due to industry insurance rates going up and a change in the method of calculated coverage. Mr. Wood also discussed the fact that the increase will add an additional \$87k in expenses annually to CCRider. Further discussion led to what this increase would do should the tax measure fail. Mr. Wood stated that should the measure fail this increase will amount to an additional service cut for a total service cut of approximately \$250k in January of 2020. The commissioners requested that Mr. Wood look through the vehicles to determine if there are any vehicles that can be removed from the insurance and “parked” until needed. The commission then directed Mr. Wood to respond to MTR Western with the following compromise: Should the tax measure pass the commission will approve the increase retro-active back to September 1, 2019.

NON-DISCIPLINARY GRIEVANCE:

Jean Ripa presented the Board with the response letter to Lori Baker's non-disciplinary grievance. Commissioner Tardif moved and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the letter. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board recessed from their regular scheduled meeting and went into executive session under 192.660(2)(d). No action was taken returning to regular session.

OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY IGA:

Michael Paul presented a summary of amendment to the intergovernmental agreement with Oregon Health Authority. Discussion followed about specific program elements, including program elements 1, 27, 36, and specifically increases to the original awards. No Commissioners objected, and the BOC directed Counsel to add the amendment to the consent agenda on 9/4.

Michael Paul reviewed Oregon Health Authority's request for application for the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (program element 13). Discussion followed about the program's new tiered model and grant dollars associated with each award. Commissioner Tardif felt Tier 2 was the best option for the County. Commissioner Heimuller and Commissioner Magruder felt Tier 1 was more appropriate. Commissioner Tardif moved Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve an application for Tier 1, and the creation of the position of Health Promotion Specialist and assign it to non-exempt salary range 23, and authorized the Public Health Director to fill the vacancy , Commissioner Tardif abstained. He stated the County needs an organizational assessment before filling any new positions. The motion carried.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Chair

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By: _____
Alex Tardif, Commissioner

By: _____
Jacyn Normine
Board Office Administrator