

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

April 26, 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 19, 2017 Board meeting and April 19, 2017 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Paulette Lichatowich, PO Box 439, Columbia City: She is here today to talk about citizen involvement and how important it is to this community. With the upcoming remand hearing on Port Westward, she requested that the Board hold the hearing in the evening and in a place that will allow for a large amount of participation. She also suggested that it be held in the St. Helens area, as Clatskanie isn't convenient for most people. The Board appreciates Paulette's input and will take these suggestions under advisement.

Alta Lynch and Josh Sprecher, Elks Veterans Bunker, 125 S. 13th St., St. Helens: Alta introduced Josh Sprecher, a veteran who has been working with her at the Elks Veterans Bunker. They have started a new program called "Farming for Freedom". Josh explained that he has been working with Alta to address veteran issues in Columbia County. He also volunteers for the National Veterans Crisis Hotline in Portland, but really wants to be able to help the veterans here in his own community. There are over 5,000 veterans in Columbia County. Josh noted that veteran suicides account for 23% of the suicides in Oregon, even though they only account for 8% of the population. In his work with veterans, he has found that farming is a good productive way for vets to decompress. The Farming for Freedom program was put together with that in mind. They have already seen progress with many veterans from all eras. What Josh is looking for now is garden space for this program and specifically looking at the fairgrounds. The Board praised the program and Commissioner Heimuller will set up a meeting for Alta and Josh to meet with the Fair Board to start the process.

PROCLAMATION "EMS WEEK":

The Board welcomed Trish Smith, Metro West Ambulance Service. The Board will be proclaiming the week of May 21, 2017 as "Emergency Medical Services Week". Trish

thanked the Board for their recognition of those who work in all aspects of the medical field. She invited the Board to their BBQ at Metro West Ambulance on May 26th at 4:00 pm and another event on May 22nd at 6:00 pm at the Vernonia RFPD to honor the volunteers and paid staff. At this time, Commissioner Heimuller read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming the week of May 21, 2017 as "Emergency Medical Services" week.

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 4.24.17.
- (B) Ratify Partition Plat for Circle M. Estates.
- (C) Reappoint Sandy Tetz to the Columbia County Parks Advisory Committee, term to expire 12.31.19.
- (D) Order No. 19-2017, "In the Matter of Directing the Sale of Real Property Acquired by Columbia County; 58442 Nehalem Highway South, Vernonia".
- (E) Order No. 23-2017, "In the Matter of Transferring Jurisdiction over the Portion of County Road D, commonly known as West Lane Road, between Columbia Avenue and Wagner Court to the City of Scappoose".
- (F) Resolution No. 24-2017, "In the Matter of Authorizing the Submittal of an Application for a Local Government Grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for Development Projects on the Crown-Zellerbach Trail in Columbia County, Oregon, and authorizing the Director of Forests, Parks and Recreation to Sign".

The motion carried unanimously.

RAINIER TRANSIT CENTER PROJECT:

Casey Garrett, Facilities Director, came before the Board to address the Rainier Transit Center project. He explained that statute requires that this level of capital improvement project go through the invitation to bid process, however, there is an alternative contracting method. Casey is requesting authorization to use the alternative method (a negotiated bid process) for a couple of reasons. It would require a findings report, public comment period and a public hearing. This would be about a 3-4 week process and during that time he will be able to develop the RFP and have it ready to go out as soon as

those requirements have been met. When asked, Casey gave a brief overview of the difference between a “negotiated” process and the “Invitation to Bid” process. Basically the Invitation to Bid comes down to the lowest bidder. The negotiated bid process allows for much more involvement, i.e. checking references, negotiated process, etc.

Robin explained that staff will need to prepare findings to justify this alternative method and the Board will then hold a public hearing where they can take formal action.

After discussion, there was a consensus by the Board to have Casey move forward with the negotiated bid process.

COMMISSIONER HEIMULLER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Heimuller attended the CAT meeting on Monday.

The County Budget Committee met yesterday for a full day going over the budget.

Last Thursday, he attended the O&C meeting in Salem. Discussion was held on litigation between the counties and the federal government on the management of federal timber lands.

Commissioner Heimuller wanted to mention that our District Attorney, Steve Atchison, is retiring. He will be greatly missed here at the county. We wish him the very best in his retirement.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Magruder also enjoyed working with Steve over the years and he will be missed.

She reported on the AOC County College held last week in Wasco County. She learns a lot during these sessions and appreciates the opportunity to attend these classes.

COMMISSIONER TARDIF COMMENTS:

Commissioner Tardif commented on the AOC County College and how beneficial and interesting it is to hear how other counties work and deal with various issues.

He learned a lot about the individual departments during the County Budget meeting yesterday.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 26th of April, 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