

MINUTES - TILLAMOOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Wednesday, August 25, 1999

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[Filed with County Clerk 9-29-99]

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sue Cameron, Chairperson
Tim Josi, Vice Chairperson
Gina Firman, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

William K. Sargent, County Counsel
Paul Levesque, Management Analyst

STAFF PRESENT FOR PORTIONS OF MEETING: Susan Holmes, Tassi O'Neil, Clerk's Office; Bob Wilhite, Public Works; Pat Oakes, Engineering Project Supervisor

GUESTS: Mark Gervasi, Tillamook City Manager; See attached guest list

CALL TO ORDER: By Chair Cameron at 8:30 a.m. in Meeting Room A.

ITEM NO. 1: EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - SUSAN HOLMES: Chair Cameron read the news release. Ms. Holmes worked in the Clerk's Office and was recognized for her interpersonal skills. The Board congratulated Ms. Holmes.

ITEM NO. 2: PUBLIC INPUT: There was none.

ITEM NO. 3: CONSENT CALENDAR:

Renewal of Agreement Extending Lease of Office Space for the Tillamook County 4-H & Extension Service District: Commissioner Josi moved to approve the consent calendar, Commissioner Firman seconded, passed with three aye votes.

The Commissioners signed the lease later in the day.

ITEM NO. 4: DISCUSSION CONCERNING SCHEDULING JOINT MEETING WITH TILLAMOOK CITY COUNCIL ON THE ARMORY SITE: Chair Cameron reported on the petition the Board had received, signed by 700 citizens, requesting a senior center be built on the armory site. She felt there was a need for a joint meeting between the County and the City to discuss this matter. Mr. Gervasi would discuss the dates of September 27, 28 and 29 with the City Council and determine which would be the best date for a joint meeting with public input.

ITEM NO. 5: DISCUSSION CONCERNING RECORDING OF DOCUMENTS ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1999, DURING Y2K COMPLIANCE TESTING: Mr. Levesque discussed County Counsel's research on this issue. The law did not allow closure of recordings. Ms. O'Neil said the title companies would make an effort to record, either the day before or the day after. Other recordings would be stamped in and processed the following day.

ITEM NO. 6: MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Wilhite requested a work order for ditching on Silver Sands Road. There was a consensus to sign the work order.

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Mr. Oakes updated the Board on the Tierra del Mar slide repair. Paving was scheduled for the end of September.

Mr. Oakes said the preconstruction conference on the Wilson River Loop bypass was scheduled for Friday, August 27. Mr. Wilhite would attend. Mr. Oakes also said the department's web page would provide information on that project.

ITEM NO. 7: MISCELLANEOUS SOLID WASTE SERVICE DISTRICT MATTERS: There was none.

ITEM NO. 10: NON-AGENDA ITEMS & BOARD CONCERNS: Commissioner Josi updated the Board on the mediated gravel agreement, pilot projects and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant for completing the Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP). Commissioner Firman felt it was important to protect people as well as fish. Commissioner Josi felt the most important thing the Commissioners could do was to bring back the salmon.

Chair Cameron recessed the meeting at 8:57 a.m. and reconvened at 9:01 a.m.

ITEM NO. 8: PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDERATION OF A FIVE-YEAR SERIAL LEVY FOR COUNTY ROADS: Mr. Levesque presented a history of road funding and the elements of the 5-year levy.

Mary Cramer, Committee Chair, described the work of the County Road Advisory Committee (CRAC) and their rationale for the recommendation. She described the makeup of the 13-member committee and the process used by them. She explained the process which would be used to prioritize road work.

Commissioner Josi described the importance of using a priority process. The Board thanked Ms. Cramer and the Committee for their work.

Ed Gorzynski, Alder Street, Oceanside, received clarification on the distribution. He complained about the condition of Alder Street and wanted 10-12 feet of pavement width. He also complained that his tax bill would increase 32%. He quoted the Wall Street Journal.

Don Leedy, 4800 Crab Avenue, Netarts, gave his private enterprise background. He urged contracting out road work rather than paying for employees. He urged prioritization. He talked about people on fixed income and advocated restructuring government.

Bob Miles, 8985 Fawcett Creek Road, discussed his history with the County and said he supported the work of the County Public Works Department. He talked about the LEVY in the 1950s that worked well. He supported the LEVY and asked that the money not be spent on engineers and equipment but that it be spent on roads.

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Chuck Hurliman, 12985 Highway 101 South, raised concerns about the ability to track administrative funds and alternatives to asphalt paving, such as chip seal.

Ed Myers, 8455 Hughey Lane, said the roads do need fixing but urged the use of a gas tax or motel taxes.

Art Kehr, Tillamook, said he was a contractor. He was concerned about the equality of taxes and the high percentage. He was very concerned about the use of property taxes, stating that income taxes should be used. Trucks should be taxed based on odometer use. He had to sell his house due to property taxes.

Rich Gitschlag, 508 McCormick Loop, and a member of the CRAC, said that there were very few taxation options with property taxes being the best of the worst. He discussed the problems with gas and motel taxes. He said local control was the issue with property taxes. He also discussed problems with privatizing and the Public Works Department's efficiencies that had been achieved in recent years.

Marlin Clark, CRAC member, said this 5-year Levy was only short term and the County needed to look at long-term solutions. He discussed issues with contracting with government agencies. He supported the tax.

John Cook, Alderbrook Road, Idaville, talked about the need to change state laws regarding the use of a county's general fund taxes. He was against the use of property tax for roads.

Phyllis Baker, Rockaway Beach, said she would work hard to support the County road levy. Rockaway Beach was 65% absentee owners and this was the only fair way to fund the streets.

Chair Cameron closed the public hearing and asked for staff input.

Mr. Oakes and Mr. Wilhite answered questions about the hot plant and chip seal. Mr. Wilhite said the hot plant had been very old and took too many people to operate. He said personnel were not trained in using chip seal and the County would have to buy new equipment for that. In addition, the weather was too cool to apply chip seal.

ITEM NO. 9: CONSIDERATION OF ORDER SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS A FIVE-YEAR SERIAL LEVY FOR COUNTY ROADS: Commissioner Firman moved to sign the order, Commissioner Josi seconded. Commissioner Firman read the order.

Commissioner Josi agreed with Mr. Miles about not hiring new people and to put the money on the roads. He said the County tried a gas tax previously, but it had failed miserably. He talked about the need for a long-term solution, and the basis for a 5-year Levy. He did not want to widen the roads, just get pavement on them. It would have been wrong for the Board not to ask the voters.

Commissioner Firman said the Board had worked on efficiencies in the Public Works Department

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for several years now. The Budget Officer had been amazed at the accomplishments of the small crew. She discussed how the \$3 million reserve fund had been used up by the 1996 floods. She said the Board had held meetings with all the cities and that it was incumbent upon them to go to the voters. She was most concerned about people on fixed incomes.

Chair Cameron agreed with the other Commissioners. She said that under the current circumstances this appeared to be the fairest way, even though the tax system was unfair. They would continue to work on efficiencies. At this time, the County did not have any other options to maintain the roads and would have to rely on themselves.

Commissioner Firman said the Association of Oregon Counties had formed a committee on the State's tax structure.

There was a consensus to amend the motion to add the dollar value for the five years to the cities and road districts. Motion passed with three aye votes.

The Commissioner signed Order #99-102.

Mr. Kehr talked about the dangers of barrel ditches. Mr. Gorzynski suggested a local vehicle registration fee.

Chair Cameron adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY submitted this _____ day of _____, 199__ .

County Clerk: Josephine Veltri

Mary Wujcik, Recording Secretary
& Special Deputy

APPROVED BY:

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Commissioner