

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

May 3, 2017

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Henry Heimuller, Commissioner Margaret Magruder and Commissioner Alex Tardif, together with Robin McIntyre, Assistant County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Office Administrator.

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

MINUTES:

Commissioner Tardif moved and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2017 Board meeting and April 26, 2017 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Don Campbell, 75735 Price Road, Rainier: Don has received more records from DEQ on the Deer Pointe Meadows MHP. He believes that DEQ has given him an incomplete report because it doesn't have all months for the year. In looking at the reports, it looks like someone is playing games with the numbers - using slices of a month and it's random on dates used. He went through the numbers and is thinking this random system is to keep the numbers lower. When numbers became accountable, the usage numbers changed. He is looking into hiring a septic expert Bob Sweeney to look into this because the reports are not correct. Deer Pointe Meadows are sending information that they know is not accurate. It's a crime! Don will provide the paper work to the Board.

HEARING: TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN:

This is the time set for the public hearing, "In the Matter of Adoption of a Transportation System Plan and Related Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan".

Robin McIntyre, Assistant County Counsel, noted that this is a legislative land use hearing and seeks to amend 3 county ordinances. Any decision made by the Board today would be tentative. Robin entered County Counsel's hearing file into the record, marked Exhibit "1", including the list of contents.

Glen Higgins, Chief Planner, came before the Board to give a brief staff report. The current Columbia County Transportation System Plan (TSP) was adopted in 1998. In July 2012, the County received notice that ODOT would fund an update to our TSP. ODOT contracted with DKS Associates. The County was involved in developing a scope of work, and the County Road Department, along with DKS Associates, held various

Special Advisory Committee meetings, stakeholder interviews, briefings with the Board and open house meetings in both the north county and south county. Part of the TSP and the State Transportation Planning Rule require amendments to the County Comprehensive Plan and implementing ordinances to be compatible with the new TSP. Angelo Planning Group developed land use amendments to the comprehensive plan and ordinance revisions and present their recommendation in Technical Memorandum #13.

The TSP is a collection of current transportation related inventory, forecasts, past and current project ideas, decisions and standards contained in one document. Emphasis in this 2017 update reflects an importance of multi-modal transportation system - to balance the needs of walking, bicycling, driving, transit and freight movements.

The 2017 TSP is presented in two volumes. Volume I is the "system plan" and Volume II presents support materials, more detailed concepts, tables and figures used in the plan. The Road Department staff has worked with DKS Associates at various stages of drafting the updated TSP. Although not perfect, the TSP has up to date 2015 traffic data and other analysis the county lacked.

This matter came before the Columbia County Planning Commission at the direction of the Board to initiate the adoption of the 2017 TSP and the necessary amendments to county ordinances to comply with the plan. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the plan to the Board of Commissioners.

Lonny Welter, Transportation Planner, in summary this is an update to the 1998 transportation plan. The typical life of the TSP is 15-20 years so now is the time to update it. He mentioned the various things that affect needed changes to the plan.

John Boska DSK, 720 SW Washington Street, Portland: John gave some background on the past 3 years of this process, those involved in the process, public open houses, briefing sessions with the Board of Commissioners and the TSP project website that included all background materials. This plan is simply identifying projects the county would like to have completed, although they are not obligated to completing them - that would depend on funding. The priorities are listed, however that list can change over time.

Commissioner Tardif asked if during the process, were additional funding sources looked into or just strictly the infrastructure? John responded that, yes they did, creating additional funding sources is not in the purview of the TSP process, but they did identify other potential funding opportunities that the county could look at. They also looked at TSP budget that the county has been using projecting forward over the next 20 years. Those options are listed. Funding opportunities will change over time, so we used this as an exercise to identify what we are currently seeing.

Commissioner Magruder asked if there are any significant changes from the draft to the final copy. John doesn't believe there are any substantial changes between the two.

Lonny Welter added that, as we go forward and grants and other funding become available, they will often ask if the list is in the TSP. If not able to check the box, you're not going to get the funding. The list is important just to be able to secure future funding. Amendments can be made, but it's better to have the list as complete as possible to begin with.

Commissioner Heimuller agrees that we do have to try to project out 20 years, in order to get the funding when it becomes available. If we are not ready, we will not be eligible for grants or other funding.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

Alta Lynch, PO Box 369, Scappoose: Although she sits on the County Planning Commission, she is here today as a county resident. When the Planning Commission voted on this, she did not vote either way. She read her written testimony into the record and was entered into the record as Exhibit "2". *"I can understand that the plan implements Oregon Statewide Planning goals with that of the County. One of the goals is to encourage bicycles as a mode of transportation along with pedestrian walkways. That said, I have a problem with both the State and the County when it comes to bicycle' and the "special accommodations" that will be implemented to residential builders, business and schools. They encourage extra parking for bicycles at schools, 1 for every 10 students, and that they be sheltered from the elements. Before we encourage more bicycle travel, maybe would could enforce the helmet law which is meant to protect them. If bicycle travel is being encouraged rather than automobile, then perhaps it is time for the "bike community" to become accountable and be required to pass a knowledge and skills test and to be licensed, insured, taxed. There is not way of identifying a cyclist when they are the cause of an accident. Perhaps Columbia County can come to the forefront in Oregon and start "mandating" cyclists pay their fair share. I also encourage officials to site cyclists when they are using the road rather than the bicycle paths that are available".*

With no further testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed for deliberation.

Commissioner Tardif asked Lonny about the expansion of the Rainier bridge, as there is nothing identified on how to deal with the increased traffic on the approaches. Lonny explained that the bridge is owned by the State of Washington, but Oregon has some maintenance requirements. Commissioner Tardif feels that, if this plan is aspirational anyway, why not include more lanes between Columbia City and Rainier. Lonny agrees that those issues are spot on. With this being State land and not County, Lonny would ask that ODOT come before the Board to discuss this.

Kenneth Shonkwiler, ODOT, Senior Region Planner, 350 W. Marine Drive, Astoria:

He is fairly new and was not involved in most of the development of this plan. To answer Commissioner Tardif's question, he believes that U.S. 30 is something that can be added to the TSP. Commissioner Tardif feels this is a great plan, but the real issue is that we will not touch 90% of these projects without funding. Kenneth agreed, but without this plan in place we will not get funding. We need to be ready when funding is available.

Commissioner Heimuller believes that if the county gets 10% of these projects done in the next 20 years, we are doing very well. Again, if this plan is not in place, we could miss out on funding.

Commissioner Magruder asked if there is flexibility in the TSP. There are many components to be addressed to reach goals, is there adaptive management incorporated into the plan? Kenneth responded that there is.

Commissioner Tardif appreciates the efforts that have been put into the TSP.

Because the Board wants additional time to review the plan and any updated changes, deliberations were carried over to Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at or after 10:00 am.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- (A) Ratify the Select to Pay for the week of 5.1.17.
- (B) Order No. 26-2017, "In the Matter of Disbanding and Terminating the Columbia County Unmet Needs Committee".

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (C) Personal Services Contract with Robert J. Braud PC for Realty Services.
- (D) Agreement #31911 with ODOT, Rail & Public Transit Division.

The motion carried unanimously.

MARIJUANA TAX UPDATE:

Jennifer Cuellar, Finance Director, came before the Board along with Shelley Blickenstaff, Accounting staff, to share with the Board how the first round of receipts went for the marijuana tax. Jennifer first noted that the City of Rainier is requesting that the County

collect their marijuana tax however that will require an Intergovernmental Agreement, which staff is currently looking at.

Shelley Blickenstaff noted that there were 3 vendors that reported and, she has to say, they were very helpful, professional and polite, when submitting their records. The revenue received was \$13,523.66 for the first quarter (Jan-March). She has nothing but good to say about these vendors. For the benefit of the public, Jennifer explained the 3% local tax on marijuana that was approved by the voters, effective January 1, 2017.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller will be attending the NOHA meeting tomorrow in Warrenton.

Next Monday, he will be in Salem for the AOC committee meetings and, in the afternoon he will attend the Public Transportation Advisory Committee.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Magruder announced that the Clatskanie Forestry Team has won the State Competition. This being 3 times out of 4 years. This team is from the career technical team at Clatskanie High School.

She will be at AOC on Monday for committee meetings and then will meet with another group on cross laminated timber.

COMMISSIONER TARDIF COMMENTS:

Commissioner Tardif mentioned that he will also be in Salem on Monday for the AOC committee meetings and will remain in Salem for the Tuesday AOC C3 Summit where they will be discussing mental health and possible ways to keep those who are needing professional help out the Jail system.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 3rd day of May, 2017.

NOTE: An audio CD of this meeting is available for purchase by the public or interested parties. A video of the meeting is also posted on our website at www.co.columbia.or.us

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