

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

June 22, 2016

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Anthony Hyde, Commissioner Henry Heimuller and Commissioner Earl Fisher, together with Robin McIntyre, Assistant County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Office Administrator.

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

**MINUTES:**

Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2016 Budget meeting; June 1, 2016 Budget Hearing; June 8, 2016 Board meeting; June 8, 2016 Staff meeting; and June 8, 2016 Budget Hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

**VISITOR COMMENTS:**

None.

**HEARING: RATE ADJUSTMENTS FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES:**

This is the time set for the public hearing, "In the Matter of the Rate Adjustments for Solid Waste Curbside Collection Services in Unincorporated Columbia County".

Kathleen Boutin-Pasterz, Solid Waste Coordinator, came before the Board to give the staff report. Each year, the County reviews solid waste collection rates using a uniform Detailed Cost Report (DCR) rate review procedure established in 2011 which is designed to provide the information necessary for the County to make rate setting decisions pursuant to Section 5.01 of the Solid Waste Management Ordinance. Under the DCR procedure, an operating ratio for each collection service area is determined using detailed cost data presented by each collection franchisee in a standard format prescribed by the County. The operating ratio is a measure, expressed as a percentage, of what proportion of a collection franchisee's revenue is left over, before taxes, after paying for the variable costs of providing the service. The County has established a policy that an acceptable operating ratio shall be in the range of 8-14% with a target operating ratio of 11%. If the DCR for the previous year indicates an operating ratio which is under 8%, a rate adjustment to the target 11% would be made. If the operating ratio falls within the 8-14% acceptable range, no rate adjustment would be allowed.

In April, Waste Management (Scappoose and Vernonia) and Waste Connections (St. Helens, Clatskanie, and Rainier), the two solid waste collection franchisees serving rural

Columbia County, submitted Detailed Cost Reports (DCRs) to the Columbia County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and County staff. The DCRs were reviewed by SWAC at a public meeting on May 5, 2016.

### **TRANSFER STATION DISPOSAL FEE PASS-THRU ADJUSTMENTS:**

Transfer Station disposal rates are adjusted each year based on the prior year CPI. The CPI for 2016 was 1.3%. The CPI increase for disposal will be passed through to the collection franchisee customer and included with the change in the collection service rate. The CPI disposal rate increase is 1.3%, increasing the commercial tonnage rate from \$86.04 to \$87.16 per ton and thereby increasing curbside collection rate for once a week residential service by \$.11 per ton per month.

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee, public members, Mike Sheehan, Sally Marson, Randy Zuber, LDS staff heard presentations by Waste Connections and Waste Management regarding their respective collection service detailed cost reports and related rate requests on May 5, 2016.

Waste Management is operating between 8-14% so there will be no rate adjustment—just the allowable disposal pass thru of \$.11. Customer rates will have \$.11 tacked on current rates. Waste Connection is not operating within the acceptable operating ratio. Thus, appropriate rate adjustments will be implemented based on the DCR for each area.

Rural St Helens is operating with a 10.3% margin, so there will be no rate adjustment necessary. Rural Clatskanie is operating at 0.5%. Waste Connection offered two options: Option A calls for a 12.7% rate increase for FY 2017 whereas, Option B calls for a 6.3% increase for 2017 and a 6.3% increase for 2018. SWAC and Staff suggest a modified version of Option B—a 6.3% increase, which is equivalent to an additional \$1.79 per 32 gallons, then revisiting any additional increase when the DCR for FY 2018 comes out. Rural Rainier is operating at 7.6% and requires a 3.5% rate increase.

Based on a review of detailed cost reporting information submitted in support of the franchise hauler requests, SWAC and Staff recommend approval of the collection franchisee rate adjustments, selecting the modified Option B for the rural Clatskanie service area, a 3.5% rate increase for the rural Rainier service area and the allowable disposal pass thru of \$.11 for all service areas.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

### **PROponents:**

Jennifer Burk, Waste Connections Financial Analyst, and Ernie Martin, Site Manager at Hudson Garbage Services, gave a presentation on what the company has been doing

over the last year. Hudson Garbage Services has been doing well safety wise—incident free for over a year, and the transfer station is still running and there have been some fleet improvements including a brand new garbage truck. The company remains in the top ten in the nation for exceptional customer service and frequently supports communities and their events. Jennifer spoke to the cost drivers related to the price increase. From 2014-2015, there has been around a 46% decrease in the recycling economy market due to China focusing more on their domestic market than on their imports, creating a supply and demand imbalance for the rest of the market. Therefore, any anticipated recycling value has proven to be much less despite the unchanged actual collected recycling quantity. In addition, Waste Connections is being charged a processing cost from the facilities to take the recycling since the recycling has to be sorted and moved to different and more costly markets. Columbia County recycling participation rates are considered high, yet it remains slightly below state goals leading to speculation over misrepresented data and other factors that affect the rates.

**OPPONENTS:**

None.

With no further testimony coming before the Board, the hearing was closed for deliberations. Commissioner Heimuller commented on how well the process is working to keep costs in line, so that our haulers can remain profitable and provide good customer service. Commissioner Fisher believes that the process on these rate adjustments used makes it more proactive. Robin asked that the Board hold this over to allow her time to correct a scrivener error and add to the consent agenda next week. With that, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to tentatively approve Order No. 37-2016, "In the Matter of Rate Adjustments for Curbside Collection Services for Franchise Areas Covering Unincorporated Columbia County". The motion carried unanimously.

**ORDER 34-2016 - FOREST TRUST LAND REVENUES:**

Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve Order No. 34-2016, "In the Matter of the Distribution of Forest Trust Land Revenues [2016 Distribution]". The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Commissioner Hyde read the consent agenda in full. Item (Q) and (X) was pulled. With no other changes/additions, Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select to Pay for week of 6/13/16 & 6/20/16.

- (B) Approve Memo to Jennifer Cuellar regarding the Vernonia RFPD Request for Reimbursement of Impact Funds.
- (C) Approve Memo to Jennifer Cuellar regarding the Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Request for Reimbursement of Impact Funds.
- (D) Approve Personnel Action for Janet Wright.
- (E) Authorize the Human Resources Director to enroll Columbia County in Principal Dental.
- (F) Order No. 23-2016, "In the Matter of Adopting a Federal Grant Indirect Rate for All Federal Awards".
- (G) Order No. 24-2016, "In the Matter of Adopting a Conflict of Interest Policy".
- (H) Order No. 25-2016, "In the Matter of Adopting a Records Retention Policy".
- (I) Order No. 26-2016, "In the Matter of Establishing a Subrecipient Monitoring Policy for Federal Grant Awards".
- (J) Order No. 27-2016, "In the Matter of Establishing a Cost Transfer Policy for Federal Grant Awards".
- (K) Order No. 28-2016, "In the Matter of Establishing a Cash Management Policy for Grant Awards".
- (L) Order No. 29-2016, "In the Matter of Establishing Allowable Costs for Federal Grant Awards".
- (M) Order No. 30-2016, "In the Matter of Exercising the Grace Period for Implementation of Uniform Grant Guidance Procurement Requirements".
- (N) Order No. 31-2016, "In the Matter of Adopting the Columbia County Grant Administration Policy".
- (O) Order No. 32-2016, "In the Matter of the Application by Portland Community College for Public Safety Training Facility in the Primary Agriculture (PA-80) Zone as Authorized Under ORS 215.312".
- (P) Order No. 36-2016, "In the Matter of Adopting Findings Concerning the Feasibility of Using the County's Personnel and Resources to Operate Columbia County Rider (CC Rider)".

- (Q) Gas Pipeline Easement in Gross with NW Natural Gas. **[Pulled and held over]**

**AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:**

- (R) Amended and Restated Submerged and Submersible Land Lease 9849-ML with the Oregon Department of State Lands and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (S) Amendment #1 to ODOT Grant Agreement #30412.
- (T) Approve Letter of Agreement regarding health insurance effective August 1, 2016 with AFSCME Local 1442.
- (U) Approve Letter of Agreement regarding health insurance effective August 1, 2016 with AFSCME Local 697.
- (V) Approve Letter of Agreement regarding health insurance effective August 1, 2016 with FOPPO.
- (W) Notice of Intent to Award Contract for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Rainier Transit Center to Lower Columbia Engineering and authorize Casey Garrett to sign.
- (X) Public Transportation Operations Contract with MTR Western. **[Pulled for discussion]**

The motion carried unanimously.

**ITEM (X) - MTR REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT REGARDING CONTRACT:**

Janet Wright, Director of CC Rider transportation, introduced the MTR Representatives: Jeremy Butzlaff, Fred VanBrocklin, Richard Vollmer, Tony Tolle, MTR Representatives, were present to answer any questions the Board may have. Jeremy gave some background on the company, discussing MTR's establishment in 2003 as a motorbus company founded on tour and travel. In addition to tour and travel, MTR eventually opened up for corporate business for sustainability purposes. In 2013, the company started focusing on employee transportation.

Commissioner Heimuller stated that the county is excited to be contracting with them. However, Columbia County thrives mostly on grant dollars and doesn't have the monetary flexibility that ODOT and other State agencies may have. Hopefully, MTR has considered those factors and can still provide good service to our communities.

With that, Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the Public Transportation Operations Contract with MTR Western. The motion carried unanimously.

**COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:**

Last week, the Board attended the AOC (Association of Oregon Counties) Spring Conference in Pendleton. It was very well attended and based around a presidential initiative of resilient communities. Systems are being developed to address the impending earthquake that, one day, will hit Oregon. Columbia County is proud to be ahead of the rest of the state with preparations.

Yesterday, Commissioner Hyde attended the annual CCET (Columbia County Economic Team) meeting. Adrian Allen from the MRC out of Sheffield, England was visiting and discussing plans to replicate that research center here in Scappoose—something never done before in the United States. Also, PSU, PCC, OIT and OSU are bringing staff and facilities into Columbia County to work with companies that have partnerships with the Sheffield MRC like Boeing. OIT has already purchased the Jersey building in Scappoose. Additionally, Cascades Tissue is expanding with a new facility in Scappoose. Tony can't be more excited and pleased that all this development is happening here in Columbia County.

Lastly, Tony would like to point out that a proposed initiative to tax large industries is now on the November ballot. Although the tax is supposed to raise money for education, it has potential to destroy the Oregon economy since industries will be more incentivized to save revenue by decreasing employment or developing in other states. CCET has unanimously passed a resolution to oppose this and Tony hopes to bring a similar opposition to the Board.

**COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:**

Saturday, Commissioner Heimuller attended the bridge dedication to Commissioner Hyde on the CZ Trail over Alder Creek. Instead of the traditional ribbon cutting, a tree was brought across the bridge and Tony sawed the tree in half with a new steel chainsaw. Henry would like to congratulate Tony on this well deserved dedication.

Back in January, the Board had Janet Wright, Director of CC Rider transportation, achieve a whole list of goals despite her having retired a few years ago and only coming back to work part time. One of those goals was to bring in a new contract for transit services—something highly important. Henry wanted to publicly thank Janet Wright and Robin McIntyre for the hard work and the time spent on getting this contract done.

**COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Fisher would also like to congratulate Commissioner Hyde about the bridge dedication.

Yesterday, he attended the ELC (Early Learning Council) meeting and discussed the importance of providing better quality preschool programs to prepare children for grade school. Earl would like to point out that poverty is the biggest contributing factor to unsuccessful academic careers. He is thankful for the coming growth and development in this county because he knows it will positively impact the future generations.

***The Board recessed the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and immediately reconvened in the Board Office Conference Room.***

**INTERVIEW TRANSIT ADMINISTRATOR APPLICANT:**

The Board met with Charlie Stolte for a second interview for the Transit Administrator position. No decisions were made at this time.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, 2016.

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](http://www.co.columbia.or.us)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan Greenhalgh  
Board Office Administrator

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Earl Fisher, Commissioner