

INFORMAL MINUTES

January 26, 2009

2:00 p.m.

Oval Office

PRESENT: Commissioners Kathy George and Mary P. Stern, Commissioner Leslie Lewis being excused.

Staff: Laura Tschabold, John M. Gray, Jr., John Krawczyk, Pat. Anderson, and Doug McGillivray.

Guests: Judge John Collins and Alene Jacobs, Circuit Court.

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Leslie called the meeting to order.

* Personnel - Pat presented personnel requests from various departments. See agenda for details.

* Contracts - See agenda for details.

Natural Gas Pipeline - Mary stated that the deadline to file a motion to intervene in the Palomar application is actually January 30, not January 16. She said she had talked to an attorney from the Attorney General’s Office, who said that county intervention would be welcome but not necessary. She said that the LNG Advisory Committee feels strongly that the county should file the motion to intervene. She added that the director of the Columbia River Keepers indicated that the county could intervene without taking a formal position and just state that it wants to be able to comment on potential impacts to the county’s infrastructure.

John G stated that it is a reasonable presumption that the county’s motion to intervene would be granted. He said that the motion would only take six to eight hours of his time, but the county would not have the resources to participate in an appeal. He recommended not intervening, but stated that he would be willing to file the motion if the Board so chooses.

Kathy expressed concern about being pressured to intervene on behalf of private property owners, which would not be an appropriate use of county funds. John G stated that the county would only be intervening to protect county infrastructure, not on behalf of private property owners. The Board agreed to postpone the decision to Wednesday’s formal session.

* Courthouse Facilities - Establish a Court Facilities Stakeholders Group to provide local input to the legislative committee regarding courthouse needs; appoint the following individuals to the group: Judge John L. Collins and Commissioner Mary P. Stern as co-chairs, Phil McCollister, Alene Jacobs, Paula Lawrence, Brad Berry, Laura Tschabold, John Krawczyk, Tim Loewen, Ron Huber, Brian Dunn, Murray Paolo, and Scott Maytubby.

Judge Collins stated that the purpose of the group is to put together a written report in

response to a recent state-wide study of court facilities. He said that the report is due by the end of February. After further discussion, it was agreed that the stakeholders group would hold its first meeting the following Tuesday at noon.

Emergency Management - Doug provided a summary of the December snowstorm and how it was handled. He said that the county was able to handle the situation without asking for state assistance. He reported that both the county and state have met the threshold to make a declaration of disaster and be eligible for FEMA funding. He stated that this would not include any individual assistance, but the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture can make a similar declaration of disaster regarding agricultural entities. He said that the full extent of the agricultural damage won't be known until the fall, but it could be as much as \$11 million in Yamhill County.

Budget - John K distributed draft copies of the budget instructions to be presented at next Tuesday's Management Roundtable. He stated that the Jail's budget is pretty healthy and the fund balance is actually growing because money was set aside to cover the issue of a potential additional deputy. John G cautioned against touching the Jail reserve fund.

Mary stated that the Board had authorized the sheriff to hire additional deputies and had originally intended to provide \$75,000 toward those costs. She clarified for the record that although the Board may no longer be able to give the money, the position authority will remain and Jack can fund the positions out of his fund balance.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary