

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2017

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Henry Heimuller, Commissioner Margaret Magruder and Commissioner Alex Tardif.

Commissioner Heimuller called the meeting to order.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Commissioner Tardif updated the Board on the budgeting process for the Board office and why certain line items were adjusted to more better reflect actual costs. General discussion was held on the Board budget.
- Commissioner Heimuller updated the Board on the need for a Board member to replace Jim Tierney on the Northwest Oregon Works Board. He will bring this back for discussion next week.
- There was discussion by the Board on the County providing funds to CC Rider Transportation for the Megga Easter Egg Hunt event, at the same level as last year. After discussion, ***Commissioner Magruder moved and Commissioner Tardif seconded to approve the request. The motion carried unanimously.***

JEAN RIPA - HUMAN RESOURCE ISSUES:

- Jean Ripa presented a written report on the number and type of workers compensation claims that incurred at the County in 2016 and reviewed those claims. Jean commended both the Road Department, particularly Tristan Wood, and the Sheriff's Office, for their work on safety issues. Both of these departments made a positive difference because of their efforts to manage their claims.
- Jean next presented a written report on the number and type of recruitments conducted out of Human Resources in 2016. There were 41 recruitments, which represents the highest number of recruitments ever done in a particular year. Some of this was due to increased funding and the addition of about six new positions. However, some was due to multiple recruitments for single vacancies due to the County's trouble in attracting qualified candidates. For specialized or higher pay position, competition with the Portland Metro area is challenging.
- Jean then asked the Board whether or not they wished her to staff the Elected Officials Compensation Committee for 2017. The Board indicated that they did. The Board then discussed whom they wished to appoint. Commissioner Tardif indicated a desire to expand representation on committees such as this to try to get the 5 districts of the County (as defined by the school districts) all represented. Commissioners Heimuller and Magruder fully agreed with this goal.

The Board requested that Jean Ripa make contact with the three members from last year: George Dunkel, Dennis Kenna and Dee Wooley to see if they would be willing to serve again. Commissioner Heimuller will contact Jim Tierney from Vernonia to see if he would be willing to serve and, if unavailable, try to locate another candidate from that area.

- Jean updated the Board on the types of things she has started working on in the short period of time since she became full time in Human Resources. She reported that, while she misses working with IT, she is very excited about the opportunities that are now coming open with her expanded ability to focus on HR issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(d) - Bargaining:

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(d). Upon coming out of Executive Session, no action was taken by the Board.

OPPORTUNITY FUND FOR WEST LANE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS:

Mike Sykes, City of Scappoose, was present to discuss West Lane Road and Chapman Landing. David Hill, County Roadmaster, Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, and Robin McIntyre, Assistant County Counsel, were also in attendance. Regarding West Lane Road, the City has received an Immediate Opportunity Fund Grant and is applying for an IFA grant to make improvements to West Lane Road. The project will be from Wagner Road to the Crown Zellerbach Trail. As a condition of the grant, the city needs to either have an agreement with the County wherein the County agrees to maintain the road, or the County can transfer jurisdiction of the road to the city. The two options were discussed. The City will initiate a transfer of jurisdiction by resolution and will work with the County Road Department on next steps. Regarding Chapman Landing, the City would like to acquire Chapman Landing from the County. They are in need of river access for water purposes in the future. They are acquiring adjacent property from the Bernet family, but are having some trouble with the legal description. A solution would be to acquire the County's property or to enter into a joint ownership with the City. The Board of Commissioners indicated they would consider those two options.

PROCEDURE FOR SIGNING PLATS:

Nathan Woodward, County Surveyor, was present to review the procedure for signing and approving partition plats, etc. Using an existing plat map, Nathan explained the process of approving Subdivision and Partition Plats and when, where and why they are signing the plat, along with what things to look for. There was a brief discussion about Home Owners Associations and the issues we have seen when the HOA is not formed correctly, or even at all. This is informational only and no action was needed.

The Board recessed this meeting to attend a tour of the PGE site at Port Westward on Friday, January 27, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 25th day of January, 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Chair

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh
Board Office Administrator

By: _____
Alex Tardif, Commissioner