



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TYGH VALLEY TOWN HALL  
OCTOBER 13, 2016

PRESENT: Scott Hege, County Commissioner  
Steve Kramer, County Commissioner  
Rod Runyon, Commission Chair  
STAFF: Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer  
Kathy White, Executive Assistant

At 5:30 p.m. Chair Runyon opened Tygh Valley Town Hall.

Chair Runyon explained that the purpose of the Town Hall is to hear what is on the minds of citizens. He introduced County staff in attendance: County Clerk Lisa Gambee, Administrative Officer Tyler Stone, and Executive Assistant Kathy White. He also introduced Regional Solutions Coordinator Nate Stice, MCEDD Project Manager Carrie Pipinich and Maupin Chamber of Commerce Director Cristi Amaral. He also pointed out that there were several candidates in the audience: Lynn Ewing, Maupin mayoral candidate, Jon Helquist and Denny Ross, Maupin City Council candidates, Bill Brackman, South Wasco Park and Recreation District candidate and Lisa Gambee, County Clerk candidate.

Commissioner Hege said that he would like to hear from the public regarding the last Burning Man event, noting that there is a hearing next Friday for another outdoor mass gathering.

Commissioner Kramer thanked everyone for coming. He reported that, although progress is painfully slow, there has been movement towards addressing the recycling issues for southern Wasco County. He stated that he has been in touch with DEQ and was able to get AOC approval for task force to work on the global markets for recyclable materials. He said that he welcomes calls from citizens to hear their thoughts and concerns.



Mr. Brackman observed that Tygh Valley is unincorporated which makes the County their only governmental resource. He stated that some of the roads are in bad condition with potholes that are in need of repair – especially in front of Molly B's. He said that he wanted to bring it to the Board's attention to explore what might be done to remedy the situation.

Mr. Brackman continued by pointing out that Hunt Park Caretaker Sid Moss will be retiring soon; he asked what the plan is for replacing him.

Mr. Stone replied that the position is posted in the paper; the County is looking for a full-time caretaker to live on-site. He stated that the position handles most of the maintenance and facilities repairs and acts as liaison to all of the groups that stay at Hunt Park. They also act as security – running off people who should not be there. He said that the Caretaker is a Wasco County employee with a dual reporting relationship, reporting to both the Fair Board and the County, through the Administrative Officer and Facilities.

Merle Davis of Tygh Valley said that he has been battling with the people who run the Tygh Valley School Community Center, saying that some have been in office for four or five years in violation of the bylaws. He provided the Board with a copy of the bylaws (attached). He said that he has talked to County Assessor Jill Amery but nothing has been done. He stated that he has asked to rent space at the facility for selling items. He reported that the State Attorney General's office has declined to take action; if he cannot get this resolved, he will file a lawsuit against the Tygh Valley School Community Center Board and the State. He said that he went to Wamic and they will allow him to use their facility; he stated that he thinks the Board of Commissioners should be able to enforce this law.

Mr. Davis continued by saying that the County owns seven acres by the river; he thinks that it should be made into a park – the zoning commission said they did not have the time. He said that the County should not sell the property.

Jane Oliver of Wamic noted that there are problems for law enforcement because deputies are so far away. She suggested that the County consider having volunteer deputies like there are in Corbett; they could help regular deputies by going to check out situations. He said that there are a few people who offend all the time and create thousands of calls each year; she said that she would prefer volunteer deputies take care of the nuisance calls and the regular deputies spend their time in Pine Hollow.

Chair Runyon responded that rural counties always face the challenge of travel times for law enforcement. He said that what is being described is Reserve Deputies which is a program already in place within the Wasco County Sheriff's Department. He stated that if anyone is interested in joining the reserves, they should contact the County.



Mike Brown said that there is confusion around Pine Hollow as to what roads are public, private or County-owned. He said that people are riding on the lake bed when the water is down; some are kids driving SUV's – when challenged, they say that it is a private road and they do not need a license.

Chair Runyon said that he has a listing that shows what roads are public and what roads are County-owned. He stated that he would send that document to Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown asked where the property taxes go – are they used throughout the County or mostly in The Dalles. Commissioner Hege suggested that Mr. Brown review the County budget available on the County website; it shows how the money is expended. Ms. Gambie noted that as Clerk, she assisted with the formation of the South Wasco Park and Recreation District – formed specifically to address recreation in South Wasco County - and her staff runs elections and does recording for the entire County. She went on to say that tax statements, which will go out soon, will list what some of the taxes are for. She stated that one rumor she heard when she started was that Pine Hollow has a recreational property tax; that is not the case. She said that the County website lists all the special taxing districts. She pointed out that only 30% of property taxes go to County departments; what people vote for, is what they are saying they will support.

Chair Runyon announced that the County website is undergoing a redesign. There is a lot of information available and the new site will be easier to use.

Anna Nolan of Pine Hollow asked if there has been any progress on the issue of the discharge of firearms in Pine Hollow. Chair Runyon replied that there have been multiple conversations. He said that if it comes back before the Board, Ms. Nolan will be notified in advance.

Gary Davis announced that Maupin and Wamic American Legion units are merging. He commended SWPRD for working toward getting both Pine Hollow boat ramps repaired. He stated that the American Legion has a fund for a dock by the south ramp from which disabled veterans could fish. He said he would appreciate some help to move that forward.

Ms. Gambie said that if Mr. Davis would stay for the South Wasco Alliance meeting, that would be a good time to explore the possibilities. She explained that Badger Irrigation District owns the land under the lake; work is being done toward having the land under the ramp deeded to the SWPRD.

Mr. Brackman added that BID owns all the land and most of the water; they are required



to allow recreation, fishing and boat ramps. He said that it is a very limited scope and BID is not interested in letting the public do any more than what was originally agreed upon. He predicted that they would not allow the handicapped ramp but if SWPRD can get a piece of the land that could change. He pointed out that BID is there to provide irrigation, not recreation which represents a liability to them.

Gary Davis, directing his comments to Commissioner Kramer, said that there was a dwelling at property in southern Wasco County; they were told it was unsafe to hook up electricity to that dwelling. He stated that the dwelling was torn down and now they can't get electricity because there is no dwelling. Commissioner Kramer recommended that Mr. Davis meet with Planning Director Angie Brewer and offered to make that introduction.

Dave Deurwaarder said that he would like to start a conversation regarding Forest Service Road 48. He offered an email he had sent to Representative Huffman regarding the issue. Commissioner Hege observed that it is very interesting that the road is well-maintained on the County side but deteriorates when it turns into US Forest Service property.

Rick Leeper said that he had lived here 20 years ago and moved back about 2 years ago. He stated that Ross Road used to get graded about once a month; that does not happen anymore. He noted that one of the former crew members had a relative living on that road which may have influenced the frequency of grading. He said that the condition of the road is bad.

Mr. Stone replied that the County does not grade roads when it is dry; however, now that the rains have begun, Public Works has eight graders out working on roads. Commissioner Hege noted that the difference between now and 20 years ago is the budget – road crew staffing has been reduced by more than half. He went on to explain that the road department was funded by forest funding but when the spotted owl issue was raised, we lost half of the funding. He said that we continue to work to regain funding; just this year the Budget Committee agreed to spend another \$750,000 to help maintain County roads. He stated that this year we will do more than twice what we have been able to do in recent years. He said that grading will probably take place 2-3 times a year.

Dean Hager asked how Tygh Valley could be incorporated into the County. Mr. Stone replied that he is not aware of a process for that. He stated that Tygh Valley is platted as a private community but could become an incorporated city. Mr. Hager said that residents put a lot of money into the Wasco County and they do not want to be a city. Mr. Stone explained that property tax dollars do not go to roads. He said that they may be able to petition to have a road accepted by the County; however, there is already not enough

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TYGH VALLEY TOWN HALL

OCTOBER 13, 2016

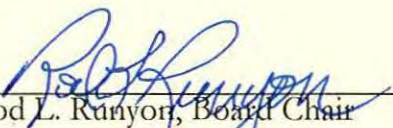
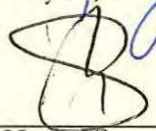
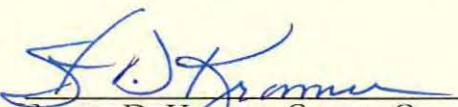
PAGE 5

funding to maintain the roads currently in the County system. He said that staff is working to find a solution.

Commissioner Hege added that County roads are those in the County system and maintained by the County; public roads are accessible by the public but not maintained by the system. He said that he thinks it is time to look at the roads comprehensively. He noted that there is a map of County roads on the Public Works page of the County website.

Commissioner Hege stated that the County Planning Department in conjunction with the Planning Commission will be working on a new Comprehensive Plan; part of that process is to seek public input. He said that Planning staff will be in this area to hear from residents. Mr. Stone added that the Comprehensive Plan feeds into the Land Use and Development Ordinance which has not been fully reviewed for many years. He announced that the County will be getting help from the State to go through this process; there will be significant outreach and community feedback is very important – we need to hear from the public. He said that in addition to public forums there will be surveys and county-wide notification. He said that those two documents will guide our direction for many decades into the future.

Wasco County  
Board of Commissioners

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rod L. Runyon, Board Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven D. Kramer, County Commissioner