

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

April 15, 2015

MINUTES

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Henry Heimuller, Commissioner Anthony Hyde and Commissioner Earl Fisher, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Cynthia Zemaitis, Acting Board Office Administrator.

Commissioner Heimuller called the meeting to order and led the flag salute.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the April 8, 2015 Board and Staff meetings were pulled and held over.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Heimuller read the consent agenda in full. With no changes/additions, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select to Pay for week of 4/13/15.
- (B) Order No. 15-2015, "In the Matter of the Petition by Jeff Spang, Portrait Homes Northwest, to Name a Private Road near Warren, Oregon "Turley Road".

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (C) Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement between Columbia County and the following Governmental Entities: City of St. Helens, City of Scappoose, City of Columbia, City of Rainier, City of Clatskanie, City of Vernonia, Columbia River Fire and Rescue District, Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District, Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District, the Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District, Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District, Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District, Port of St. Helens and the Columbia River People's Utility District, and authorize the Chair to sign.

- (D) Amendment #14 to the Oregon Health Authority 2013-2015 Agreement #142058 for the Financing of Public Health Services and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (E) 2015 Certification of Local Governmental Approval for Non-profit Organizations Receiving ESG Funds from State Subrecipients.
- (F) Certification of Community Action Team 2015-2017 Projects and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (G) Rescind the prior Intergovernmental Agreement for Regional Disaster Preparedness Within the Greater Portland Metropolitan Region approved on November 5, 2014.
- (H) Intergovernmental Agreement for Regional Disaster Preparedness within the Greater Portland Metropolitan Region retroactive to November 5, 2014 and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (I) Ratify Estimated Seller's Settlement Statement for sale of 115 South 8th Street, St. Helens, Oregon and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (J) Ratify Escrow Agreement for sale of 115 South 8th Street, St. Helens, Oregon and authorize the Chair to sign.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller wanted to remind everyone that we have the jail operating levy committee meeting to evaluate and oversee the funds approved in the levy. Last night was the monthly meeting of JOCAC. The committee consists of a well-rounded, diverse group of people from the community who were both for and against the jail levy. They ask very appropriate questions and are developing the machinery to move forward. Commissioner Heimuller stated that, since the levy passed, there has been a 50% increase in local jail beds. It's moving in the right direction.

He also wanted to give a shout out for the Fair Board. This will be the 100th anniversary of the Fair and Rodeo, which will be bigger and better, with the fairgrounds looking great, and all done by volunteers. He stated that if folks are interested in a sponsorship, they should contact the Fair office or the Board office; any vendors interested should do the same.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde indicated that the most important thing on his agenda right now has been to do whatever he can to encourage the senate to sign House Resolution 2, which is the medics bill which came from the outside to the senate. They passed it last night at 8:30 p.m., with a vote of 926 to 4. He does not believe it passed with such a majority due to the Secure Rural Schools add-on, but it certainly is good for the County. Albeit it is scant, it is still important. It will be somewhere around 30-35% of prior funding, which puts it at around \$900,000,000 instead of \$200,000,000+. Commissioner Hyde agrees with Congress Walden, who has said that now we can really focus on the long-term solution.

Last week he was in Salem twice, the first time for the Forest Trust Lands with regard to the State forests. It is the State Forest Trust Lands, with both Tillamook and Clatsop forests being Trust Lands. These lands have been entrusted to the State to handle fiscally, and the Counties actually get 50% of revenue.

He was back in Salem for the Association of Oregon Counties and testified with regards to the management of Regional Solutions, which is the alignment of State agencies around economic development.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher stated that this is April 15, tax day, and hopefully everyone has paid their taxes. People always complain about their taxes, but they should be glad to pay, because it allows the government to run things. He indicated that Shelter Workshops are for people on disabilities and others who have a difficult time finding work. They pay less than minimum wage, but it's a very time consuming and a hands-on workshop which helps these people greatly. They now anticipate that these workshops will close, with people having no work, no homes and on the street. These are the kinds of things that our taxes support.

Commissioner Fisher stated that the term "democracy" was discussed several weeks ago. We live in a "representative democracy", which a strong difference. We elect those to make the decisions, and they may decide to raise taxes to keep things running.

He also noted that there was some concern that there was a gun bill passed in legislature as the article outlined in the paper indicated. He stated that it is not up to the sheriff, me or you to decide the constitutionality of the gun issue. That is decided by the Supreme Court.

He is also very concerned when we do not provide enough taxes. He is very concerned when the school fund does not have enough money to educate our children, which

depends on taxes. Commissioner Fisher wondered what was more important: do I keep a couple of dollars in my pocket, or do I support the community.

Commissioner Hyde commented that it is his goal to ensure that we have opportunities for every citizen to be able to pay taxes. We want gainfully employed, family wage jobs, enabling people to pay their taxes.

Commissioner Heimuller wanted to comment on the Shelter Workshop program. He does not think people realize how important these programs are. Some people might think these people are being abused because they do not make minimum wage, but these people do not live in their own homes, the program includes room and board to create a life for these people so they can live, work, be entertained and co-exist in the community rather than being institutionalized.

Commissioner Hyde agreed it will be a big loss. All the Commissioners have watched the program and how it gives the people an identity. He hates to see it go.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 15th of April, 2015.

NOTE: A tape of this meeting is available for purchase by the public or interested parties.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Chair

By: _____
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: _____
Cynthia Zemaitis

By: _____
Earl Fisher, Commissioner