

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

February 4, 2004

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Rita Bernhard, Commissioner Anthony Hyde, and Commissioner Joe Corsiglia, together with Sarah Tyson, Assistant County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting to order and led the flag salute.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2004 Work Session; January 28, 2004 Board meeting and the January 28, 2004 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Stephanie Klepel, 34067 Sykes Road, St. Helens. She is here because she is a business owner and was contacted last year by the Food Bank who was soliciting for food donations. She couldn't help them last year, but understands there is a plan to hold a "150 year celebration" for Columbia County at the fairgrounds to help benefit the food bank. She felt this would be a good opportunity to help the food bank and she is willing to donate gifts for a raffle. However, she first wants to make sure this is something that will be sanctioned by the county. There are a number of people in this county that depend on the food bank and this is a very beneficial event and the Board should be applauded for doing this. She also sees no reason this shouldn't be used as a campaign venue. She just needs to know if the Board is going to hold this event before she starts soliciting other businesses for raffle prizes.

Commissioner Bernhard feels that the full Board has always been supportive of the food bank, however, she is not sure that this the right vehicle to use. The Board still needs to discuss the issue. This issue is on the agenda and will be discussed at that time.

Stephanie requested that the Board let her know as soon as they make a decision on this, so she can do her part on this.

Bob Short, Glacier Northwest, approached the Board about an upcoming single issue ballot measure to increase the gravel tax from \$.15 cents to \$1.00. He wanted to know how much this election will cost the county. Commissioner Hyde stated that it will cost the County \$22,000 and no, it was not budgeted for.

Heidi Brown, 18512 Mellinger Road, Vernonia: She is here representing the Vernonia school district outdoor school program. In November, they received a letter outlining the new fee increases for Camp Wilkerson. The letter also stated that they would no longer have exclusive

rights to the camp while they were there. These two decisions would prohibit them from using this facility for their community camp as well as their outdoor school program. She wanted to address the astronomical fee increase. Previously, they were charged \$200 per day for the use of Camp Wilkerson. As of January, 2004, the fee will increase to a minimum of \$710 per day.

Commissioner Hyde stopped Heidi at this point and explained that she had been misled. He had a discussion with some of the leadership in December about this. There were fee increases, but not to the extent of their interpretation. Kathy Ward was told directly that if you rent all the adirondacks, which you do, then the lodge and the school are included, which brings the cost \$500. There is also a 25% discount because you have been a historic user. That brings the cost down to \$375.00. As far as exclusive use is concerned, that park is over 400 acres. The Parks Advisory Committee has been given the task of creating more revenue and opening that park up to more users. Accordingly, they are thinning out more timber so it is more accessible, putting in a horse facility and putting in a casual days facility. However, when the adirondack, lodge and school is rented out, it would be clearly delineated that that area is off limits to any other users.

After discussion, Heidi had a better understanding of the fees and the exclusive use.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Bernhard read the consent agenda in full. With that, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 2/3/04.
- (B) Ratify (2) Partition Plats for Rich Morten.
- (C) Ratify Partition Plat for Bernard Mazour.
- (D) Order No. 76-2003, "In the Matter of the Applications of Voris and Mildred Probst for a Modification of Columbia County Road Standards and a Minor Partition to Create an 8th 2 acre Lot with Access onto Miloris Way".
- (E) Authorize replacement of Justice Court Clerk.
- (F) Appoint Paul Connelly to the Columbia County Fair Board, Position #3 for a three (3) year term.
- (G) Approval to submit a Request for CDBG Funding for Construction of a Family Resource Center by Community Action Team.

The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TO COUNTY ASSESSOR POSITION:

Tom Linhares, County Assessor, approached the Board. As the Board is aware, Tom has submitted his resignation, effective April 2, 2004. That opens up his position, with 3 years remaining in his term. The statute allows the Board to appoint a successor to complete his term. Tom is highly recommending Sue Poling as that successor. He believes that his staff also supports Sue for this position. Tom noted that this will leave a vacant chief appraiser position and that position will eventually need to be filled. He would ask that the Board make this appointment soon to help with transition. Commissioner Hyde feels it is important that we have a seamless transition and respects Tom Linhares enough to be satisfied with his recommendation. With that, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to appoint Sue Poling as the successor to the County Assessor position, effective April 2, 2004 at 5:01 p.m. Under discussion, Commissioner Corsiglia feels that the public trusts Tom as does the Board and also supports his recommendation. With the vote taken, the motion carried unanimously.

SUPPORT OF COLUMBIA RIVER CHANNEL DEEPENING PROJECT:

Commissioner Corsiglia added this to the agenda. He received a draft resolution for this project and was asked for the County's support. The Board feels this is appropriate and, with that, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve Resolution No. 6-2004, "In the Matter of the Support of the Columbia River Channel Deepening Project" and authorize the Chair to sign. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S BALL:

Commissioner Bernhard started the discussion. This is a subject that Commissioner Corsiglia has been promoting and has mentioned it in passing several months ago. There have been some brief comments were made in a meeting about what we might do about with this being included as a birthday celebration. They way she understood it is that Commissioner Corsiglia was going to get more information and come back to the full Commission. The next thing she hears about it is a front page article in the Chronicle stating that the Board was doing a Commissioner's Ball and that he was speaking on behalf of the full Board. She's sorry, but she did not feel that was the case. She does not remember the full Board really talking about it, and have never spoken publicly in a meeting about this, and never made a decision as a Board. As she stated earlier to Stephanie, the idea at one point was to make this a fund raiser for the food bank, which again, is a very good cause. She is not questioning that and she is not saying that she doesn't support the food bank. At this moment, she has received a lot of comments from the public about that newspaper article and people are questioning why the Board is having a party. There are a lot of other things on their plate. After the ballot measure failed yesterday, there are going to be some pretty substantial impacts to people in our community, not just food, but other things too. So the question was, why are we planning and supporting a party, when we really have other things that are more important. She agrees with that. Even though she understands we have a 150th birthday party coming and we should have something at some point in the year. However, she is not sure that this is exactly what kind of activity that we might have. For one, she does not believe we

should be having alcohol. This is something that is supposed to be a community event, a family oriented event. She doesn't know why we need to have alcohol. There are a number of other issues surrounding this, but the bottom line for her is that she is questioning whether the County should be putting money into this event. There is money that needs to go to the Fairgrounds to use their facility, who is going to pay for that? Another issue is security. The Sheriff's office is so totally understaffed. She rode the other night with one of the officers and they do not have any spare minute. If they have to worry about security where there is alcohol involved, it just creates more problems. Those are her basic concerns. She would really rather have some kind of birthday event, maybe in the summer out in the city park where we can have an old fashion ice cream social or something along those lines. Something that would include the entire community, the chambers and merchants, and some corporate sponsorship, so that the county is not footing the bill for this event. This is possibly money to be made for the food bank, she is not sure that this is something that the county should be taking on. As for calling it a "Commissioner's Ball", she has not been in favor almost from the very beginning because she doesn't think the Commissioner's are the focus of this, it's a birthday celebration for the whole county. Having said all of that, there has been discussion twice on this in two staff meetings and both times she has expressed concerns. While talking about this, Stephanie made a comment about claiming this in the re-election. It's one thing if you have something going on and you claim your success, but to plan an event so that you can use it to claim, that is a different story. That is what it sounds like to her. One of the comments made by someone who is helping Commissioner Corsiglia on this, which is Randy Sanders from the Reader, he told her that they were trying to attract younger voters. To her, this is not about voting, this is about a county wide birthday celebration. She has real concerns about this and these are the things that she is worried about. She wants this to be a happy event and wants everyone to have a good feeling about it. She would like to see more county wide support for this, more county wide cooperation, with all the chambers, youth groups, VFW, local merchants. These of the kinds of things that I would rather prefer to do. The other thing she would like to do is, there are already activities planned in each community throughout the summer, she would like see a little part of their events dedicated to the county's 150th birthday. She doesn't think that right now is a good time for the County to be putting their energy and money into a "party". This is her personal feeling and she is saying now that she is absolutely not supportive of the county sanctioning this event.

Commissioner Corsiglia addressed Commissioner Bernhard's comments and inaccuracies. Nothing is truly finalized, and he has done a lot of research. Regarding the Sheriff's department, they do not typically handle these types of events. If there is a volunteer effort, it is done by the posse. They are being approached, as well as a number of other groups around the county and he has been in the process of doing that. He has talked to many members of the press and has asked them to down play any kind of election issues. He is not sure what Randy Sanders told Commissioner Bernhard. He contacted Randy because of his talents and because he is considered in the music world in Columbia County, and throughout the areas, as one of the best coordinators. He was utilized for the downtown events and he knows what made them a success and what made others a failure. He feels sorry for the people that are going to fall out of the Oregon Plan today as a result of the vote yesterday. There are going to be more people in the food lines. He spoke with Tracy at the Food Bank and they are desperate this year, as they were

last year. He had heard a number of comments that this is a great thing. He doesn't know who Commissioner Bernhard has been talking to because she won't reveal who they are, so he can't take that as anything but hearsay. He has gotten to the point where he's tried to change the name, as Commissioner Bernhard requested and that was talked about in the work session. He has looked into changing the arrangement. The Elks have offered to work on the alcohol part of it and considering putting that in a separate building. So there has been a lot of on-going research on a weekly basis. He has brought back the information to the Board as he has gathered it. He knows that Commissioner Bernhard is stirred up about this, but he doesn't know how he can appease whatever it is she wants. He would really like to see this happen for the Food Bank. Even if the Board decides not to celebrate the 150th anniversary on that date, he will probably pursue this on his own as a Commissioner. There are a lot of bands that have already committed and are very supportive of the effort as well. He feels that Commissioner Bernhard is reading way too much into what could be a real positive thing for all Commissioners. It's not the usual ribbon cutting but it certainly deserves the Board's attention with the fact that the County is 150 years old. He looked into the summer time but that is completely jammed with events. When he checked with the Fairgrounds, it was booked from April through October.

Commissioner Bernhard asked why we couldn't just have it at the park. We don't have to have it at the Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Corsiglia stated that everything that has been done down here has been minimal, as far as a fund raiser goes. Both events held down there last year were dismal failures. He is not sure we want to add a third event down here. March 27th was open at the Fairgrounds and it sounded like a good date, and still does to him. He has talked to a lot of people around the county and the thought was is that the Fairgrounds would be the best place. If Commissioner Bernhard has that much heartburn over this, after trying to work with her concerns, if she wants to pull out of supporting the event, then he can't help that.

Commissioner Bernhard does not feel that the County should be putting any money into this event. Commissioner Corsiglia stated that the County hasn't put anything into this yet. Commissioner Bernhard asked about the money for the Fairgrounds. Commissioner Corsiglia stated that it would be coming out of his pocket. Commissioner Bernhard asked why he doesn't just have "Joe's Party" and let it go at that. Commissioner Corsiglia responded that it's a party for the county, a party to help a desperate organization.

Commissioner Hyde asked about the County's exposure with the bands. Commissioner Corsiglia explained that he is looking for everyone to donate everything they can. The bands are being approached on the basis that there will be common use band equipment set up so that, hopefully, the six bands could just plug in to the equipment. Ultimately, the best success would be have each group handle different areas; one group handle the food, different group would handle the alcohol in a separate building, etc. He has talked to the press to some extent about that to try to separate the family event and still draw in a good number of people. The County Fairgrounds has a beer garden, so maybe we should get rid of that. Commissioner Hyde admitted that the alcohol part makes him nervous. Commissioner Corsiglia recognizes that and

that is why is looking at using another building for that, but those types of things have not yet been solidified. They are still under discussion and consideration. However, he feels that, similar to the fair, if you do not have a beer garden, you will cut a third of the people out of the attendance. On one hand, it would be a more family oriented event, and on the other hand, it won't raise so much money. It's a push pull issue.

Commissioner Bernhard asked Commissioner Corsiglia if he knew how much money the county, state and federal governments support drug and alcohol prevention and treatment? We would be promoting this if we can't have this event without alcohol.

Stephanie Klepel stated that the raffle that was held at Christmas time for the Fairgrounds was pretty successful. They got a lot of donations from businesses and sold a lot of raffle tickets. That is where she is coming from. She would like to see a can of food donated along with the admission fee. This should also be done during the County Fair. There is a lot of need for food in this county, and not just at Christmas time. She is willing to put her time into this event to help the food bank.

Commissioner Bernhard stated that, at this moment, Commissioner Corsiglia has been the sole supporter and the sole promoter of this event. She doesn't see how you can separate his name from this.

Commissioner Corsiglia did not agree with that. The Board has discussed this at their staff meeting and the Board agreed to change the name. That tells him that the event is moving along under considering. Commissioner Bernhard stated that when changing the name was brought up, Commissioner Corsiglia got upset and left the meeting. He did not hear her say that the name definitely needs to be changed, but that she was still not in favor of the county sanctioning this event. Commissioner Corsiglia feels that Commissioner Bernhard is still trying to build more into this event than the simple thing that it is. Commissioner Bernhard feels it is not so simple.

Commissioner Hyde stated that, because Measure 30 did fail, there is going to be a more compelling need for the food bank. We have the highest need for the food bank in history right now. Commissioner Bernhard is not saying that they shouldn't do something for the food bank, she is just not sure that this is the particular venue that we want to use for food bank or the 150th Birthday celebration. She would really like to include more people in the county. It should be a total county wide thing and a more family oriented event. Commissioner Hyde suggested that if the event his held earlier in the day, with no alcohol, that becomes a more family oriented event. Commissioner Corsiglia agreed that that may be the shape it changes to. Commissioner Hyde is a little more comfortable knowing that we are not encumbering the county's finances with the cost of the Fairground rental, which Commissioner Corsiglia has picked up. Commissioner Corsiglia explained that he would be covering the cost of the pavilion, but that he would be reimbursed out of the proceeds. This is about the Food Bank. He spoke with Tracy at the Food Bank because he was concerned about using their name without them knowing about it. Tracy said that happens quite frequently.

Commissioner Hyde did state that the proposed date of March 27th is not good for him because that is spring break and his wife has plans. Commissioner Corsiglia stated again that the dates available at the Fairgrounds are very limited. He wanted to use the Fairgrounds, because a lot of people look at the Fairgrounds as the centerpiece of the county.

Commissioner Bernhard agrees that the Food Bank is very definitely needy, but we need to understand that there are going to be other fallouts with the defeat of Measure 30 and different needs. Besides food, there will be shelter needs, mental health patients, more people going off the health plan. Even though the food bank does give to everyone, there are some other charities in the county that help these other areas. The food bank is not the only service that will be impacted. There are just a lot of unanswered questions here. At this time, she has a real problem with the county sanctioning this event. If Commissioner Corsiglia wants to go ahead and have a party, then he should do it.

At this point, Commissioner Corsiglia feels sorry for the food bank and there was no intent on dragging them out into this discussion. It shows you what happens when politics enter into something. Maybe that is why it is difficult to involve themselves in fund raisers. Commissioner Bernhard stated that it has nothing to do with this being a fund raiser. It was just the way this whole process was done.

Commissioner Corsiglia would like to talk to the people that Commissioner Bernhard says is against this.

Commissioner Hyde pointed out that each Board member, as Commissioners, has a certain amount of authority to do things on their own. If Commissioner Corsiglia wants to put together a fund raiser for the food bank, he has the authority to do that. When it comes to fiduciary matters, that takes a Board decision.

Commissioner Corsiglia has talked to John Knight about the legalities of this. He doesn't agree with Commissioner Bernhard that it's all about the information, because when you start something like this, it takes time for put it all together. As he has put the pieces together, he has come back to present that information to the Board. So don't say that he is not investigating these things or that he hasn't brought information back. He can't bring it all in one day because it takes time. Commissioner Bernhard would like to see everyone working together as a team. What she sees happening is that Commissioner Corsiglia is going off on his own doing something and not really sharing that with the Board. She said that Commissioner Corsiglia made a comment in passing and then all of the sudden there is a front page article in the paper about something the Board did not know about. Commissioner Corsiglia stated that he talked about this in open session at a Board meeting and Courtney wrote an article about it. He did not feed any information into that article. He just commented on how excited he was to be working on this event.

Commissioner Hyde stated that, at this point, Commissioner Corsiglia and Commissioner Bernhard can agree to disagree. Commissioner Corsiglia feels this is a whole lot about nothing

so far. Commissioner Corsiglia will bring some more information back next week and if Commissioner Bernhard wants to bail out, then he will know where she stands.

Commissioner Bernhard feels it makes a difference if the county sanctions this or not. If people participate, it will most likely be because it's a county function. Commissioner Corsiglia agreed, but that decision hasn't been made yet. These things take time and there are a lot of "ifs" out there right now. Commissioner Bernhard is saying that he isn't bringing back any information to the Board. He can only bring back what information he has. Commissioner Bernhard stated that the point is, he needs to have approval by the Board before you do something that the county is going to sanction and possibly put in money. Commissioner Corsiglia stated that he has not asked for that yet. Things are not together to that point yet. He is still pulling things together. However, he believes that it was sanctioned to go out and put this together. It is not sanctioned to do it, but it was sanctioned to look into it. He is not obligating the county for anything at this point. If the county does not sanction this event, then he will inform those who are participating that that is the case but he would still like to do this for the food bank. The people who are participating aren't doing it for the county, they are doing it to help the food bank. Commissioner Bernhard has already stated that she is in favor of helping the food bank, but she does not want the food bank to be used. The food bank needs to decide if they want to participate in this. Commissioner Hyde would anticipate the food bank would say yes and would be surprised if they didn't.

Stephanie Klepel stated that her opinion, as a taxpayer, is that the Board is setting the tone for the County. If the Board is going to sanction an event that is going to require a donation, it would make her a little more likely to make a donation. She feels it is important to have all three Board members support this and participate.

Commissioner Corsiglia cleared up the financing part of this. The events net proceeds to go to the food bank, minus any up-front costs. If the county were to participate, any up-front costs would be reimbursed, so the county would not be out anything.

Commissioner Hyde stated that, in an effort to move forward, the Board will hold their decision until Commissioner Corsiglia comes back more information.

Commissioner Bernhard stated that she will not be here next week, so if there is any further discussion on this matter, she wants to be present. Commissioner Corsiglia stated that it looks like Commissioner Bernhard does not want to be involved in this at all. She stated that she wants to be involved in the discussion. He is already figures that she is out of it and, if Commissioner Hyde disagrees, then the county is out of it. It's obvious that it lacks Commissioner Bernhard's support. If it turns out that it lacks Commissioner Hyde's support as well, then he will make this happen on his own. Again, Commissioner Bernhard wanted to make it clear that it has nothing to do with supporting the food bank. She recognizes that they need assistance, but this is not the way to do it.

Stephanie Klepel asked Commissioner Bernhard what she feels would be a good way to assist

the food bank. Commissioner Bernhard is thinking that, if we are going to do an event like this, this is not the timing or the venue for it. If we want to do a food bank fund raiser, there are a number of other things. Frankly, if we are truly talking about a fund raiser for the food bank, then maybe what the County should do is give a donation to the food bank. Commissioner Hyde stopped Commissioner Bernhard there because now she is getting into the budget process. Commissioner Corsiglia stated that that is the reason he is doing this, because the County isn't going to have the money we had last year. Commissioner Bernhard still does not think this is the venue in which to do this. She cannot support using county resources in any way for this. Commissioner Corsiglia stated again, there are not county resources being used.

Stephanie asked Commissioner Bernhard if there are no county resources being used, would she put her name on this? Commissioner Bernhard stated, no, she cannot support this event, not the way it's been put together. Commissioner Corsiglia cannot understand how someone can criticize something that hasn't even happened yet.

Commissioner Corsiglia noted that he has asked the press to downplay his name with this so it is not perceived as a campaign event.

After discussion, this matter was held over for two weeks

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Larry Jauron passed away last week and Commissioner Bernhard attended his service on Saturday. Larry was a very good long term employee of Columbia County.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde reported on the annual RC&D meeting last week. He has been the president of the RC&D for the last seven years and has now stepped down. This organization has brought in over \$52 million into Columbia County and Commissioner Hyde applauded the work they do for Columbia County.

Commissioner met with the individual property owners in Mist last week regarding the oil and gas fields in the Mist Birkenfeld area. Not much to report on at this time.

COMMISSIONER CORSIGLIA COMMENTS:

Commissioner Corsiglia considered Larry Jauron a good friend and someone you could always count on for the truth. He took a lot of history about our county roads with him.

The Board recessed the meeting at 11:30 a.m. to attend the Parks Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2004.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 4th day of February, 2004.

NOTE: A tape of this meeting is available for purchase by the public or interested parties.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: not present
Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: [Signature]
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: [Signature]
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:
By: [Signature]
Jan Greenhalgh