

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

February 18, 2004

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Rita Bernhard, Commissioner Anthony Hyde, and Commissioner Joe Corsiglia, together with John Knight, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

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

**MINUTES:**

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2004 Work Session and February 11, 2004 Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**VISITOR COMMENTS:**

***Gary Heide, 59890 Tamarack Drive, St. Helens.*** There was an article in the Chronicle on Saturday about the mining initiative that will be on the ballot. According to the article, it could adversely effect as many as 300 jobs in Columbia County. He understands that, by law, the Commissioners must place this on the ballot. He asked the Board if they have a position on this initiative, either pro or con, or do the individual Commissioners have a position. Commissioner Bernhard stated that the Board has not discussed this. John Knight stated that the initiative will be on the March ballot and it did not require Board approval. Gary understands that this would effectively amend a standing county ordinance that was passed by the Commission. John explained that the current ordinance was not passed by negotiation, it was put on the ballot and the voters approved it. Commissioner Hyde stated again that the Board has not discussed this and, personally, he has decided to stay out of it. Commissioner Bernhard stated that she has some concerns with the way the ballot measure is written and how we might implement it if it passes. Commissioner Corsiglia is interested in seeing what the public has to say. In summary, the Board is not taking any stand on this initiative.

***Tammy Maygra, 34319 Cannan Road, Deer Island,*** feels that the initiative was written well and if the voters choose to pass it and the miners want to take it to court to hold it up, it just shows that they don't care what the good citizens of Columbia County want.

On another issue, she made a complaint several times to Dave Hill about two private parties putting a gate across a county road (Bishop Creek Road). She first complained about the "private road" signs that were put up and most of those have now been taken down. She is complaining because she has property down that road. Now, the individuals, John and Agnes Peterson, have put up a gate. This is a county road and has been a county road since her great grandparents homesteaded there. About a month ago, she was in contact with Dave Hill, who informed her that he spoke with John Knight and that legal action would be taken against the

Peterson's to remove the gate permanently. When she checked with John this morning, nothing has been done. It has been at least a year, and these people do not have the right to gate a county road. This needs to be addressed. She also noted that, since she has complained about this a number of times, if someone gets hurt because of the gate, who is liable?

Dave Hill stated that he is aware of this situation. This has been a controversial road for quite some time, with the signs and more recently the gate. He spoke to the residents out there and told them that the gate was not authorized and asked that it be taken down. That has not happened. He does not feel that the Road Department can just take it down, and that the proper procedure would be to go through County Counsel's office. He confirmed that the gate is on the county road. Dave agrees that this issue needs to be addressed and will get the information to John Knight to pursue.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Commissioner Bernhard read the consent agenda in full. With that, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select-to-Pay for 2/17/04.
- (B) Order No. 8-2004, "In the Matter of the Approval of the Appointment of Kristy Knight as Deputy Tax Collector".

The motion carried unanimously.

**GRANT PROPOSAL FOR CAMP WILKERSON:**

Dave Hill, Public Works Director, came before the Board along with Michael Hoffman, RARE student at the Road Department. Mike wanted to update the Board on two park grants that are in the works. Both of them are through the Oregon State Parks. One is a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant, which is a federal grant that the Oregon State Parks administers. The other grant is a Recreational Trails Program grant. The first one is for \$141,000 for 8 cabins and restrooms facilities at Camp Wilkerson. He received a fax from the grant administrator and her main concern is the policy of exclusive use at Camp Wilkerson. In order to receive this grant, the park needs to be open to all users at all times. Commissioner Hyde stated that this issue was recently discussed at the Parks Advisory meeting. Dave stated that they are clearly making it so that there can be day users by adding cabins on a reservation basis, not in a group situation. They are also working on facilities for tents and other RV's as well. However, they will be designating certain areas for group users. A problem in the past is that only a certain amount of the park has facilities. Dave just wants to make it clear to the Board that in order to apply for this grant, the park needs to be kept open to all users. Commissioner Hyde stated that the new park rules states that there is no longer any exclusive use of the entire park of Camp Wilkerson, however certain areas can still be rented for exclusive use of that area only.

The second grant is for \$72,000 for the replacement of two trail bridges along the Crown Zellerbach linear trail. Mike has a real good feeling about this grant. This grant needs to be in by March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**PRESS RELEASE FOR BRIDGE GRANT:**

Dave Hill is proud to announce that the County may be getting \$3,725,000 million for 7 bridge replacements. This is a program that requires no match by the county. This is a huge deal for the County. We are one of the top counties to get this many bridges replaced. Dave noted that this won't be final until the Transportation Commission makes their actual approval, which will happen on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He submitted a draft press release to the Board for review prior to sending it out (after March 3<sup>rd</sup>). Commissioner Bernhard wanted to make it clear that this money is dedicated for bridge replacements and cannot be used for any other purpose. The Board will take a look at the press release and get back to Dave with any concerns.

**SOLV APPLICATIONS:**

On Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> is Earth Day. Dave would like to submit applications to SOLV for their support. SOLV may contribute \$125.00 towards these projects but more importantly, they will advertise that the County is participating in the Earth Day event. This may help create some interest for volunteers to help clean up the parks. Dave listed the parks to be cleaned up. The Board agreed with this.

While Dave was present, Commissioner Hyde discussed the meeting held last night in Vernonia regarding the \$4 million road project on Hwy 47 from 26 through Vernonia. This is going to be a 6 month long project and he is very concerned about our county roads. There will be a lot of impact to the roads because they will be used as detours. Dave asked if these roads are being designed as official detours, because ODOT is usually good about notifying him and he hasn't heard anything yet. Commissioner Hyde stated it's not official but they will be used much more than normal and this is not going to be a bypass for loaded log trucks. Dave might want to get in touch with ODOT on this.

**RANKING OF RAC PROPOSALS:**

Commissioner Hyde explained that every year the county designates Title monies to Title II for projects. Those monies then go to a Regional Advisory Council (RAC) that is made up of private citizens, state and federal people representing the Bureau of Land Management. This is in regards to the O&C timber land monies that we get. Grant applications are then submitted and are then recommended by the Regional Advisory Council back to the Board. If we are silent on them, then they go through as a solid recommendation and those projects are then funded. If the Board objects to the recommendations, then they have to go back to the RAC. The Board has a list of those recommendations before them and comments are due back by February 25<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Hyde asked that the Board take the time to review those recommendations and discuss them at the next work session. The Board agreed.

**AMENDMENT #1 TO AGREEMENT WITH OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY:**

John Clouse submitted an amendment to the agreement with the Dept of Energy for \$5,000 and asked that it be approved. After little discussion, Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve Amendment #1 to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Department of Energy. This motion carried unanimously.

**COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Bernhard was in Disneyland with her grandchildren last week.

**COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:**

Last week, the Board attended a de-briefing in Vernonia on last years road rally and to discuss subsequent events. The timber companies are no longer interested in supporting a road rally of any kind because of their liability exposure. The road rally people were asked to submit a proposal to the Board for consideration.

On Friday, he was in Salem at the Council of Forest Trust Lands for a meeting.

**COMMISSIONER CORSIGLIA COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Corsiglia attended the Clatskanie Kiwanis valentine event on Friday night. It was their first and was very successful. They hope to make it an annual event.

**COUNTY COUNSEL COMMENTS:**

John Knight has been working on the CCMH contract with JD Dunn for their new facility and hopefully that will be done very soon.

John gave a brief update on transportation. Once the transportation plan is complete, John would suggest the Board hold public hearings on the plan.

**JANET WRIGHT:**

Janet attended an EDA forum last week in Medford. There was some very good information on the EDA grant process.

Last Friday, she attended an Enterprise Zone workshop and went over the new regulations. It was a very worthwhile meeting with a lot of good information.

**THELMA BONAR:**

Thelma Bonar, Warren, felt bad that Commissioner Bernhard feels that the mining initiative is

going to cause a lot of problems with the County. She and Tammy Maygra worked hard on this and this will be good for the community. She is hurt that Commissioner Bernhard feels this is going to cause problems. Commissioner Bernhard stated that because of the way it is written, there is likely to be some problems implementing it. She also has concerns about the jobs that are going to be effected. Thelma said there aren't any jobs effected, in fact maybe there will be more. It was stated at a previous meeting that this initiative will cost the elections department \$22,000. Thelma looked at the budget and there is money in there for this. If this passes, the county will benefit more than what they are putting out. If it takes money for these things, then she would suggest that the County put money into this budget because she and Tammy may be back with another initiative.


Bob Short, Glacier NW, invited Mrs. Bonar to run for office. She has a lot of creative ideas and feels the best way to get those ideas out to the public is to be in office, instead of doing it by initiative.

There was no Executive Session held.

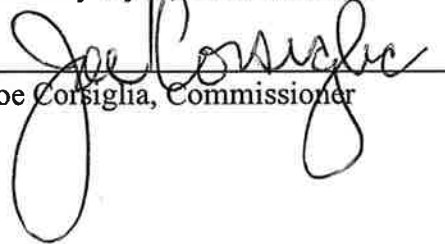
Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2004.

NOTE: A tape of this meeting is available for purchase by the public or interested parties.

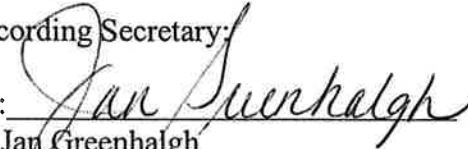
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By:   
Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By:   
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By:   
Jan Greenhalgh