

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

March 3, 2010

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Earl Fisher and Commissioner Rita Bernhard, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary. Commissioner Hyde was not present.

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

MINUTES:

Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2010 Work Session; February 24, 2010 Board meeting and February 24, 2010 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Richard Melton: He has been talking with Todd on his ongoing permit issues but wanted the Board to know that Robert Crain stated that he is still gathering information against him.

HEARING: TRANSFER STATION RATE ADJUSTMENT & SUNDAY

CLOSURE:

This is the time set for the public hearing, "In the Matter of a Rate Adjustment and Sunday Closure Affecting the Columbia County Transfer Station in St. Helens, Oregon".

Sarah Hanson reviewed the procedure for this hearing.

Todd Dugdale, LDS Director: Last year, the Board approved a study be done on the operation costs for all services provided by the Transfer Station. A rate study was conducted by Bell & Associates and that report was presented to the Board last week for their review. Todd went over the rate adjustments outlined in the Bell report. In addition to a rate increase, it has been determined that it would be more cost effective to close the facility on Sundays. Solid waste collection is down, which concurrently reduces the revenue. To bridge the gap, there either needs to be a rate adjustment or reduce/eliminate some services.

Roy Weedman Solid Waste Coordinator, gave a power point presentation on the history of the transfer station, what the collection fees pay for, our rates compared to the Portland/Salem CPI, and proposed rate adjustments.

If the rate adjustments are not approved, the Solid Waste budget is projected to lose \$405,000 in 2010 alone. Further, the following services will be eliminated: Household Hazardous Waste; recycling programs, Dump Stopper program, cutting nearly \$200,000 out of the 2010 budget. To further reduce the 2010 budget over expenditures, the following services will be negatively impacted: operating hours, additional day of closure and the operating agreement with Waste Management of Oregon.

Bill Potter presented the recommendation from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

PROPONENTS:

Jon Hankin, City Manager, City of Scappoose: He is here today to thank the staff for their hard work on this. The main concern of City of Scappoose was the senior discount. He sees that was taken into consideration and has been adjusted accordingly. The city appreciates that consideration as it is important to the senior community. The city agrees with the rate adjustment as opposed to seeing services cut.

Jason Hudson, Hudson Garbage Services. He is a business owner and member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. His company is one of the largest customers at the transfer station. He believes that SWAC did a good job at looking at all the options and, as much as he hates to see rate increases, the county can't wait any longer. He is in support of this.

Dean Kamper and Dave Huber, Waste Management: They support staffs recommendation for the rate adjustment. What Columbia County is experiencing here is not uncommon, usage is down everywhere. Both would suggest that rate reviews be more frequently.

OPPONENTS:

Thelma Bonar, 56734 Way Lane, Warren: She referred to the article in the newspaper which states that it has been 12 years since these rates have been increased. She can't believe it has taken that long to increase them. However, if these rates are increased, there will be more garbage dumped around the county. She also believes it would be a bad idea to close the facility on Sundays because that's when most people go to the dump.

With no further testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed for deliberation. Commissioner Bernhard wanted to thank everyone involved in working on this. This is a great facility and provides a lot of great services. That said, she has some real concerns with the amount of the rate increases. She would hope that the Household Hazardous Waste, Dump Stoppers, and recycling programs, which have been very successful in this county, would continue. Regarding the Sunday closure, she has concerns with that and asked if weekday hours could be adjusted to keep Sunday's open. Roy stated that was looked at and was not a feasible option. Her last concern is with the senior discount and would like to see the proposed rate be reduced. Roy stated that there is another option for senior getting pickup service. She commented and agreed with the necessity for more frequent rate "reviews", not necessarily rate "increases". At this time, she would like to review this further before taking any action and feels there may be other options other than increasing the rates.

Commissioner Fisher agreed but wanted to comment on the cost of services. There are costs for providing services - people want those services but don't want to pay for them. He understands both sides of the argument. There hasn't been an increase in fees for 12 years

Todd appreciates the comments and concerns expressed by the Board however he wanted to emphasize that time is of the essence on making a decision. Either way, it will effect the budget which is coming up quick.

With that, the Board carried over deliberations to Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at or after 10:00 am.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- (A) Ratify the Select to Pay for 3/2/10.
- (B) Order No. 2-2010, "In the Matter of Authorizing Filing Civil Penalties and Fees against Edward Ribaya in the Columbia County Lien Records for Failure to Pay".
- (C) Order No. 3-2010, "In the Matter of Amending Order No. 60-2009, [In the Matter of the Livestock Attack on a Calf Owned by Randy Holdner]".
- (D) Approve 2010 Liquor License Renewals for: Deer Island Store; Multnomah Channel Yacht Club and Birkenfeld Country Store.
- (E) Approve the extension of temporary staff person, Beth Dudley, in EOC department through March 12, 2010.
- (F) Approve staff recommendation to waive the \$281.32 sign permit fee for the Warren General Store, noting that the application has already paid the State surcharge fee.
- (G) Ratify Jennifer Cuellar-Smith's signature on the Oregon Business Development Departments's Notice of Intent to Issue Recovery Zone Bonds.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENT:

- (H) Amendment #18 to the 2009-2011 Intergovernmental Agreement #127291 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (I) Amendment #19 to the 2009-2011 Intergovernmental Agreement #127291 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (J) Approve form Memorandum of Agreement by and between Columbia County and Commercial Property Owners for commercial appraisals related to the 2007 Flood Buy-Out program and authorize Dan Brown to sign for the County.

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The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Not present.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard attended the Economic Opportunity meeting at the City of Scappoose. They are looking into expanding the Urban Growth Boundary. There will be a couple more meetings before the committee makes a recommendation to the Scappoose City Council.

She attended the Needs & Issues meeting held yesterday. Work was done in prioritizing all projects in the county for grant qualification.

She also attended the CEPA meeting yesterday. Most of the discussion was on emergency response in the county due to the recent earthquakes going on around the country. This area will be hit, it's just a matter of when. Our current EOC office in the basement of the Courthouse and that is being looked into.

She attended a special ACT meeting this week to discuss the Dennis ??? tunnel closure and the ensuring detour onto Timber Road. Discussion was held on road maintenance and other issues surrounding this closure.

On Saturday she attended the United Way retreat at the Armstrong facility.

Community Action Team held an opening of their old office on 3rd street. It has been completely remodeled into two apartments and they have placed two families in the apartments.

On Thursday evening, she attended a public health meeting. Tom Engel from the State was there to give a report. He had very positive things to say about our health district.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

On Saturday night, Commissioner Fisher attended an affair in Clatskanie for the "Turning Point". This program has brought in a lot of money to benefit the needy.

Yesterday he met with a representative of J.H. Kelly to discuss the Cascade Grain facility. They are pursuing a buyer for the property.

He recently met with a local person who works for a timber company who stated that they are seeing improvement in the industry.

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On Friday, he was in Astoria to attend a meeting with the Oregon Fisheries. Discussion was held on the concerns that effect our communities, both commercial and recreational fishing.

Last night he attended the Kiwanis meeting where Todd Dugdale gave a very good presentation on LDS services.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 3rd day of March, 2010.

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

Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: _____

Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____

Jan Greenhalgh