

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

December 22, 2010

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Anthony Hyde, Commissioner Earl Fisher and Commissioner Rita Bernhard, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

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

MINUTES:

Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2010 Board meeting and December 15, 2010 Staff meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Michael Dunning, Union Representative for Roads/Parks. He, and other members of the union are here to discuss the contract listed on the consent agenda. There is an issue that was put in the contract that is contrary to what was agreed to by the union. Jean has added language that the union employees would receive pay monthly as opposed to actual day/hours worked. This was discussed briefly during negotiations but there was a lot of concerns and again, not agreed to and in fact, voted against it. Michael explained how this would effect the employees. The language Jean presented to the union is different than what is in the contract. The union is very upset and has not even signed off on the contract yet. All they are asking is that the Board encourage Jean to meet with this union prior to signing this contract.

Dean McMann, Road Department, totally agrees with the comments made by Michael Dunning. Jean never stated that was the intent of the language put in the contract. The details need to be worked out before this contract and Letters of Agreement are approved by the Union.

Jeff Peterson, Local 697, wanted to encourage the Board to have Jean go back into negotiations to discuss this matter. Basically, this contract says they will work a day for nothing. He simply wants to get paid for the work he does. He believes this issue is workable and they can hammer through the details.

Tom Phillips, Local 697, agrees with the union that they just want to be paid a fair wage for the time they work. Not getting paid for what they work is simply not fair. On another note, when the insurance comes up for renewal, Jean gives their department 2 weeks to make any changes. Because the road employees work 10 hours day and with holidays it is not enough time - county employees need 30 days to decide on their insurance choices.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Hyde read the consent agenda in full. Items E, F, G were pulled and held over. With no other changes/additions, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select to Pay for 12/21/10.
- (B) Ratify letter Pauly, Rogers and Co. regarding the June 30, 2010 Columbia County audit with Chair signature.
- (C) Authorize exemption to 400 hour vacation leave accrual for MaryAnn Guess through April 30, 2011.
- (D) Order No. 81-2010, "In the Matter of Declaring FFY 2010 Title III Projects Closed and Directing that Excess Funds be Made Available for Additional Title III Projects".

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:

- (E) Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with AFSCME Local 697, effective July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2015. ***(PULLED AND HELD OVER)***
- (F) Approve Letter of Agreement with AFSCME Local 697, effective upon signing to June 30, 2010. ***(PULLED AND HELD OVER)***
- (G) Approve Letter of Agreement with AFSCME Local 697, effective upon signing to June 30, 2015. ***(PULLED AND HELD OVER)***
- (H) License and Indemnity Agreement with City of Cornelius for use of Firearms Range Complex.
- (I) Personal Services Contract with Integra Realty Services, for valuation services, proposed Emergency Operations Center.
- (J) Warranty Deed from the City of Vernonia for 841 Grant Avenue, Vernonia (Tax ID #22879, Brewer), authorize the Chair to sign and record without costs.
- (K) Hazard Mitigation Grant Deed Restriction for 841 Grant Avenue, Vernonia (Tax ID #22879, Brewer), authorize the Chair to sign and record without costs.
- (L) Warranty Deed from the City of Vernonia for 1277 Heather Lane, Vernonia (Tax ID #22401, Miller), authorize the Chair to sign and record without costs.
- (M) Hazard Mitigation Grant Deed Restriction for 1277 Heather Lane, Vernonia (Tax ID #22401, Miller), authorize the Chair to sign and record without costs.

- (N) Warranty Deed from the City of Vernonia for 1190 Fir Street, Vernonia (Tax ID #22373, 22374, 22375 and 22376, Filburn), authorize the Chair to sign and record without costs.
- (O) Hazard Mitigation Grant Deed Restriction for 1190 Fir Street, Vernonia (Tax ID #22373, 22374, 22375 and 22376, Filburn), authorize the Chair to sign and record without costs.

The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST TO INCREASE ACCOUNTING POSITION FROM .5 FTE TO FULL TIME:

Jennifer Cueller, Finance Director, came before the Board to present her request to increase one Accounting Clerk position in the Finance & Taxation Department, from .5 FTE to full time status. She explained the need for this increase and requested approval. After discussion, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the request. The motion carried unanimously.

FFY 2011 TITLE III PROJECTS:

Cynthia Zemaitis, Natural Resources Administrator, submitted a memo to the Board regarding project approval for Title III Funding and reviewed in detail. A public notice inviting submissions for projects to be funded under Title III of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, as re-authorized by Public Law 110-243, was recently published in local newspapers. The notice provided that project submissions had to be submitted by the end of the business day on November 22, 2010. The Mollenhour Bridge project, initiated last year under Title III, came in far under the amount approved for this project, leaving approximately \$152,000 from FFY 2010 funds. Cynthia believes we can add that to this year's receipts, which were \$122,206.07. Therefore, there is currently \$274,731 budgeted for Title III funding. Three project submissions have been received and summarized as follows:

- 1) Our Forest, Parks and Recreation Department submitted a proposal to replace the culvert and bridge across Alder Creek on the C-Z trail/logging road. It is felt that Title III funding can be used for this project under the criteria for "reimbursement for search, rescue, firefighting or other emergency services on federal land". The C-Z trail is the only access to the federal timberlands and the only means of ingress/egress for citizens living in that area should Scappoose-Vernonia Road be closed by landslide or otherwise. The estimated cost for this project is \$126,000.
- 2) The Oregon Department of Forestry submitted a project proposal to provide additional funding to support the current Community Wildfire Protection Plan / Firewise Forester, who works at implementing the County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan priorities, Firewise Community outreach efforts and administration of federal cost share dollars. Under a different grant, the Forester's salary is covered through August 2011. The DOF requests Title III funding of \$8,000 to extend this position through October 2011, which will enable the Forester to complete the full 2-year administration period of the Western States Fire Manager's Grant.
- 3) A project proposal was also submitted by the Scappoose Rural Fire District seeking \$7,880 to hire a part-time student intern to conduct a bridge and culvert inventory in eastern Columbia

County (the areas of Chapman, Scappoose, Warren, St. Helens, Columbia City, Deer Island, Rainier and Prescott). The SRFD states this project meets the criteria of the Act as “activities under the Firewise Community Program”. However, although it sounds like a worthwhile project, it is not clear to her that this project meets the Firewise criteria, and definitely not either of the remaining 2 criteria:

Firewise Communities Program:

“[T]o carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program to provide to homeowners in fire-sensitive ecosystems education on, and assistance with implementing, techniques in home siting, home construction, and home landscaping that can increase the protection of people and property from wildfires;” * * *

There is a state Firewise Liaison whom she can contact if we want confirmation that this project does, in fact, meet the criteria. She would suggest calling her for an opinion. The Board needs to take action to preliminarily approve any or all of these projects. Once that is accomplished, a notice providing for a 45-day comment period will be published in area newspapers, at the end of which the Board will take steps to formally approve the project(s).

After review and discussion, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to preliminarily approve the project submitted by Columbia County’s Forest, Parks and Recreation Department to replace the culvert and bridge across Alder Creek on the Z-Z trail/logging road in the amount of \$126,000 and the project submitted by the Oregon Department of Forestry to provide additional funding to support the current Community Wildfire Protection Plan / Firewise Forester in the amount of \$8,000 *and* further to preliminarily approve the project submitted by the Scappoose Rural Fire District for a part-time intern/student to conduct an inventory of the status of bridges and culverts in east Columbia County in the amount of \$7,880 if the project is approved by the Firewise Liaison. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(d):

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(d). Upon coming out of Executive Session, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve Items E, F, G from consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET CALENDAR FOR 2011:

Jennifer presented the Board with a draft copy of the budget calendar for 2011 and asked that the Board review it so ensure that works for all.

AUDIT PROCESS:

Jennifer briefly updated the Board on the audit.

COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hyde spent most of the last week at home caring for his wife who recently had a knee replacement.

COMMISSIONER FISHER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fisher had a phone conversation Umatilla IT person who shares IT and financial services with other agencies. May be something we can look at for cost savings - ways and examples for all of us to save.

He attended the Koffee Klatch last Friday. It's good to hear the different things that are going right in the county and the new businesses coming in.

He wanted to wish everyone a happy holiday season.

COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bernhard wanted to say that she has really enjoyed working here and thanked everyone for the great and wonderful experience.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon, this 22nd day of December 2010.

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: _____
Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____
Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: _____
Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

Recording Secretary

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh, Recording Secretary