

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOARD MEETING

WORK SESSION MINUTES

August 5, 2020

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

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Letter re: CARES Relief Fund Distribution to Local Governments: In today's morning meeting Commissioner Tardif brought to discussion the letter received from the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) informing counties that the Emergency Board is discussing pulling approx. 105 million dollars from county funding for state to purchase PPE. Commissioner Magruder has drafted a letter and has brought it back for further discussion. Mike Paul, Public Health Director and Steve Pegrem, Emergency Management Director were present via telecommunication to weigh in. After discussion, Commissioner Heimuller moved, Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the letter. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Tardif asked that Board Office Administrator Jacyn Normine sign his name to the letter /s/Alex Tardif.

Little Jack Falls: Little Jack Falls is located off the old Columbia River Hwy and is in a county right of way. Commissioner Magruder would like to work with the Rainier Historical Society in dedicating Little Jack Falls to County Parks, they would also be working with county public works to determine that there are no other easements that would prevent the dedication. Commissioner Tardif and Commissioner Heimuller support her moving forward.

Vernonia Broadband: The broadband grant was denied, Commissioner Magruder and Holly Miller, IT Director have been gently looking at alternatives to support broadband in the Vernonia area. Commissioner Tardif and Commissioner Heimuller support Commissioner Magruder and Holly in proceeding.

County Meeting Space: Commissioner Heimuller has been on the search for additional space for the county to hold meetings, with all meeting being held virtually we need more space. He was informed that the old school building here in Old Town St. Helens is going to be coming up for sale, he would like to pursue the possibilities of purchasing. Commissioner Magruder and Commissioner Tardif both are in support of Commissioner Heimuller exploring the options.

Unified Messaging: Commissioner Tardif has been talking with some of the community leaders in Columbia County. The topic of the conversations have been messaging related to COVID-19 for our retailers and restaurants. He would like to coordinate a joint meeting to discuss messaging so a unified message could be sent out to the public. Commissioner Magruder and Commissioner Heimuller are in support.

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STAFF ITEMS:

CERT incentive pay for non-represented Sgt's. Sheriff Pixley and Jean Ripa, HR Director were present to discuss the CERT incentive pay for non-represented Sgt's. After discussion, the Board directed staff to place this item on the next consent agenda for approval.

2020 Columbia County Century Challenge: Tristan Wood, Public Works Assistant Director and Paul Barlow joined the meeting via telecommunication to discuss the 5th annual Century Bike Challenge. After discussion, the Board directed staff to move forward to obtain comments from other agencies that would be involved in the event and bring back for approval.

Social Media Holly Miller, IT Director and Julie Thompson, contracted PIO, were present to discuss the counties social media i.e. Facebook page. Discussion was held on purchasing an archive tool for county Facebook pages and leaving them as they currently are, which allows the public to comment. Moving county pages to government pages could result in losing followers, but county would be able to choose to allow or not allow the public to comment, discussed if departments should have their own pages or keep format set the way it is.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No executive session to come before this Board

With nothing further to come before this Board the meeting adjourned.

Dated this 5th day of August, 2020

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Jacyn Normine

Board Office Administrator

By: _____
Alex Tardif, Chair

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner