

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON
STAFF MEETING MINUTES

April 22, 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.

LAUREL BEACH:

Dave Hill, Public Works Director, was present for a discussion about Laurel Beach. Robin McIntyre, Assistant County Counsel, presented information regarding this issue. The railroad has requested that the County do what we can to prohibit the public from walking across the railroad tracks from the parking area. Columbia County's property is only the parking lot and the entry road. The County does not own any property on the river side of the tracks, however, there is currently a footbridge, signs indicating to "Beware of Trains and Use at Your own Risk", and trails leading across the railroad tracks. All of these things could imply that the County is encouraging or at least allowing the public to cross the railroad tracks, and therefore the County has a significant liability. To reduce the County's liability, ***Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to have the Road Department remove the footbridge and signs and block the access trails. The motion carried unanimously.***

CAMP WILKERSON TRAIL GRANT:

Dave Hill discussed the issue of the C-Z Trail project and requested approval of the project and grant proposal. The OWEB Small Grant Program is for requests up to \$10,000 and that is the request for this project. Total project cost is \$24,320 and it is proposed that Oregon Equestrian Trails provide most of the construction labor for an in-kind match of \$6400. The log stringers must be a minimum diameter of 20 inches by 46 feet in length to come from Camp Wilkerson. After discussion, ***Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve the project and grant request, Commissioner Heimuller was opposed. He explained the reason for his no vote is that, although the project is a good project, the Parks Advisory Committee was not involved in the process and, even more of a reason to vote no, was that since the grant deadline was last Thursday, this was more of a ratification of the project than an approval. The motion carried.***

COUNSEL OFFICE MOVE:

Sarah Hanson, Robin McIntyre, Casey Garrett, and Todd Dugdale were present to discuss proposed plans for Counsel space in the Courthouse, budget and timing of a possible move. Casey will follow up with contractors for bids and will report back to Counsel and the Board.

PUBLIC CONTRACTING ORDINANCE

Sarah Hanson met with the Board to discuss Ordinance No. 2015-2, the Public Contracting Ordinance. Sarah provided information about the proposed changes from the existing Ordinance and local rules. The Board would like more information about the delegation provisions in the Ordinance and directed Sarah to re-schedule discussions when Jennifer Cuellar is available.

FAIR - RODEO ARENA

Rod Hansen discussed Rodeo Committee representative Mark Sandstrom's proposal to rebuild the rodeo arena announcer stand. Discussion was held on the permit procedure and time frames required for issuance of same.

MEETING WITH UNION REPRESENTATIVES:

Jean Ripa, Erin O'Connell, Andy Chavira, Lars Sandstrom, and Tristan Wood, AFSCME union representatives, met with the Board to discuss matters of mutual interest. Commissioner Fisher described the status of the General Fund, giving those present a preview of what will be presented at the Budget Committee next week. The General Fund is still in financial crisis and furloughs will need to continue though at a lower level. No new positions or new programs have been added. The shortfall projection for fiscal year 2017 is dire as well and the Commissioners are planning for that.

Commissioner Hyde discussed in depth the status of the SRS funding and what that means for the County. While the money is welcome, the relative amount is small. The Commissioners also noted that the County was still waiting on a interpretation on the PERS litigation and its effect on the County.

Commissioner Fisher mentioned four significant facilities projects that will be occurring next fiscal year: upgrade of the elevator, the roof, moving the Data Center and Counsel offices. All of these projects are funding either via grant, reserve fund or loan proceeds. These projects are not contributing to the General Fund shortfall.

Further discussion continued on various revenue options for the County and the positive effects of economic development.

Erin presented the Commissioners with some information on visioning and creating a resilient organization. Commissioner Heimuller noted that he had already been in the process of identifying possibilities for the County in terms of a visioning process.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT

Jean, Ripa and Vincent Aarts met with the Board to discuss the staffing arrangements for the Emergency Management Department during the interim period while the recruitment for a new Director is completed. Vincent indicated his willingness and ability to fulfill the role of Emergency Management Supervisor. Commissioner Hyde emphasized his desire to keep the HSEM involved in the staffing decisions.

PERS RESERVE ACCOUNT

Jennifer Cuellar was present to discuss the PERS reserve fund account. Previously, the PERS reserve funds collected since FY14 (as directed by the Commissioners almost two years ago) have been kept in each contributing fund. This is an acceptable way to account for it, but during the budget cycle the Finance Director felt it would be more transparent to create a separate reserve fund for these dollars, which requires a resolution that defines the specific purpose for the reserve. A PERS Reserve Fund resolution was handed out.

There was also a discussion of possible use of the dollars: to pay for anticipated increased PERS costs if the Supreme Court does not uphold the legislature's action of two years ago; or, the consideration of making a non-payroll contribution to PERS which requires a one million dollar minimum payment.

Jennifer advised the Board that they could later dissolve the reserve fund if they no longer saw the need to be saving up for increased PERS cost in the future. No action was taken at this time.

BUDGET REMINDERS:

Jennifer Cuellar shared the following budget reminders:

- ▶ 3 FY16 budget meetings next week
- ▶ 2 FY15 supplemental budget hearings and resolutions for CCDA and County specific to extra debt service payment scheduled May 6; Earl Fisher mentioned he will not be here for those hearings/meetings but there should still be a quorum so it's ok.
- ▶ FY15 supplemental budget work will be coming on the small changes that are needed
- ▶ CAFFA application for A&T grant to state, an annual process, will be on an upcoming consent agenda.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 22nd day of April, 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Chair

By: _____
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: _____
Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: _____
Cynthia Zemaitis,
Acting Board Office Administrator