

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

February 10, 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 February 3, 2016 Board meeting and February 3, 2016 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Alta Lynch, Chair of the Elks Veterans and the Veterans Bunker, was here today to thank the Commissioners for their support of the Vets bunker and the community for their turnout for the Valentines for Vets Day event, it was truly overwhelming. Alta articulated what the Vets bunker is and how it helps all veterans, whether local or not, in filing claims with our local Veterans Officer. It's a very inviting place and makes those who need services feel more comfortable. It can also be just a gathering place for those who are seeking companionship because many of our older vets are losing spouses and friends and they're lonely. This gives them a place to go to talk with others and, in the future, some group counseling. This includes resources for spouses of veterans. It's a learning process and as they learn more, they will do more.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT VISIT:

Commissioner Fisher wanted to say that it is very important that the Board of Commissioners understand what is going on with our schools and the nexus between us. He appreciates the opportunity to meet with our Columbia County School Superintendents who are present here today.

Floyd Hartley, Superintendent with the Clatskanie School District: He is here today to talk about his school district and some of the things they are doing in both the elementary school and high school. The elementary school is becoming a lab model school for a response intervention program, which all has to do with kids reading. The goal is to have kids reading by the time they finish 3rd grade. Through the work between RTI and elementary school staff, they won the Oregon RTI School of the Year award. With that, they are going to have other school districts come to the elementary school to

see their successful model in teaching kids to read. In their high school, they have been fortunate enough to have one of the most outstanding Career Technical Education programs in the area. There have been some great competitions with our forestry program and partnering with the Rainier School District with some farm to school programs. On a district level, he wanted to thank the Commissioners and other partners for their work on the Strategic Investment Program to get money for the Clatskanie School District in the amount of \$401,000 this year. The plan is to divide that up into thirds - 1/3 toward delayed maintenance; 1/3 toward classroom instruction; and 1/3 put away in savings. He is happy to say that enrollment is up, which means more people coming into the community and in turn creates economic growth. Lastly, they are pushing the idea that no one person is an island, and that everyone knows what the others are doing for the benefit for the students, adults and community.

Michael Carter, Superintendent for the Rainier School District. He first wanted to mention that all superintendents in Columbia County are not only colleges, but they are also a resource for each other and work together very well. They recently submitted a joint grant application with St. Helens, Vernonia, Clatskanie and Rainier school districts. By doing this, they can maximize state and federal resources and obtain larger grants. He is proud to report that Clatskanie was one of 10 high schools that were recognized by the Oregon Department of Education reported the Clatskanie's graduation rate from 2008 to 2015 was 60% and 58% for the disadvantaged and now it's 86%. This is great news, but they want it to be higher. He also wanted to mention the health center and is grateful to the Commissioners for their help on that. It is now a community health center and nobody is turned away. They have seen more people in January 2016 than the entire year of 2015. He quoted a student that, if not for this health center their families would not be able to seek health care. Rainier has brought in over \$1.2 million in grants in the last 3 years. They survive on grants because enrollment has significantly dipped. Rainier received the State Wellness Award for the employees because of the 65% of employees that document their workouts 2-3 times per week. The district has also done some creative things such as purchasing a garbage truck, reducing the cost from \$50,000 down to \$3,800. He briefly mentioned the number of youth programs the students participate in. He thanked the Board for taking the time to meet with the county superintendents.

Erin Miller, Superintendent for the Vernonia School District: Erin reiterated what Michael said, that all of the superintendents in this county work well together on grants, programs, etc. Vernonia is still a district that is in crisis because of the flood events in 1996 and 2007. However, they now have a new facility which is the centerpiece of this community. Commissioner Hyde commented that the remaining \$4 million still owed on that project needs to be paid, which bites into the school curricular. They still need a football, baseball and track field, so this is not a finished product, but he continues to help try to mitigate that issue. Erin agreed that is still an issue that they deal with and complimented his staff for staying on through it all. On the positive side, they received a CTE grant that allowed them to put a shop facility back in again and a greenhouse. They now certified programs in construction, digital arts, forestry and engineering. This will

allow the students to have some real life experiences to develop their skills for the workforce. One of the elements that he is most proud of is the internships that they are able to provide for students. Through the CTE grant program, they were able to create two summer positions that works with their maintenance and facilities department, two other positions that work with Stub Stewart State Park who intern as junior park rangers and two positions to work with the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council on restoration projects. Those are huge opportunities for the students. The final thing he wanted to share is that the Vernonia School District is currently going through a strategic planning process and gathering input from many focus groups within the community, i.e. parents, staff, school board members, etc., to gather information on where they want to see educational services move towards. He thanked the Board for allowing him to share this information.

Scott Stockwell, Superintendent for the St. Helens School District: They are currently about half way through their strategic planning process. They have reached out to community members to see what they want in public education. The next step is to develop a mission statement. He shared information on the results of their preliminary focus sessions and reviewed the response detail on each of the 6 questions that were asked. Additionally, the district has partnered with the Oregon Education Association on an assessment project and explained how that works and the hopeful outcomes.

Steven Jupe, Superintendent for the Scappoose School District: He presented the Board with some written information on what they are doing and challenges they face. This district is faced with not only a current growth in the number of students, but a predicted growth that has them scrambling for space. Academically, the elementary schools are concentrating on the basic skills such as reading and math so that students are totally prepared when going into high school and beyond. They have purchased a whole new curriculum for K-8. The focus is to know, every 4 months, exactly where the students are in their skill levels. They have also started full day kindergarten which is helping with student learning. Their career and technical programs are not as advanced at St. Helens, so that is also a focus. They are applying for a grant through the "Lead the Way" program so they can hopefully set up a class next year in the middle school and high school, to apply science and math skills to something that's hands on and high tech. They are sending two teachers to OIT for a 2 week training with the hope to set up two labs next year where the students will actually build things.

Cindy Jaeger, County Representative for the Educational Service District: The NW Regional ESD serves 4 counties; Washington, Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook and works with the districts and community partners to provide services on a local basis. One thing they do is provide programs for children with special needs. They also have birth to 3 services that they provide at the home, along with other agencies such as public health, mental health, etc. Anyone can make a referral and about 30% of those referrals come from physicians and referrals overall are up about 18% this year. They also contract with the schools districts to provide special development for students in need.

Early Learning is the big focus right now, getting kids ready for kindergarten. In terms of partnerships, it's well known that everyone does better working together and community collaboration is key.

PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAMS:

Circuit Court Judge Grant, came before the Board along with Christy Duey, Dave Chaney and Brian Cutright with Adult Protective Services, to talk about the aging population and the need for guardians. This is a growing problem because of the baby boomers. Many seniors have a need for a guardian, because they have no family or others to help out. So the issue at hand is the need for guardians for our aging generation. Christy explained that their office investigates complaints. There are real serious concerns with financial abuse, self neglect, and physical abuse and they wanted to bring this to the attention of the County. They are looking at a Public Guardianship Program because there are not enough guardians out there to take on these cases. Commissioner Fisher questioned what is being asked of the county? Christy is here to ask if the Courts or County Commissioners can create a Public Guardianship Program and fund it, staff it and regulate it. Commissioner Heimuller feels that, even though the county doesn't have the money to fund this type of program, it doesn't mean they can work together with others to create something Commissioner Hyde believes there is interest by the Board on this and would like to look at the information provided. Judge Grant asked if the Board might want to start a task force or know of an agency that might want to do it, to determine what the needs are and how this can be addressed. The Board would be interested in doing that and suggested that Christy check with Multnomah County to see if they have this type of program and how it functions.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Hyde read the consent agenda in full. Commissioner Heimuller pulled Item (F) for additional review. With no other changes, Commissioner Heimuller moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select to Pay for week of 2/8/16.
- (B) Ratify Partition Plat for Salmon Timberland LLC.
- (C) 2015 Liquor License Renewal for Scipio's Goble Landing.
- (D) Reappoint Al Pierce to the Meadowview Service District SDL-1 Budget Committee for a 3 year term.
- (E) Reappoint Dan Garrison, Paul Langer and Margaret Magruder to the Columbia County Development Agency Budget Committee for a 1 year term.

- (F) Approve Transit Administrator job description. *(Pulled for more review)*
- (G) Second Corrected Order No. 47-2015, "In the Matter of Reimbursing Public Agencies in Columbia County for the Cost Impacts of the Hood-to-Coast Relay and Returning Remaining Deposit".
- (H) Order No. 3-2016, "In the Matter of Declaring an Emergency and Awarding a Public Contract for Carnival Services to Butler Amusements, Inc."

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (I) Intergovernmental Agreement #A000034; ORPIN #52875 with the State of Oregon for Motor Vehicle Rentals, Fuel Purchases, and Motor Pool Shop Services and authorize the Chair to sign.
- (J) Agreement for Housing of Juvenile Offenders with Yamhill County and authorize the Chair to sign.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

No comments.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller wanted to mentioned that Sergeant Jason Gooding, a police officer with the Seaside Police Department was shot and killed last week in the line of duty. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

No comments.

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 10th of February, 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

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