

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

March 17, 2010

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Anthony Hyde, Commissioner Earl Fisher and Commissioner Rita Bernhard, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

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

MINUTES:

Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2010 Work Session; March 10, 2010 Board meeting and March 10, 2010 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None.

PROCLAIM MARCH 15-19, 2010 NATIONAL FLOOD AWARENESS WEEK:

Commissioner Hyde read a proclamation into the record, proclaiming the week of March 15-19, 2010 as "National Flood Awareness Week". Afterwards, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the proclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

DELIBERATE: TRANSFER STATION RATE ADJUSTMENT/SUNDAY CLOSURE:

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

Sarah stated that the Board held a public hearing on this matter on March 3, 2010, the hearing was closed and it is now time for the Board to deliberate.

Commissioner Bernhard still has issues with the rate increase on the senior rates and wonders if there is another option to reduce the senior rate. Todd stated that at first, the senior discount was eliminated, however after receiving input from the cities, it was restored at a lesser rate, from \$9 to \$12. So the discount would remain, although higher than before. If modified again, those losses would need to be shifted to other costs. He noted that they have received calls from some seniors about their options and were informed about the "will call" pickup service available and they seem to be comfortable with that. Commissioner Bernhard feels that should be advertised more because many seniors are not aware of that service. Another question is on the possibility of phasing in these rate increases. Todd stated that is possible to defer all or part of the rate increases and/or implement over time, however there is an imminent need in the transfer station fund for a rate adjustment and he would personally not recommend a deferment. Todd explained that the senior rate is being increased 33%, from \$9 to \$12, however the amount of weight allowed is also being increased by 33%. Commissioner Bernhard feels that seniors might not have that amount of volume so this wouldn't be much of a benefit to them. Bill Potter explained that, for the most part, seniors bring in more than just their cans. They tend to also bring in their neighbors cans. When asked about checking other jurisdictions on offering

a senior rate, Roy stated that many facilities on the west coast don't even offer a senior discount and, those that do, are much less than ours. Commissioner Bernhard stated that may be, however, we have had a senior discount for years and to take it away or increase the rates, will have an effect, especially during these tough times. She appreciates the work that has been put into this study and her opinion is no reflection on the services provided, however it is very difficult for her to justify any rate increases at this time and can't support this.

Commissioner Fisher understands that the senior discount is increasing by 33% and those who are not seniors will have to bear the responsibility of making up the difference in costs. We are looking at a budget that is going to be approximately \$350,000 short if these rate increases are not approved. He also appreciates the work that staff has put into this and that we are able to continue to do something for our senior citizens. The other issue he understands has been addressed is the need to conduct more frequent rate reviews. He is in support of the proposal as presented.

Todd stated that it was mentioned more than once at the public hearing that the rates need to be reviewed more often to keep pace with inflation. To do this, staff has built in the CPI Index for the metro west area that accurately measures the fluctuation in costs both up and down. Todd is recommending that this index be included and implemented July 1, 2011.

Commissioner Hyde stated that it has been 12 years since a rate increase was instituted at the Transfer Station. In order for us to provide a service, there are costs involved. There are a lot of other services we have been able to provide and, if these rates are not increased, those services will have to be cut.

After deliberations, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve Order No. 6-2010, "In the Matter of Approving a Rate Adjustment for the Columbia County Transfer Station and a Pass-Through Rate Adjustment for Curbside and Drop-Box Collections". Commissioner Bernhard nayed. The motion carried.

HEARING: DAVID LOPER ACCESS FORFEITURE APPEAL:

This is the time set to hear the appeal by David Loper on his Access Approach Permit. The Board considered this appeal several months ago and denied the forfeiture, however the opportunity for an appeal was never offered. Therefore, a letter was sent to Mr. Loper offering the opportunity for an appeal hearing on this date. It was noted for the record that Mr. Loper was not present for this hearing. Sarah explained that for the Board to find in favor of Mr. Loper, they would have to find that he actually did complete the work required under the Access Approach Permit within the time required by the permit. Mr. Loper's permit expired on August 2, 2006. Staff recommends upholding the forfeiture.

Lonny Welter, Transportation Planner, came before the Board to answer any questions concerning his staff report and recommendation. He pointed out that Mr. Loper failed to complete his access approach as required by his permit and that, to date, still has not completed the access approach. Further, Mr. Loper has never requested an extension. Based on history of the permit, staff recommends the Board uphold the forfeiture.

Commissioner Hyde declared that he briefly spoke with Mr. Loper when he originally brought in his request for a refund last year and passed his

information on to staff. Commissioner Bernhard stated that Mr. Loper has had ample opportunity to have this work done and, to date, still hasn't. Commissioner Fisher could understand if this was just a matter of months, however, 3 plus years is simply too long.

Mr. Loper was not present to argue his case.

With that, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to uphold Order No. 48-2009, denying Mr. David Loper's appeal. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Hyde 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 3/16/10.
- (B) Cancel the March 23, 2010 Work Session and March 24, 2010 Board and Staff meetings.
- (C) Order No. 5-2010, (Initiating/Finalizing Vacation Proceedings) "In the Matter of the Proposed Vacation of a Portion of County Road D aka West Lane Road in Scappoose, Oregon [Brian Rosenthal]".
- (D) Reappoint Nita Greene, Darrel Lockhart and Frank Walling to the Transportation & Road Advisory Committee for a 2 year term.
- (E) Letter of Authority for Andrew J. Meyers, Deputy District Attorney.
- (F) 2010 Liquor License Renewals for: Quincy Store; Jay Dee Tavern; Wayside Inn; Marks on the Channel and Scappoose Creek Inn.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENT:

- (G) Amendment #1 to the Personal Services Contract with KLS Surveying, Inc.
- (H) Amendment #2 to the Personal Services Contract with Lower Columbia Engineering.
- (I) Amendment #2 to the Personal Services Contract with Oregon Realty Co., Inc. for flood related acquisitions.
- (J) Incident Management Team Cooperative Assistance Agreement with Scappoose Rural Fire District and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (K) 2010 Columbia County Coordinated Comprehensive Plan for Children & Families and 2010 Juvenile Crime Prevention Plan.
- (L) Memorandum of Understanding with the Columbia County Fair Board for emergency use of the Columbia County Fair and Event Complex.
- (M) Memorandum of Understanding with the City of St. Helens for a CENT Officer.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

On Thursday, Commissioner Hyde attended a meeting at the Governor's Office with the OEM Director, Oregon Business Development staff and Senator Johnson, among others to discuss access and elevation levels with FEMA.

He attended a Port Westward Plan meeting to discuss how to meet the tax increment requirements.

On Friday, he attended a recognition event at USG who was awarded a star of safety by OSHA.

This morning he attended a meeting on opportunities for partial funding for a new EOC facility. They are looking at the possibilities of locating the new EOC at the Armory in St. Helens.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher attended the USG event. It's nice to see a local company receive such an award.

He attended the Enhanced Law Enforcement Advisory Committee meeting last Thursday. Things are moving very quickly and he feels positive that the Board should be receiving a recommendation within a couple of weeks.

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This Friday, the facility study proposals will be reviewed and hopefully a recommendation will be presented to the Board at their March 31st meeting.

He reported on the Empty bowls event that was held last Friday. It was a huge success. A great way for the community to step up to help other community members in need.

Commissioner Fisher suggested that people read their monthly OSU newsletter. There is always some very good information in there.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard attended a recent United Way meeting. They spent a lot of time determining the many funding allocations for the different agencies. The greatest needs continue to be with just the basics.

She was present for a conference call meeting for the AOC Human Services committee. Still working on integrating services.

She attended the Empty Bowls event on Friday night. This event is always very well organized. It was a good location this year and very successful.

On Saturday she attended a town hall meeting in Scappoose on health care issues. Representative Brad Witt was the speaker and did a great job answering the many questions submitted by those in attendance.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 17th 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: _____

Anthony Hyde, Chair

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Recording Secretary:

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: _____

Rita Bernhard, Commissioner