

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

May 5, 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 April 28, 2010 Board meeting; and April 28, 2010 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Jim Huffman, Scappoose: Jim gave his input on the status of the law library. He has two very important cases pending and cannot get the information he needs from the Law Library. It has been difficult to work with county staff to get anything done about this. There needs to be a computer system in the law library so citizens can have access to legal information. Because the books are not keep up to date, there needs to be access for on-line research. The Board stated that they would look into this.

Elita Davis, 14040 Hwy 202, Mist, Oregon: She purchased a piece of property in Clatskanie last September. This year they found a culvert near the back of her property under the road which is diverting all the water onto her property. There is another culvert where the water should be running which would correct the problem, but the Road department doesn't want to spend the money to do this. The Davis' can't get septic approval to build their home because it's too wet unless they put in a sand filter, which is more costly. She noted that they were not aware of this problem when they purchased the property because the area was covered with berry briars. She understands that when a person gets a building permit they are required to install a culvert for the runoff, however there are other property owners up there who did not put in a culvert. She is asking that the County correct the problem by diverting the runoff.

Dave Hill, Public Works Director, used the grease board to explain the location and topography of the property in question. The county has about 6,000 culverts in the county to divert water from crossing the road. He agrees the runoff creates some water problems on the Davis' property, but there is a rise in the road across the street and it's a natural runoff. It is a possibility in this case to divert the water, however Dave doesn't believe it is the county's responsibility to move the culvert, an estimated cost of \$15,000. Commissioner Fisher knows this area very well and has been historically very wet.

The Board will take this under consideration and get back to Ms. Davis on their decision.

VETERANS' SERVICES:

Rocky Johnson, CAT, came before the Board to discuss the Veterans' Services program and the possibility of putting a levy on the ballot to fund the program. Rocky presented the Board with written information on a

Veterans' Services levy, which at \$.03 would yield \$130,000. This would fund (2) full time positions and support services. More and more veterans (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan) are seeking help to obtain needed benefits.

Joe Pyle, Columbia County VA Officer, gave a brief overview of the program and services provided. In 2006, veterans' received same day service but today, appointments are at least 45 days out. With the loss of a staff person, that number will go to over 65 days out. He explained the different types of claims being filed, i.e. effects of agent orange, post traumatic stress, etc. and the sheer volume of claims coming in is huge.

Commissioner Hyde is very supportive of this program and asks, why not \$.05. Why ask for what will cover the immediate need when we all know that the need is growing. Joe stated that when Tillamook County went for a \$.05 levy it failed, but when taken down to \$.03, it passed.

Commissioner Hyde still feels that \$.05 is more realistic and, with the support, it will pass. Commissioner Bernhard stated that this would be a five year levy. Perhaps it should start out with \$.03 and, in five years, go out again for the \$.05. Discussion was held on the different scenarios and Commissioner Hyde also suggested looking at a CPI increase.

Commissioner Fisher is very sympathetic to this program but is concerned with the amount of tax dollars going up. He went over the figures provided for clarification. If the levy is approved, the program would still receive the pass through revenue.

Ken Johnson, stated that the local VA office is looking at out reach services to those who cannot come into the office. Currently they only provide

services to those who actually come into the office. There are concerns that those in the outlying areas are not being served.

Jerry Peel, PO Box 1067, Scappoose: He is slightly familiar with the VA program in Clark County. He feels the county should be looking at \$.05, but understands that 3 or 4 cents looks better to the public. At one point in Clark County, they had over \$1 million in their VA fund. This was a discretionary fund that not only provided benefit services, but also helped homeless vets find housing and other immediate services. If this levy passes, he would suggest that there be a 3 member volunteer committee made up of veterans to oversee the fund. Commissioner Hyde agrees but there would need to be standards put in place.

Michael Mercer, 58655 S Bachelor Flat Road, Warren: He is a member of the American Legion and strongly supports this levy. He would strongly suggest the importance of including the benefits of this funding, what it will pay for and what services will be provided.

The Board is agreeable to the levy and will waive the signature requirement and put it on the ballot themselves. Sarah will work with Rocky to draft the appropriate paperwork.

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 5/4/10.

- (B) Resolution No. 18-2010, "In the Matter of a Resolution Regarding USACE and ODOT Consultation for HMGP Acquisition Project - 2007 Food Event for property located at 17285 Sheely Creek Road, Vernonia, Oregon, 97064".
- (C) Approve HMGP projects for Client Nos. 807, 882, 1138, 1671, 826 and 854.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (D) Local Agency Agreement, Highway Bridge Program Project for the Design and Construction of Beaver Creek Bridge No. 19686 and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (E) Cultural Coalition Grant application for hardware fixtures to hang local art displays in the Courthouse.
- (F) Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District meeting room acknowledgment and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (G) GIS Data License Agreement with Cherry Creek Environmental, Inc. and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (H) Purchase and Sale Agreement by and between Columbia County and Ernest and Robin Smith, 17285 Shelly Creek Road, Vernonia, Oregon.
- (I) Personal Services Contract with Certified Environmental Consulting for asbestos survey and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (J) Amendment #21 to the 2009-2011 IGA #12791 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (K) Amendment #22 to the 2009-2011 IGA #12791 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (L) Amendment #23 to the 2009-2011 IGA #12791 with DHS and authorize the Chair to sign.

The motion carried unanimously.

TRANSIT CENTER UPDATE:

Janet Wright, Transit Director, gave the Board an update on the Transit Center. She posted the two options for site design on the board for visuals. Option 1 would incur more costs and is not

a good flow for bus traffic. Option 2 offers a roundabout with a more direct access to Hwy 30 for the buses and includes also safety features for pedestrians. They are working with ODOT on tweaking the light sensor at Hwy 30 to move buses through the light quicker because of the RR crossing. She pointed out where the option piece of property is located on the design map. Janet stated that the plan is to hold an open house for the public sometime the first part of June. This project will be constructed in phases as funding is received. Janet then posted the floor plan and building design for review and comment. She noted that work on the building can start fairly soon because it is a remodel and will not require a land use review from the City of St. Helens.

REQUEST FOR OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL:

After review of the request by Jennifer Cueller, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the request for out of state travel for Mary Ann Guess and Jim Carpenter for ARRA training in Oklahoma City, July 13-14, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde reported on the CEPA meeting the Board attended yesterday and transformation taking place with that group.

He met with Wally Thompson, Vernonia Mayor and City Administrator to discuss the justice court system in Vernonia.

On Monday, he attended the Economic Development Steering Committee meeting. It was decided to hold a meet-and-great with the final two Economic Development Director candidates on May 12th from 12:00 to 1:00. Janet will be preparing a press release.

Last Thursday, he attended a breakfast meeting with NW Natural Gas to discuss the Vernonia School project.

The Budget Committee held their first meeting last Thursday and will be meeting again on May 19, 2010.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher attended that Town Hall meeting hosted by Senator Johnson and Representative Witt.

On Friday, he was in Clatskanie for the opening of their new medical clinic.

BOC Minutes

5/5/10

Page 7

Next Thursday will be going speaking at the Kiwanis luncheon and will be sharing the AOC Strategic Communications Plan the Board received last week.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard attended the CEPA meeting held yesterday.

On Saturday, she attended the town hall meeting with Senator Johnson and Representative Witt.

The Board met last Thursday for an all day session with the Budget Committee.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 5th day of May, 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

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____

Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh