

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

March 4, 2015

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Henry Heimuller, Commissioner Anthony Hyde, and Commissioner Earl Fisher.

Commissioner Heimuller called the meeting to order.

MEETING WITH STATE COURT JUDGES - ELEVATOR DISCUSSION:

The Board met with Court Administrator Sue Hill and Judges Jenefer Grant, Ted Grove, and Cathleen Callahan to discuss the intergovernmental agreement with the State to provide funding to rebuild the courthouse elevator. Robin McIntyre explained that the County is concerned about the ambiguity of a term in the agreement that requires the County to pay back the State Courts if the County "substantially restricts" the Court's right to occupy the courthouse. Before the County approves the agreement, it needs to know what "substantially restricts" means to the Court. Sue Hill and the judges understand the term to require the County to provide the State Courts (which includes the drug court) suitable space in accordance with state statute, and failure to do so would be a substantial restriction. The Commissioners explained that, to them, "substantially restricts" is not about square footage as you can have a reduction in square footage but still be providing suitable and sufficient space. Judge Grove suggested that the County prepare a letter for the Judge Grant's signature to confirm the Court's understanding.

LAUREL BEACH RAILROAD CROSSING:

Dave Hill and Glen Crinklaw presented information to the Board that illustrated a land use conflict with the adjacent railroad right-of-way. Laurel Beach Park has served a number of years as a place for the public to access the Columbia River. Accessing the river at that area requires crossing the adjacent railroad right-of-way. For safety reasons, the railroad has installed signage at the primary access point that states "No Trespassing". In addition, ODOT Rail has notified the County that public crossing of the rail right-of-way at this location is prohibited and any infrastructure that allows the public to gain access to the right-of-way must be decommissioned.

The Board concluded that the County should proceed with decommissioning the access and restrict vehicle access to the Laurel Beach parking area. County Counsel will prepare an Order authorizing this action for an upcoming Board meeting.

BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

Jennifer Cuellar, Finance Director, came before the Board for detailed discussion on the FY 15/16 County Budget. No decision were made. She will schedule time at the 3/18/15 meeting for further discussion.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 4th day of March, 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Chair

By: _____
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: _____
Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh
Board Office Administrator