



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION
JULY 28, 2010

PRESENT: Dan Ericksen, Chair of Commission
Sherry Holliday, County Commissioner
Bill Lennox, County Commissioner
Kathy McBride, Executive Assistant

PUBLIC HEARING to consider the adoption of an Ordinance levying a one (1) percent Transient Room Tax; providing for the administration and collection of the tax; and providing penalties.

At 10 a.m. Chairman Dan Ericksen called the Public Hearing to order.

There were 15 people in attendance.

Chairman Ericksen noted that this is the first of two Public Hearings to take testimony on the adoption of the Wasco County Transient Room Tax Ordinance. Chairman Ericksen stated that he will not be limiting testimony today. He asked that those who are testifying address issues that are pertinent to the Ordinance and that you not reiterate things over and over.

Chairman Ericksen noted that there are three different documents available for the public's review. He asked that people testifying state their name, address and sign in for the record.

Chairman Ericksen went over information on the two loans which were secured by the County for the construction of the infrastructure at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, (Attached as Exhibit A).

The hearing was opened to anyone wishing to either testify in favor or against the proposed Ordinance.

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Zaryab Sheikh, Comfort Inn, stated that he is testifying against the Ordinance on four grounds. 1) It will negatively impact the industry in Wasco County as compared to surrounding Counties. 2) It will impact employment. 3) It is not a tax for the industry cause. Sheikh stated that he started this business; it was his first hotel. He owns the hotel and is glad to be a part of this community. The last 10 years there has been no direct correlation to tourism dollars coming to this area through the Discovery Center. 4) It singles out an industry. It is unfairness at work. Why would one industry single out the mistakes made by the County or the federal government? Lastly the Oregon Solutions Team looked at it from one angle.

Dana Schmidling, The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce, stated that she is not in support of the Ordinance. Zar hit on the big reasons. Wasco County will have the highest transient room tax in the gorge from Troutdale to Pendleton at 10%. Hood River has a 9% tax. The State of Oregon has a 1% tax, while the City of The Dalles is at 8%. It puts us at a disadvantage. Schmidling stated it is her job to make the tourists stop and spend some time in town. The tax will give them a reason not to stop.

Schmidling stated that there has been some discussion about if the tourist really does care about the amount of the tax. People do care. There is a perception; in our area the transient room tax is higher. For the hotelier, if the tourists bark at the tax the hotels have to look at lowering their room rates. They are the ones that will be paying to pay the debt on an organization that they had nothing to do with bringing in.

Schmidling stated as to the limited tax; 8 to 10 years, you all are probably not going to be here. The County may eye that tax and say we can use it for something else. She believes the Discovery Center is a valuable tool; people do not come to go to the Discovery Center. They come here and then go to the Discovery Center.

Schmidling stated that she did a little research about Newport. Newport raised their transient room tax; they raised it by 1.5%. The tax was designated to be used for marketing to bring in more people instead of paying off the debt. If you go to Maupin or Dufur they do not speak about the Discovery Center. They are there for other reasons.

Schmidling feels that we can come up with another way to help the County. We need to figure out a way to pay for it. There are great minds that could come up with another way to get rid of this debt for the County.

Commissioner Lennox inquired about the transient room tax for Troutdale and Pendleton.

Schmidling stated that Troutdale's tax is 13% while Pendleton's is 12%. Everything in between is in line with us.

Chairman Ericksen asked Schmidling if she has come up with a better solution.

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Schmidling stated that she had not. She was a part of the Oregon Solutions Team. We talked about a number of things, like marketing. There was not a magic bullet. She does not want this to be the magic bullet; it is setting a bad precedent. The tax was developed for tourist marketing and development.

Chairman Ericksen stated that the Discovery Center was sited here and developed for tourism development. It did not work out as proposed. There may not be a big clientele for the Discovery Center; any tax money spent on tourist development may or may not be effective.

Some discussion occurred regarding comments made by Schmidling.

Commissioner Lennox stated if you look into the future and the 1% additional tax was able to save the Discovery Center and things were to change. A viable Discovery Center, as a result of the 1% tax, could be an attractor to the community.

Schmidling stated that there are more holes in the dike than we have fingers. This is one piece of things that the Discovery Center is dealing with. There are other pieces that need to be plugged. Their Board is working on those pieces; this is the one that has been dumped on the County and it is a tough one.

Charles Langley, Windrider Inn Bed and Breakfast in The Dalles, testified that he has been lodging since 1987. He is the longest standing owner in the business. He dealt with this battle numerous times. It is a philosophy of fairness and what is right. Langley supports everything that Zar brought up. It is a cause disconnect. There is no saving the Discovery Center. The County is obligated to pay those bonds. The Discovery Center is not going down because of the bond. It was bad government then and now. Langley agrees with Schmidling, except on one part. The lodging tax was created in 1977 for the purpose of general revenue. The City Council directed Del Cesar, Mayor, to create general revenue. He came up with three ideas; business license, gas tax and motel tax. They told us we could have 21% for tourism promotion. It was not to fund tourism.

Langley stated the point not made is that the lodging industry already supports the government in Wasco County through property taxes. Lodging supports federal, state and local governments. They pay significant property taxes. We are being raped by the City; excessive 8% tax to the City. The tax does not impact him much since his customers stay longer than 30 days.

Langley stated after we pay heavy property taxes and room taxes. If we make any profit we give some to Oregon and to the federal government. The taxes are regressive; they tax the first dollar. Because the tax has been so high it has been a major cause of no more development since 1988 when Super 8 was built. There is room for more motels here; no one wants to invest. We do not have year around

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demand; it is high in the summer and low in the fall. Every government agency would benefit if there was a motel; they would be paying property taxes. The high taxes have discouraged development.

Langley stated another problem with the Ordinance is that it requires monthly filings which are a burden. Quarterly filings would be better than monthly filings. The paper work is quite a burden. The County is allowing us to keep 5%; most people pay with credit card. The credit card companies are taking half of what we are allowed to keep. When they pay that \$1 with a credit card they take 2.5 or 3 cents of it. They don't get 5 cents they get 2 cents. It should be at least 10%.

Langley stated as to alternatives; the County has not offered them a chance to offer any alternatives. He asked why not target the cherry growers. Cherries are grown locally and marketed internationally. There is a lot of wheat that we could tax as well. It would have no impact on the cherries; if it is true for lodging it is true for cherries.

Langley stated that he is very much against the Ordinance.

Jim Hoffman, Country Inn in The Dalles, testified that there were a lot of points brought up that we have all heard before. He asked if the County has already decided that this issue will go onto the November ballot.

Chairman Ericksen stated that the County is proposing to place it on the ballot. He does not think anyone here would disagree that putting it on the ballot to allow a vote of the people is best. The question is whether to go forward and place the issue on the ballot.

Hoffman stated if it does end up on the ballot there will be arguments for and against. He has two points when arguing against the measure. The first would be the attack on their business. There will be strong arguments that we are losing out on revenue or occupancy. People who work for them will suffer. There is also the implication on social issues. The second argument is a lot of people do not separate the Discovery Center with the bond issue. The measure will bring this in the eye of the public. The Discovery Center does not need to have this negative type of PR.

Chairman Ericksen stated that the County has been to the state and federal governments. The federal government did not meet its obligation. Instead of being an asset it has become a drain on the community. As to the comment about the Discovery Center not making it; they are making it. They are not making the bond payment any longer.

Rob Miles, Imperial River Company in Maupin, presented his letter to the Board of Commissioners (Attached as Exhibit B). Miles stated that southern Wasco County is in the same boat as everyone else. They oppose the lodging tax. They see no occupancy

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because of the Discovery Center. The County is asking them to share some of this burden, which he does not feel is fair. There are 20 properties in Wasco County that are paying the State's 1% lodging tax. Miles feels the monthly remittance is silly. The City of Maupin and the state tax are paid quarterly. Miles stated if the County has to move forward, require quarterly remittance.

Mike Foreaker, River Run Lodge in Maupin, stated that he echoes Miles' point. This tax seems to fall disproportionately on lodging. He has always felt that we needed to have a business registration in Wasco County. In conjunction with that, it would be a better and more equitable vehicle for raising funds to retire these bonds than focusing on one industry. Foreaker stated that the Discovery Center is a fantastic facility and an asset to the community.

Foreaker stated in terms of the economic impact; it is more of an asset to the gorge community, specifically The Dalles, than South Wasco County. He encouraged the Board to be broad based with a business registration. He also felt that the County needed to have a baseline tracking for what the economy is doing, which would give you a tool to use in terms of long term management of the County and to promote economic development.

Foreaker stated assuming this passes he thinks he would like to see that the Ordinance expires as soon as the debt is paid off. He also feels that there should be a commitment that all funds collected be used to pay off the debt. As to the two loans, if the County can make those loan payments on a monthly or quarterly basis instead of an annual basis the County will realize some savings. Foreaker stated in closing if the County can guarantee that the loans will be paid off in a relatively short period of time it makes it more palatable to him.

Chairman Ericksen stated that the Ordinance becomes null and void when the debt is paid off or when enough revenue is collected to make the final payments. He also noted that he is working on an alternate funding source; however the negotiations are not completed yet. He is proposing to include language within the Ordinance that if there is other funding identified to pay off the debt service that the Board of Commissioners could declare the Ordinance null and void.

Carol Rager, Deschutes Motel, stated that she is opposed to the proposed Ordinance. Rager presented to the Board a letter in opposition, (Attached as Exhibit C).

Manny Patel, Motel 6, testified that he is not in support of the proposed Ordinance. He wondered why the hotels are the only ones being targeted by the tax. He suggested that 5% of the property taxes that the County is collecting should be put towards paying the debt at the Discovery Center.

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Chairman Ericksen stated that if this measure fails, that is basically what will happen. The County will have to pay the bond debt; \$85,000 per year will come out of the General Fund. The County has been laying off people and cutting services; that is why we are here. Adding another expense onto a really tight budget has become more of a burden that we feel we cannot afford.

Patel stated that is what they feel. If you sit at the front desk; the customers are not use to paying taxes all over. You have to explain where the tax goes. They understand general taxes and not category taxes; 95% is commercial and 5% is tourism. Patel stated that he has had one or two customers that have gone to the Discovery Center. Very few of his customers stay for leisure purposes.

Sheikh stated we are really a small business. We pay our employees \$10 per hour. We cannot provide health insurance or other benefits. The only other time his employees have other employment opportunities is during harvest. When he looks at the County's PERS and what the County and City provides to their employees, it is just to say that or to contemplate that does not sit well with him. Ninety-five percent of his employees are making less than \$11 per hour with no benefits. He does not feel it is right to compare these people.

Carolyn Wood testifying as an individual and a member of the Discovery Center Board of Directors for 20 years stated that the Discovery Center is not in a downhill slide. This was their only debt that the Center opened with. It was a debt that came with economic development and the rules on who could pay it. When construction was completed in 1997 they had funding left over in their construction budget. The funding was placed in savings. They were not allowed to pay on the bonds for several years. They knew that they did not have enough to pay it off. If they were allowed to pay it off in one lump sum they could have paid most of it off. Because it was an economic development project the County had to apply for the funding. The County owns the property. The construction of the facility was paid for through scenic area dollars and the Kuck Trust. It did not cost the County money directly other than early planning costs. The Discovery Center has operated very frugally; it is a world class center which is nationally recognized. The Center serves 8,500 to 9,000 school students in interactive TV Programs broadcasted across the United States. Their attendance numbers are up this summer. They feel bad that they were not able to pay the debt off. That has automatically deferred to the County. Every year, up to the last two years, they have made the bond payments. They persuaded the City of The Dalles to participate in paying a portion of the debt. The Oregon Solutions Team came and made suggestions. The Discovery Center has implemented several of the suggestions. They are always trying to establish interest outside of the community; it has been an ongoing battle. As a Museum they will always be doing fund raising. The economy has affected them. They live within their means. When this infrastructure is paid it is not just going to be used for the Discovery Center. When it is paid off it will be publically owned; others can utilize it.

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Chairman Ericksen asked Wood to comment in regards to when the commercial docks get built and tour boats come in.

Wood feels the completion of the commercial docks will be positive; it will be a big plus. She does not disagree with what people are saying. She would love it if we could find another alternative funding source. They keep working to keep the City as a partner.

Chairman Ericksen stated that the County appreciates the City's partnership. The County is not making a decision today. By law we are required to have two public hearings prior to making a decision on the proposed Ordinance.

There was no one else wishing to testify.

{{{Commissioner Lennox moved to continue the Public Hearing to consider the adoption of an Ordinance levying a one (1) percent Transient Room Tax; providing for the administration and collection of the tax; and providing penalties until August 11, 2010 at 10 a.m. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}

The Public Hearing recessed at 11:05 a.m.

The Board took a brief recess.

At 11:10 a.m. the Board reconvened.

Karen LeBreton Coats, County Clerk, stated that she has received the official letter of resignation from Patty Latham, Wasco County Treasurer. She noted that an elected official needs to present the letter of resignation to the County Clerk. The resignation is effective on October 1, 2010. Latham has accepted the Officer Manager Position at the Wasco County Public Works Department.

Judge Ericksen stated that the Board of Commissioners accepted the resignation at our meeting of July 26, 2010. That acceptance was not valid since the letter must be submitted to the County Clerk instead of the Board of Commissioners.

{{{Commissioner Lennox moved to rescind the Board's motion of July 26, 2010 in the acceptance of the resignation of County Treasurer Patty Latham. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}

{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to accept the resignation of County Treasurer Patty Latham, effective October 1, 2010. Commissioner Lennox seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}

Coats noted that ORS 236 allows an officer holder to retire at a future date. The County can begin a process for filling and appointing a successor prior to the effective date. The qualifications for the position are 18 years of age and a resident in the County one year prior to the appointment. The candidate must be a registered voter and must be bondable.

Chairman Ericksen stated that since the County will be appointing an individual to the position the County can establish additional requirements. Those qualifications are the minimum requirement.

Some discussion occurred regarding the requirements of the statute on the filling of the unexpired term of the County Treasurer. It was noted that an election would be held in the primary of 2012.

Coats was not sure if the County could add to the requirements for the position.

Stone stated that we need to get an answer to that question.

The Board directed staff to begin the advertising process.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL of the Special Session Consent
Calendars of July 28, 2010, (Attached as Exhibit D).**

Some brief discussion occurred regarding Order #10-104 in the matter of declaring a state of emergency in Wasco County, Oregon.

Commissioner Lennox expressed that he did not have enough information before him to know whether there is a state of emergency in the County as to the cherry harvest. He does not feel it is appropriate to declare an emergency when he has not heard anything from anyone that there is a disaster.

Chairman Ericksen stated that the County received the request for the declaration from the Farm Service Agency. This is a general process that they go through for the Department of Agriculture.

The Board will hold off on declaring a state of emergency to get further information. The Board will consider this matter at their August 4, 2010 meeting.

{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for provision of Veterans' Services between Wasco County and Hood River County. Commissioner Lennox seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}

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Commissioner Holliday brought up the issue of Commissioners being able to get reimbursement for vehicle mileage. This reimbursement would be for special meetings that she attends. She will be claiming mileage for meetings attended in July.

Commissioner Holliday asked Stone for an update on where we are at in the hiring of a Veterans Service Officer.

Stone indicated that the County received 40 applications. They have screened those down to 15 or 20. The selection committee will review those applications to get them down to five or six for the interview process.

Fred Davis, Facilities Manager, stated that we have been wrestling with three construction contracts at the same time. The County received two proposals for the Parole and Probation Remodel Project. The proposals have been reviewed and their recommendation is to declare our intent to award the contract to Hale Construction. This would allow the County to enter into negotiations with Hale Construction.

Some discussion occurred as to the proposals submitted. Davis noted that there was a significant difference in costs between the two proposals, \$25,000. Both proposals fulfilled the scope of work.

{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to declare the Board of Commissioners' intent to award the Parole and Probation Remodel Project to Hale Construction for the cost of \$175,275. Commissioner Lennox seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}

Davis stated that he hoped to bring back for the Board's approval the contract with Hale Construction for the 911 Emergency Services Remodel Project. They are still trying to hammer out some of the details. They are trying to find an alternative to putting in a lift for ADA access.

Some discussion occurred regarding the need to provide ADA access to the La Clinica Building.

Davis noted in closing that he is still waiting for a schedule from Roof Toppers for the reroofing of the La Clinica Building.

Monica Morris, Staff Accountant, informed the Board that the County will need to classify our fund balances as required by GASB 54. There will be three main classifications: committed, restricted and assigned. Those three classifications are important to us. Morris noted the difference between the three classifications.

Morris stated that she will be working with Stone on determining who will be deciding on what revenue is committed, restricted and assigned. The County's auditor will review

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our work to see if we did it appropriately. This is something that is tracked outside our audit. By Resolution the County will have to commit those dollars. Morris noted that we will have to restate our beginning fund balances; there are a total of five categories. The three categories that she noted will need the Board of Commissioners involvement.

A lengthy discussion occurred.

Morris stated that the County will need to develop policy and procedures on how we come to the conclusion on which category our funds should be under. The policies adopted will go in our audit. The County will have a couple of months to complete this process; it will be a lot of work.

A meeting date will be arranged between the Board of Commissioners, Morris and Stone to begin the discussions on complying with GASB 54.

Stone informed the Board that the General Fund balance came in better than projected. Hopefully that will be enough to offset the PERS increase for one year.

Morris stated that it will probably cover a year and a half. Last fiscal year is still open; nothing is final.

The Board signed:

- Intergovernmental Agreement for provisions of Veterans' Services between Wasco County and Hood River County.

The Board adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

WASCO COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS



Dan Ericksen, Chair of Commission



Sherry Holliday, County Commissioner



Bill Lennox, County Commissioner

Loan "A"

Exhibit A

LOAN AMORTIZATION SCHEDULE
SPECIAL PUBLIC WORKS FUND
*****ANNUAL PAYMENT*****

EXHIBIT D

FILE NUMBER:	B95003 A	PRINCIPAL AMOUNT:	\$320,600
MUNICIPALITY:	Wasco County	INTEREST RATE:	5.3290%
BUSINESS/PROJECT:	Crates Point	LOAN TERM IN YEARS:	20
		CLOSING DATE:	06-Sep-96
		TRUE INTEREST COST (TIC):	5.44530%
		NET INTEREST COST (NIC):	5.38781%
		WEIGHTED AVERAGE MATURITY:	12.59148

YEAR	PAYMENT DATE	PAYMENT	INTEREST	PRINCIPAL	CUMULATIVE INTEREST	CUMULATIVE PRINCIPAL	UNPAID BALANCE	PERIOD
1998	01-Dec-97	28,273.40	23,273.40	5,000.00	23,273.40	5,000.00	315,600.00	1.
1999	01-Dec-98	28,268.26	16,430.26	11,838.00	39,703.66	16,838.00	303,762.00	2.
2000	01-Dec-99	27,842.26	15,927.26	11,915.00	55,630.92	28,753.00	291,847.00	3.
2001	01-Dec-2000	27,402.26	15,403.26	11,999.00	71,034.18	40,752.00	279,848.00	4.
2002	01-Dec-2001	26,948.26	14,858.26	12,090.00	85,892.44	52,842.00	267,758.00	5.
2003	01-Dec-2002	26,477.26	14,290.26	12,187.00	100,182.70	65,029.00	255,571.00	6.
2004	01-Dec-2003	25,997.26	13,706.26	12,291.00	113,888.96	77,320.00	243,280.00	7.3194
2005	01-Dec-2004	25,508.26	13,104.26	12,404.00	126,993.22	89,724.00	230,876.00	8.3194
2006	01-Dec-2005	25,008.26	12,484.26	12,524.00	139,477.48	102,248.00	218,352.00	9.3194
2007	01-Dec-2006	24,508.26	11,858.26	12,650.00	151,335.74	114,898.00	205,702.00	10.3194
2008	01-Dec-2007	28,995.76	11,209.76	17,786.00	162,545.50	132,684.00	187,916.00	11.3194
2009	01-Dec-2008	28,208.26	10,276.26	17,932.00	172,821.76	150,616.00	169,984.00	12.3194
2010	01-Dec-2009	27,401.00	9,312.00	18,089.00	182,133.76	168,705.00	151,895.00	13.3194
2011	01-Dec-2010	26,592.00	8,336.00	18,256.00	190,469.76	186,961.00	133,639.00	14.3194
2012	01-Dec-2011	25,781.00	7,350.00	18,431.00	197,819.76	205,392.00	115,208.00	15.3194
2013	01-Dec-2012	24,958.00	6,337.00	18,621.00	204,156.76	224,013.00	96,587.00	16.3194
2014	01-Dec-2013	29,132.00	5,312.00	23,820.00	209,468.76	247,833.00	72,767.00	17.3194
2015	01-Dec-2014	28,032.00	4,002.00	24,030.00	213,470.76	271,863.00	48,737.00	18.3194
2016	01-Dec-2015	26,932.00	2,680.00	24,252.00	216,150.76	296,115.00	24,485.00	19.3194
2017	01-Dec-2016	25,831.00	1,346.00	24,485.00	217,496.76	320,600.00	0.00	20.3194

(and original)
 Current ↑ schedule; last payment made is highlighted

Refinanced
Loan "B"

CERTIFICATE OF DETERMINATION

Wasco County, Oregon
Financing Agreement and Note
Series 2005

\$588,502.75

The undersigned, Dan Ericksen, County Judge for Wasco County, Oregon (the "County") and as authorized in a Resolution and Order of the County adopted on January 5, 2005 (the "Resolution"), and acting pursuant to the Resolution, hereby determines and establishes certain terms and other matters relating to the County's Financing Agreement and Note dated January 14, 2005 (collectively the "Agreement"), as set forth herein. All capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined shall have the meaning assigned to such term in the Resolution.

Section 1. AGREEMENT

The Agreement shall be with Bank of America, N.A. (the "Bank") and shall be in the aggregate principal amount of \$588,502.75.

Section 2. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Payments, including the due dates, the principal amount, the interest rate, the interest amount and total debt service are included on the payment schedule below:

Payment Dates	Total Payment	Interest Rate	Principal Amount	Interest Amount	
December 1, 2005	\$53,653.90	5.1500%	\$26,966.12	\$26,687.78	561,536.63
December 1, 2006	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$28,354.87	\$28,919.14	533,181.78
December 1, 2007	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$29,815.15	\$27,458.86	503,366.64
December 1, 2008	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$31,350.63	\$25,923.38	472,015.98
December 1, 2009	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$32,965.19	\$24,308.82	439,050.79
December 1, 2010	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$34,662.89	\$22,611.12	
December 1, 2011	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$36,448.03	\$20,825.98	
December 1, 2012	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$38,325.11	\$18,948.90	
December 1, 2013	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$40,298.85	\$16,975.16	
December 1, 2014	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$42,374.24	\$14,899.77	
December 1, 2015	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$44,556.51	\$12,717.50	
December 1, 2016	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$46,851.17	\$10,422.84	
December 1, 2017	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$49,264.01	\$8,010.00	
December 1, 2018	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$51,801.11	\$5,472.90	
December 1, 2019	\$57,274.01	5.1500%	\$54,468.86	\$2,805.15	

Exhibit B



Imperial River Company
304 Bakeoven Rd.
P.O. Box 130
Maupin, OR 97037

(800) 395-3903
(541) 395-2404
fax (541) 395-2494
www.DeschutesRiver.com

High Desert Cuisine • Unique Lodging • Guided Rafting

on the banks of the Deschutes River

July 27, 2010

Dear Board of County Commissioners,

As a lodging property owner and manager in Maupin, I oppose the proposed Transient Room Tax Ordinance of Wasco County.

I do not feel the need to bear the burden of retirement of the bond indebtedness at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. We are located 45 miles from the Discovery Center. My business receives no economic impact from this facility. If we have to find new ways of paying off this debt, then all citizens of Wasco County should bear that burden. Not just 20 businesses of a particular type.

We currently collect 1% for the state, and 6% for the City of Maupin. Who wants to step up next with their hand out? Please go find money elsewhere.

The proposal requires monthly remittance of the taxes. The State wide and our own City of Maupin transient lodging fees are paid quarterly. Having a separate reporting period would be cumbersome to our current processes. If we must have a new tax, at least mimic the current procedures of remittance.

I thank you for your time, and hope that good sense will prevail in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rob Miles".

Rob Miles

Owner / Manager

Dear Wasco County Commissioners-

I am writing in concern for the proposed Transient tax. As the owner/operator of a small motel in Maupin I feel ANOTHER transient tax will be a great burden on my business. While business is "booming" in July and August our little town and it's businesses struggle to stay afloat the rest of the year. Sadly in the off-season we have very little to offer our visitors. Limited restaurants, no entertainment, plus skeleton hours at stores and fuel stations. In December our visitors are usually "passing through" and will gladly move on to the next town that offers more amenities for a cheaper price. I know it doesn't seem like much, but a few extra dollars can be a "deal breaker" for my winter customers and frankly I desperately need those customers to survive!

I am also struggling with the idea that my customers are going to be contributing to something they are not likely aware of. In the last 6 years I cannot once remember one of my customers inquiring about the Discovery Center. I believe those interested in the Gorge and it's history are not making white water rafting or fishing in Maupin part of their vacation itinerary! Personally I'm tired of these grand ideas and projects that seem easy to fund and maintain today, but eventually need "bailed out!" The City of Maupin has had to financially shoulder several similar projects. It's time to put our foot down, quit cleaning up messes that aren't ours, we simply can't afford them!

Lastly I would like to mention the ordinance itself. Why would we have to pay the county their transient tax monthly when all others are paid quarterly. Additional paperwork done and at different times would be a significant strain. Why not coordinate it with the state and city Transient tax? Doing them all at the same time in a similar fashion is certainly less painful!

In closing I'm asking you to consider other sources of funding for the Discovery Center. While hotels/motels seem like a quick fix, I feel like we and our customers get "dinged" enough? We are all feeling the effects of the poor economy and each customer is worth gold to me. I am currently struggling to keep and build my customer base, continuously jacking up prices of accommodations is certainly not helping.

Sincerely,



Carol J Rager
President, Deschutes Motel Inc.

**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION
July 28, 2010**

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Intergovernmental Agreement for provision of Veterans' Services between Wasco County and Hood River County.
2. Order #10-104 in the matter of declaring a State of Emergency in Wasco County, Oregon.