

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Exempting the Public       )  
Works Telecommunications Project from       )  
Competitive Bidding and Awarding the       )  
Contract to Qwest Communications       )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

ORDER NO. 21-2002

WHEREAS, OAR 125-320-020(1)(b), adopted by reference by Ordinance No. 88-3, authorizes public agencies to acquire telecommunications system hardware and software using alternate competitive procurement methods; and

WHEREAS, when the contract amount exceeds \$15,000, the public contracting agency may use the request-for-proposal process and shall solicit proposals; solicitations shall be requested from appropriate vendors appearing on lists compiled by the agency or by advertising in an appropriate trade publication of general circulation; and

WHEREAS, the Department of General Services is working on a project to upgrade telecommunications services within the Department of Public Works facilities, and between the Department of Public Works, Columbia County Animal Control and other County facilities; and

WHEREAS, in order to be compatible with current County telecommunications hardware and software, the contractor must be certified to design and install NEC telecommunications hardware and software; and

WHEREAS, the General Services Director has compiled a list of hardware and software vendors that are certified to design and install NEC telephone equipment compatible with the existing County system, to-wit: Qwest Communications, NEC Business Network Solutions, Inc., and Eschelon Telecom, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the General Services Director solicited proposals from all three contractors on the list for the design and installation of telecommunications and data transmission systems at the Public Works campus to serve the Road Department and Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and to serve Columbia County Animal Control; and

WHEREAS, only two contractors elected to submit proposals: Qwest Communications and Eschelon Telecom, Inc.; NEC Business Network Solutions, Inc. chose not to compete for the contract; and

WHEREAS, the proposals were reviewed and interviews held to evaluate the proposals and qualifications of each contractor; the review panel consisted of Bill Potter, Director of General Services, Dave Hill, Public Works Director, and Jean Ripa, Human Resources Director; and

WHEREAS, the decision of the review panel was unanimous that Qwest Communications had the most competitive proposal and was determined to be the best qualified contractor to perform the work;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. The contract to design and install NEC telephone equipment to serve the Public Works campus, including the Road Department and Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and to serve Columbia County Animal Control, is exempted from competitive bidding.

2. The Director of General Services, Bill Potter, is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Qwest Communications to perform the design and construction of the telephone system changes for the Public Works location, subject to review and approval of the contract terms by the Office of County Counsel.

DATED this 17th day of April, 2002.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner