BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Calling an Election to Consider the Columbia County Jail Local Option Tax Levy	))))	ORDER NO. 4-2014

WHEREAS, the old Columbia County Jail was built in 1969, and was designed to hold a maximum of 39 prisoners, but was frequently overcrowded, and as a result arrestees often had to be released into the community after booking and before arraignment, prisoners had to be released into the community before their sentences were served, and there was constant fear of litigation over the unsatisfactory conditions in the jail; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 1998, the electors of Columbia County approved a measure authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance the construction of a new County jail and related law enforcement facilities; and

WHEREAS, the new Columbia County Jail and Justice Facility was completed in January 2001, and is designed to house up to 255 prisoners; and

WHEREAS, the cost to operate the new jail and supervise a greater number of prisoners was unknown at the time the electors authorized its construction, but it was obvious that it would be much greater than operating and staffing the old jail; and

WHEREAS, even though it was known the cost of operating and staffing the jail would increase, the Sheriff and Board promised to run the new jail for at least a year without additional funding to determine the minimum amount of new funds which would be necessary; and

WHEREAS, in order to temporarily run the new, much larger facility and supervise about four times as many inmates without additional funds, the Sheriff and Board promised to try to raise as much money as possible through bed rentals to agencies such as the US Marshals Service, save money by shifting road deputies into the jail to assist the regular correctional deputies, and temporarily shift additional County General Fund money into the Sheriff's Office and Jail budgets; and

WHEREAS, the amount of revenue that can realistically be expected from bed rentals to other agencies has now been established; and

WHEREAS, the County General Fund can no longer fund the operation of the Jail in sufficient amounts to keep more than 25 local inmates in the Jail; and

WHEREAS, the continued operation of the Jail at this point is entirely dependent upon bed rentals by the US Marshals Service, without which the Jail would not be funded sufficiently to operate at all; and

WHEREAS, after almost 13 years of operation without additional revenue for operating and staffing the new jail, the Sheriff and Board have determined how much additional revenue is necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff has determined that a local option tax at the rate of approximately $.5797/$1000.00 of assessed value for three years is necessary to properly fund jail operations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed local option tax would raise approximately $2,287,572 in Fiscal Year 2015, $2,356,199 in Fiscal Year 2016, and $2,426,885 in Fiscal Year 2017; and

WHEREAS, the estimated total outlay for such purpose over the three-year period would be approximately $7,070,656; and

WHEREAS, the purposes for which the funds to be provided by the proposed local option tax are to be expended would be to restore 75 jail beds to the local jail population capacity, bringing the total capacity to 100 local beds; provide sufficient staffing to manage the higher jail population by restoring one supervisory position and six corrections deputy positions; and provide constitutionally adequate food, clothing, and health care to inmates; and

WHEREAS, the period of time authorized by the electors pursuant to ORS 280.060(3) would be three years;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. An election shall be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, to consider the Columbia County Jail Local Option Tax Levy at the rate of $0.5797 /$1000.00 of assessed value for three (3) years. The Columbia County Clerk is hereby directed to publish the ballot title and place the question of the proposed local option tax levy before the electors of Columbia County on the May 20, 2014, election ballot.

2. The purpose for which the funds to be provided by the proposed local option tax levy are to be expended would be exclusively for operating the Columbia County Jail.

3. The approximate rate for this operating fund is .58¢ per $1000 of assessed value, approximately $58 to the owner of a $100,000 home. (The estimated money raised will be $2,287,572 in Fiscal Year 2015, $2,356,199 in Fiscal Year 2016, and $2,426,885 in Fiscal Year 2017, for an estimated total outlay for such purposes of $7,070,656.)

4. The period of time authorized by the electors pursuant to ORS 280.060(3) would be three (3) years.

5. The proposed taxes are outside the limitation imposed by Section 11(3), Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

6. The Board of County Commissioners adopts and approves the ballot title

which is attached hereto, labeled Exhibit "A", and is incorporated herein by this reference.

DATED this 19th day of February, 2014.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Anthony Hyde, Chair

Approved as to form

By: _____
Office of County Counsel

EXHIBIT "A"
NOTICE OF COUNTY MEASURE ELECTION

ORS 250.035
ORS 250.041
ORS 250.175
ORS 254.103
ORS 254.465

COLUMBIA COUNTY
(Name of County)

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, May 20, 2014
(Date of Election)

A measure election will be held in Columbia County, Oregon.
(Name of County)

The following shall be the ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the county's voters on this date:

CAPTION (10 Words)

Three-Year Local Option Levy for Jail Operations

QUESTION (20 Words)

Shall Columbia County levy $0.5797/$1000.00 of assessed value for three years beginning in 2014-2015 for jail operations? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

SUMMARY (175 Words)

In 1998, County voters approved construction of a new jail with a 255 bed capacity without corresponding operating funds. The County General Fund and bed rentals have supported Jail operations for 13 years.

The cost to supervise, feed, clothe and provide health care for a larger inmate population is now known to be substantially more than the costs to run the old Jail, has increased each year, and is a major expense in the jail budget.

The County General Fund has experienced a significant decrease in the last several years and can no longer sufficiently support jail operations. This decrease has led to reducing bed capacity to 25 local inmates, which is down from 65 last year. The continued operation of the Jail in any capacity is dependent upon Federal bed rentals.

The proposed levy would restore 75 beds, for a total of 100 local beds, fund six additional corrections deputies and one supervisory position, and provide constitutionally required food, clothing, management and health care to inmates.

The estimated money raised will be $2,287,572 in FY 2015, $2,356,199 in FY 2016, and $2,426,885 in FY 2017, for an estimated total levy of $7,070,656.

The following authorized county official hereby certifies the above ballot title is true and complete.

Signature of authorized county official (not required to be notarized) | Date signed

Anthony Hyde | Chair, Board of Commissioners

Printed name of authorized county official | Title