



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 11, 2012

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

At 9 a.m. Chair Rod Runyon called the meeting to order and asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. Commissioner Hege asked to move the Access License from Ken Thomas to the Discussion List.

Open to the Public -

Corliss Marsh, Library Service District Board Chair, came forward to explain that the contract with the City of The Dalles to run the local library is up for renewal and must be in place by April. The City Council will be discussing it on January 23. She wants the Board to be aware that the City is planning to make some changes to the contract. They appear to want to find ways to charge the library more. The Library Board has already begun to discuss how to respond. This issue is complicated by the Library's plan for expansion; the building belongs to the City but the library is paying for the expansion. The Library Foundation has already paid for a design study and the architect has come up with a plan which was presented to City Council last Monday. The expansion will include a children and adult area and add a community meeting place. She feels there needs to be a conversation on how the space will be used. Ownership of the building is also a question and there should be some discussion on that as well as who is going to pay for what.

Commissioner Hege asked how the expansion was being funded. Ms. Marsh replied that it is mostly grant funding. They have hired a grant manager to come up with funding. Grant funding for the children's portion in the first phase could be used as a

match to get grant funding for the second phase community room – a total of \$2.7 million for the expansion.

Commissioner Holliday suggested that members of County government meet with members of the City government to work out an agreement before it is put on paper. Ms. Marsh thought that would work.

Chair Runyon encouraged Ms. Marsh to meet individually with City Councilors.

Commissioner Hege also encouraged Ms. Marsh to gather library supporters to appear before the City Council, advising her that it is difficult for an elected official to ignore a large body of supporters.

Ms. Marsh explained that she cannot stay for all of today's session and has a comment on an agenda item. Regarding the Appointment of a Budget Committee member scheduled for later on the agenda, she wanted to remind the Board that whoever they appointed needed to represent the whole county; the Budget Committee needs a variety of voices.

Discussion List – Access License

Marty Matherly, Public Works Director, explained that the lease agreement is for access across Ken Thomas' property to get to radio towers on Wasco Butte. Ten years ago we signed an agreement with Mr. Thomas; that agreement has expired. Mr. Thomas is proposing a new agreement for fifteen years at \$960.00 per year (\$80.00 per month) – an increase of \$600.00 per year. He went on to say that it is our only access to the tower. The city and the state have separate agreements and pay separately. Mr. Matherly stated that Mr. Thomas feels he is being reasonable.

Commissioner Holliday asked if Mr. Matherly felt the fifteen year term is reasonable. He replied that he did.

Chair Runyon noted that in item 6 on page 6, "licensed" is misspelled. Mr. Matherly agreed to have that corrected.

{{{Commissioner Hege moved to approve the Access License with Kenneth Thomas. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Discussion List – Designating Wasco County's Contracting Agency for the Hunt Park Project

Mr. Stone explained that the Board has thoroughly discussed this topic at previous sessions, this is just formalizing their decision to designate Tenneson Engineering as the County's contracting agency for the Hunt Park Project.

{{{Commissioner Hege moved to designate Tenneson Engineering as Wasco County's Contracting Agency to receive and open bids on the County's behalf for the Hunt Park Redevelopment Project. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Discussion List – Wasco County Solid Waste Advisory Committee Letter of Interest

The Board received a letter of interest from Jim Winterbottom; Ms. McBride thought there might be a conflict of interest for him. Commissioner Holliday thought she might be able to get someone else interested in filling that vacancy – it would be good to have a representative of South Wasco County.

Commissioner Hege asked what the rest of the Committee thought about Mr. Winterbottom as a candidate. Ms. McBride offered to speak to Glenn Pierce.

*****It was the consensus of the Board to extend the application deadline for a month and get input from the current members of the committee.*****

Consent Agenda – Appointments to the Planning Commission, Budget Committee, & the Hospital Facility Authority Board of Directors, Transfer of Funds from Contingency to NORCOR.

{{{Commissioner Hege moved to approve consent agenda with the exception of Item #4. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

County Administrator

Mr. Stone reported that a representative from the company providing security cameras was at the Court House yesterday taking inventory. It seems the drivers are not communicating with the control software since it was upgraded. Although they do not have a timeline, they expect it will be within the next two months. They will complete the inventory first and then do a bulk purchase for the cameras, installing in critical areas first.

The Dalles/Wasco County Enterprise Boundary Amendment.

Dan Durow, The Dalles Community Development Director, referenced the staff report and resolution included in the Board Packets. He explained that the enterprise zone has been in place since 1987, being renewed in 10-year increments. When it was renewed in 2007, the area under consideration was, through some oversight, not included in the zone. This resolution rectifies that oversight. The enterprise zone designation allows for a 3-year exemption with the possibility of two 1-year extensions.

Notice for the intention to extend the enterprise zone went out in December and generated no public response. The City of The Dalles City Council considered and approved the resolution on Monday, January 9, 2012. The Port of The Dalles considered it at their meeting last night; he has not learned of their decision yet. Once the stakeholders are all in, he can move forward with petitioning the State for the boundary extension.

After some discussion, Chair Runyon asked if there were any comments from the public. Jeff Stiles, Leland Property Management, expressed some concern regarding the new facility being planned near Cousins. He thinks there will be access issues with the close proximity to the Tillicum Apartments. Chair Runyon explained that that would be a planning issue not related to the enterprise zone being considered today.

{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to approve Resolution #12-001 amending the boundary of The Dalles/Wasco County Enterprise Zone (III). Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Chair Runyon called a recess at 9:54 a.m.

The session reconvened at 9:59 a.m.

Discussion List – NACo Legislative Conference

Discussion centered on the expense and value of attending the NACo Legislative Conference as well as the ability to attend the meeting of the Outreach Team. Although, the County budgeted for two meetings – the Outreach Team has already met once this fiscal year – it may not be possible to attend both NACo and the second Outreach. It was felt that both meetings have value, however, there are some scheduling conflicts that make it unlikely anyone will be able to attend the second Outreach meeting. In addition, the NACo Legislative Conference offers an opportunity to get before lawmakers on the Federal level to make the case for the Federal Forest Act. With the repeal of this act comes a significant loss of revenue to Wasco County.

{{{Chair Runyon moved to participate in the spring NACo Legislative Conference leaving on the dates suggested by the AOC and working toward having time with individual legislators to bring forward Wasco County issues. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Chair Runyon called a recess at 10:16 a.m.

The session reconvened at 10:28 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM - RECOMMENDATION FROM WASCO/HOOD RIVER VETERANS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Steve Lawrence approached the Board with a request from the Advisory Committee for a full-time Veterans Service Officer for Wasco County. He explained that the Veterans Service Office can also bring in a part-time work-study employee that would be funded by the State.

Commissioner Holliday wondered what Hood River would do for a VSO; would their vets come to Wasco County and swamp our office? Mr. Lawrence explained that he has already spoken with Dave Meriwether, Hood River County Administrator, and was reassured that they would have some support even it was part-time.

Mr. Lawrence went on to say that the veterans are mobilized and have gotten a \$10,000 commitment from Klickitat County which recognizes the number of Klickitat County veterans being seen at the Wasco County VSO.

Chair Runyon, who volunteers at the VSO, reported that he sees the need for a full-time Veterans Service Officer; during his last volunteer time, there were 6 or 7 walk-ins.

Monica Morris, Wasco County Finance Manager, stated that the estimated increase in cost as the result of benefits for a full-time employee varies – the highest cost would be \$16,000, but could be less if the employee is single. Mr. Stone added that the County's budgeted expense for the Veterans Service office is \$80,000 – the expansion plan includes additional staff – we have not spent those dollars yet. Ms. Morris agreed that the funds are available in this fiscal year.

Commissioner Hege agreed that there is a need in the community and urged the Board to come to a decision that is sustainable in light of the upcoming economic challenges faced by the County.

It was the consensus of the Board to table a decision regarding the VSO Advisory Committee recommendation until they are able to investigate the long-term fiscal repercussions. In the meantime they would like to hire a temporary employee to keep the office open – as a temporary employee, they would not qualify for benefits.

{{{Chair Runyon moved to declare that an emergency exists and that the County hire a full-time employee on a temporary basis. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

AGENDA ITEM – Public Health Budget Adjustment

Teri Thalhofer, North Central Public Health District Director, and Kathi Hall, NCPHD Business Manager, explained their request for a budget adjustment as the result of an increase in revenue to support their efforts toward accreditation. The funds will go

toward fees for the accreditation. There will be a learning curve, but no additional fiscal requirements.

Ms. Morris added that the reason for the adjustment is the administration for Public Health is tightly budgeted; to expend these funds they need to adjust and appropriate. The adjustment will increase the revenue and show the expense according to a new line item.

Ms. Morris will work with Ms. McBride to bring a budget adjustment resolution to the next BOCC session.

AGENDA ITEM – Transportation Improvement Plan Update

Marty Matherly, Wasco County Public Works Director, along with Arthur Smith, Project Manager, and Jeff McCall, General Supervisor came forward with a Power Point presentation explaining the transportation improvement plan and the process by which they arrived at the plan.

During the presentation, Commissioner Hege asked why we maintain county roads that have an average daily traffic count of only 10. Mr. Matherly, said those low-count roads get much less attention from the Road Department than more heavily traveled roads. He added that there are roads within the county that are not maintained by the county. ORS states that we are not to spend moneys on those roads unless they are formally accepted into the County.

Commissioner Hege asked how the public is included in the process of determining which roads are priorities for repair. Mr. Matherly explained that the public can address their concerns with the Board of County Commissioners. The Road Department will develop recommended public list on which the public can comment.

Commissioner Hege asked why there are no costs associated with the priority list items. Mr. Matherly responded that it had never been part of the process. Mr. Smith added that they could get an approximate cost of each project. Mr. Matherly said they could make that part of the program.

Some discussion ensued regarding the priority rating system for roads. The Board concluded that the ratings system is best left up to the experts.

The Board began to work through the various road segments and realized they would not have time to complete that work. Mr. Matherly noted that they do not have to have this completed until April; the Board might consider setting a time for a 2-hour session dedicated to reviewing the plan.

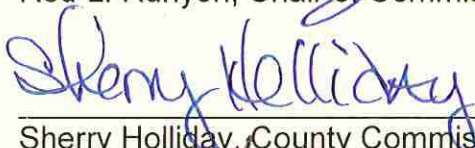
*****The Board set a meeting on February 7, from 9:00 to Noon at the Public Works conference room for the continuation of the review of the various road sections being considered in the plan.*****

Chair Runyon adjourned the session at 2:54 p.m.


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