



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
JANUARY 4, 2012

PRESENT: Sherry Holliday, Chair of Commission  
Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner  
Rod L. Runyon, County Commissioner  
Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer  
Kathy McBride, Executive Assistant

At 9 a.m. Chair Holliday opened the Regular Session of the Board of Commissioners. There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

**Public Comment – Code Compliance/Animal Shelters**

Richard Murray came forward to lodge a complaint regarding Curry and Wilson who he believes are not in compliance with County Code. He would like to have sanctions enforced against their property. The codes enforcement officer visited the property but would not allow Mr. Murray to accompany him.

In addition, Mr. Murray stated his opinion that the county should access funds from the National Humane Society to support Home at Last. He also believes there should be more advertisement to generate financial support for the local animal shelter.

**ELECTION of Board of County Commissioners Chair**

Commissioner Hege expressed appreciation for the stellar work Chair Holliday has done as Chair. He went on to say that he supports rotation of the Chair duties; not only is it a learning experience, but it is added work that he believes all should take their turn at shouldering. Commissioner Hege suggested Commissioner Runyon serve as Chair for the coming calendar year.

Commissioner Runyon had no objection to serving and joined Commissioner Hege in his praise of the work Chair Holliday has done. He believes it is good for the community to see the Board function cooperatively and share responsibilities.

Chair Holliday stated that she had found it very helpful to have the Executive Assistant in close proximity to her office and suggested that as they consider reorganizing, they keep that in mind and locate the Executive Assistant near the Chair's office. Chair Holliday went on to say that this is her tenth and final year as a County Commissioner – it will be an interesting last year.

Chair Holliday moved to elect Commissioner Runyon as Chair of the Wasco County Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed.

Chair Runyon thanked the board and said he appreciated Commissioner Holliday's leadership.

**OPEN TO DEPARTMENTS – PUBLIC – Gorge Commission**

Rodger Nichols appeared to provide an update on the Columbia River Gorge Commission activities. They have appointed Darren Nichols from Salem, Oregon, as their new Executive Director. They plan to lobby the State Legislature as their budget will zero-out in June.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Holliday stated that Jessica Metta emailed her to invite the board and Mr. Stone to Young Life. She will forward the email to the rest of the Board. They are looking for a 15 passenger van - if anyone knows of a van that would be available.

Commissioner Holliday stated that Jim Weed, NORCOR Administrator, realized there had been miscommunications around what the County's part of the funding was. At the last minute, there were discussions with Hood River County as to what the funding would be. The difference is \$5,689.00. He has recently laid off a person and cut the nurse to two days. He is wondering if we could make up that difference.

Mr. Stone added that the County is obligated to do that. Monica cannot transfer the funds from Contingency without Board approval.

Commissioner Hege moved to transfer \$5,689.00 for the NORCOR short fall. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION LIST – DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETINGS**

Chair Runyon explained that there is some conflict with the scheduling of the Department Head meetings. Commissioner Holliday suggested developing a list of workable dates. Commissioner Hege stated that he is not sure it will be necessary to attend all Department Head meetings; he wants to attend the first few to determine what Board members' role will be.

After further discussion, the Board decided to leave the Department Head meetings scheduled as they are with Commissioner Holliday organizing them.

**CONSENT AGENDA – ORDER TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE REGULATING AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Commissioner Holliday moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**DAVID JACOBS, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY. Update on the status of the Wasco/Hood River Forestland Classification Committee.**

David Jacobs and George Ponte, Central Oregon District Foresters, reminded the Board that a joint Wasco/Hood River County Classification Committee had been formed two years ago. They have completed preliminary classification on land within Wasco County. They expect some resistance as some of the land will be reclassified from grazing to timber land which carries a higher assessment for taxes. In addition, some lands in Southern Wasco County will be reclassified from forest to grazing land.

The next step will be to contact landowners who will see a significant increase in their assessment; they will be invited to a small meeting where they can learn about the process and offer feedback. Then there will be a series of public meetings throughout the county to give people the opportunity to look at the proposed classification maps. Those meetings will be followed by a public hearing and comment period. At the end of that process, Mr. Jacobs will prepare and file maps with the County Clerk. Once the maps are filed, the landowners have 30 days in which to appeal. They hope to complete the process by late spring or early summer. In Wasco County, they expect the assessments to take effect in the 2013-2014 tax cycle.

Mr. Ponte pointed out that it is not all about gain. In raw numbers it will result in 22,000 new acres that they will protect. There will be significant landowners who see a decline in their assessment; some will fall out of the system altogether. The landscape has changed significantly since this was last done in the 1960s. The committee chose not to classify anything that is managed as agriculture.

Commissioner Holliday interjected that at the public hearing in Hood River some people were very angry. However, by the time the meetings were over everybody walked away in pretty good shape. Public outreach was impressive.

Mr. Stone asked what the assessments are. Mr. Ponte replied that in the current fiscal year timber land is assessed at \$1.74 per acre while grazing land is assessed at 60¢ per acre. That does not include an additional 7.7¢ per acre collected for a statewide emergency fire fund.

Commissioner Hege asked who sets the rates. Mr. Ponte replied that he has a budget committee. Once the budget is set the appropriate rates are determined.

Commissioner Hege observed that it is a very unique way of setting rates.

Some further discussion ensued. The Board thanked them for their presentation.

Chair Runyon recessed the session at 9:59 a.m.

Chair Runyon reconvened at 10:02 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM – Road Master’s Report on the proposed vacation of a portion of East 12<sup>th</sup> Street located in the Urban Growth Area of The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon.**

Marty Matherly, Road Master, stated in April, 2011 the road department had received a petition to vacate a portion of E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. He filed a written report on November 1, 2011 and is here to review that report which is included in the Board Packet. The section of road in question is outside the City but within the urban growth area. One-hundred percent of affected landowners are signers to the petition; therefore, a public hearing is unnecessary. The landowners are willing to be responsible for maintaining the existing, dead-end gravel road. The underground and overhead utilities companies have no objection as long as they are granted easement. The City of The Dalles objects to the vacation. Mr. Matherly expected them to appear at this meeting to voice their concerns.

After some discussion, the Board determined that the City’s objections outlined in their letter (see Board Packet) were not valid. The road goes nowhere and a house exists where they would propose to extend the road.

Mr. Matherly added that it will not be final until all the conditions are met.

**{{Commissioner Hege moved to approve Order #12-002 vacating a portion of East 12<sup>th</sup> Street in the Urban Growth Area of The City of The Dalles. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}**

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Budget

Mr. Stone stated we are in the process of getting all required information to our Auditor, part is fixed assets. The way that we purchase currently makes tracking of the assets difficult. We will need to work at the time of purchase capture those assets with our tracking software. We spent the last week going department by department comparing our fixed assets with equipment lists that depts. keep. Every once in a while we find something that is missed. This is just another improvement as we move thru the process.

Mr. Stone added that the Board needs to determine who will sit in on budget with him and Ms. Morris. Chair Runyon expressed an interest in participating.

Radio Appearances

Some discussion occurred regarding Board members appearing regularly on local radio broadcasts. If approved, appearances would be broadcast by seven radio stations.

#### Hunt Park

Mr. Stone announced that the Hunt Park project is out for bid. They are accepting letters of interest and going through the contracting process. Tenneson will open the bids for review and bring them back to the Board.

#### Office Space

Mr. Stone explained that discussions had opened several months ago around how to place the Commissioners in a more centralized area where they would be more accessible to the public and be in closer proximity to the Executive Assistant. Also identified as a goal was to secure a space that did not make it necessary for the Board to vacate the meeting room by 3 p.m. or limit the days in which they could use the room. It was determined that whatever the solution, they were not prepared to take on a large scale remodel at this time. One idea that had been considered would entail moving the Executive Assistant to the basement where the Commissioners are already housed; that would leave Room #302 open to use as a meeting room.

Chair Runyon voiced his opinion, seeing all Commissioners as equal, that they should all be in the basement and it would be important that they all have equal access to the Executive Assistant. He suggested that all three Commissioners could be in the basement in the next few days with the Executive Assistant to follow in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Hege offered that his designers have put some plans on paper for the room across the hall. Chair Runyon expressed doubts that they would be able to act on those plans this year.

**\*\*\*The consensus of the Board was to have Tyler move forward with plans to locate the Board and the Executive Assistant in the basement.\*\*\***

#### Facilities Crew

Commissioner Hege noted that Gene Scherer and his crew have been doing a good job cleaning the 10<sup>th</sup> Street shop site. They have taken out a lot of weeds and are trying to get a permit to burn the weeds. Mr. Scherer has been talking to Mr. Matherly about the weed issue; perhaps the weeds could be sprayed. He would like to commend them for that work.

#### Budget Committee

Commissioner Hege stated that there are five people interested in serving on the Budget Committee. It is great to see that level of interest from qualified people. Commissioner Holliday added that in the past we have tried to get people with different interests from different parts of the county. She was pleased to see John Carter throwing his name in the hat.

Commissioner Hege noted that in terms of geography, most are from the northern part of the County. Sherry stated we have a representative from the Wamic Area. Chair Runyon added that he knows several of them pretty well, some a little. He is leaning towards replacing Mel Omeg. He recommends that the Board appoint John Carter because of his agricultural background. Commissioner Holliday agreed. Chair Runyon reviewed the list of applicants.

**{{{Chair Runyon moved to appoint John Carter to the Budget Committee to replace Mel Omeg. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}**

National Guard Property

Commissioner Holliday stated that it appears the Armory will be relocated which opens up the discussion on the property. After brief discussion around who the players will be in the process, the Board decided to table discussion until they get a more detailed report from the Oregon Military regarding their plans.

Updates to & Maintenance of the County Website

Mr. Stone said that he is still waiting for the AOC to get approval from the State for the grant. The State is open to amendments to allow for purchases of software and hardware. We are still waiting for the AOC to get the go ahead from the State of Oregon on their grant.

Recessed at 11:07 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

**JOHN HUFFMAN, OREGON STATE REPRESENTATIVE – Veterans Home Funding**

Congressman Huffman presented the Board with a copy of his letter (included in the Board Packet) to the Legislative Leadership regarding the local match for the Oregon Veterans Homes. He went on to say that the State had turned the local Roseburg match into a State match and is considering reimbursing Linn County for their bond commitment to their Veterans Home; it is equitable that Wasco County be reimbursed as well. Although he does not expect an answer today, he encouraged the Board to get on the record with a letter requesting fair treatment and follow that with a meeting in Salem. He added that he still believes the County has ended up with a good product for their veterans.

Some discussions followed regarding the logistics of returning money to taxpayers should the County receive reimbursement. Commissioner Holliday remarked that when the bond was passed, mills had just been shut down and it was a difficult economic time for taxpayers. Congressman Huffman reiterated that he does not believe the state has the money for reimbursements however, the County needs a "placeholder" request for

when the money does become available; if they do not ask for the money, they will never get it.

Further discussion resulted in consensus of the Board that it was fair and equitable to ask the state for the funds but to support Linn County in their request for reimbursement. Mr. Stone will work with Congressman Huffman to draft a letter for the Board's signature.

Recessed for lunch at 11:54 a.m.

Reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

**CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING - Amendments to the Wasco County Comprehensive Plan**

At 1:30 p.m. Chair Runyon called the continuation of the public hearing to order. There were five people in attendance. Chair Runyon reviewed the main points.

John Roberts, Planning Director, stated that he is coming in at the end of the process. His predecessor, Todd Cornett, did a lot of very impressive work updating the comprehensive plan which had not been done in twenty-eight years. He went on to say that it is an important document – it drives what projects are pursued and what kind of inventory is maintained. He would like to update the tables and inventory to include the 2010 Census. More detail as to the changes are included in the Board Packet.

Jeanette Montour, Senior Planner, wanted to be sure the Board and the public understood that although the LUDO ordinance changes to Chapter 19 and the Comprehensive Plan update had started as a combined project, they are actually two separate and unique documents that enjoy some overlap. Working on them simultaneously was done for the sake of efficiency.

Mr. Roberts added that the amendments to chapter 19 will be coming to the board of January 18<sup>th</sup>. There are two technical advisory committees to deal with those amendments.

Ms. Montour went on to say that it has been very helpful to have fresh eyes reviewing the comprehensive plan; Mr. Roberts has been able to eliminate a lot of redundancy, correct errors and improve language. She added that although they are asking for approval of the plan, it still has room for work and improvement that she hopes will happen in the coming years. Mr. Roberts agreed, saying he would like to see it updated every two to five years.

Further discussion ensued regarding some of the more interesting details of the plan. Mr. Roberts noted that our code has changed to reflect State law. Further discussion developed some modifications to the plan.

Chair Runyon noted that option 2 is the plan the commission recommends. Mr. Roberts responded that he would approve option 2 with the changes made by the Board.

**{{{Commissioner Holliday the recommended Comprehensive Plan with the additional changes made by the staff and the Board. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}**

The board will approve an order in the future.

The public hearing was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

**CONSIDERATION and Appointment of Individuals to the Wasco County Planning Commission.**

Chair Runyon noted that there were several applicants for the two open positions. The Planning Commission recommends the reappointment of Russ Hargrave for Position 2 and supports Kenneth McBain for Position 5.

Commissioner Holliday stated she is comfortable with the Planning Commissions recommendations

**{{{Commissioner Hege moved to approve the planning Commission's recommendation to appoint Kenneth McBain to Position 5 and reappoint Russ Hargrave to Position 2. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}**

Mr. Roberts said that every couple of years he meets with the Planning Commission. They would like to meet with the Board to discuss updating the Planning Commission by-laws. They have an open agenda in February and would like meet on February 7<sup>th</sup> if the Board is available and willing.

The Board agreed to a joint meeting with the Planning Commission from 3:00-4:00 p.m. on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Runyon called a recess at 2:23 p.m.

Reconvened at 2:27 p.m.

Chair Runyon recessed the Regular Session and convened an Executive Session at 2:28 p.m.

Reconvened Regular Session at 3:04 p.m.

Chair Runyon asked if the Board had had an opportunity to review the minutes handed out by Ms. McBride. Both Commissioner Holliday and Commissioner Hege said that they had with nothing jumping out as needing change.

Commissioner Holliday moved to approve the three sets of minutes. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.



**Public Health Emergency Preparedness 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment to 2011-2013 Agreement**

Chair Runyon brought forward the fourth amendment to the Emergency Preparedness Agreement.

Commissioner Hege questioned whether the grant amendment is a reduction in the grant.

Some discussion ensued regarding conversations that had occurred with Teri Thahofer, Public Health Director, and Monica Morris, Finance Manager.

Sherry moved to approve the Fourth Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2011-2013 Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Public Health Services. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Board wants clarification on where they are going to cut.

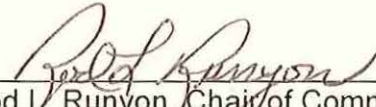
**Public Health Emergency Preparedness 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment to 2011-2013 Agreement**

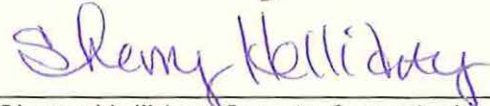
The Local Health Department Addendum delegating South Gilliam Health Center as an Oregon Immunization Program Provider was discussed.


Commissioner Hege moved to approve the Addendum. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

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