

**INFORMAL MINUTES**

**November 26, 2007**

2:00 p.m.

Oval Office

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

Staff: John M. Gray, Jr., Laura Tschabold, Rick Sanai, Steve Mikami, Bill Gille, Dan Linscheid, Ken Huffer, Sherrie Mathison, and Richard Sly.

Guests: David Bates, News-Register.

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\* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Kathy called the meeting to order.

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

Discretionary Spending - Kathy declared a \$30 expenditure from her discretionary account for a floral holiday wreath for the Commissioners' Office.

Wind Ridge Road - Bill Gille stated that he had received a request from Hermann Werber for a permit to clear brush within the right-of-way and for the Board to notify neighbors to move their fences out of the right-of-way pursuant to the letter sent previously to the Werbers and neighbors by the Board. Leslie stated that there are many obstacles that would have to be removed, including trees, fences, and structures, and Mr. Werber had misunderstood the intent of the Board's letter, which was to encourage him to work with his neighbors to get access through their property once a year for his agricultural equipment.

Mary pointed out that access might not be possible through the right-of-way, even if all obstacles were removed. She suggested holding a public hearing to bring all of the neighbors and the mediators together to discuss the issue. John G suggested sending a second, shorter letter to Mr. Werber to clarify the Board's request that he work with the mediators. He stated that Dan Linscheid could also deny the permit request and then Mr. Werber could appeal the decision to the Board. After further discussion, the consensus was for Bill to write a letter of denial and explanation of the Board's intent, to be reviewed by Rick Sanai and the Board before being sent to Mr. Werber.

Riverlink Trail System - Leslie stated that Senator Gary George had contacted both Sherrie Mathison and her several times last week regarding his proposal for a connecting trail system through the closed Newberg Landfill and for a veterans' memorial. She suggested sending him a letter to remind him of the Board's request for a formal, written proposal for consideration. She noted that Sherrie has some reservations about the proposal because the Steering Committee has worked for so long on plans for the landfill and suggested that any formal proposal be discussed with committee members to see how it fits in with their plans.

Sherrie distributed copies of the landfill footprint and pointed out that the monitoring wells are outside of the footprint and would need to be either fenced off or capped. Leslie stated that funding for the project would need to come from the state or other sources, since the county has no funds to contribute. After much discussion, the Board agreed that Mary would draft a letter to Senator George and other involved agencies. Mary suggested meeting with the Steering Committee after the first of the year.

\* Passenger Rail - Authorize the Chair to sign an agreement with IBI Group for a passenger rail feasibility study, \$35,000, subject to approval by County Counsel.

\* Construction Excise Tax - John G summarized the two meetings held with representatives of the cities and school districts and stated that it would take at least 53 hours of programming time to update the computer software for the Planning Department, which needs to be finished before any resolution is passed. He suggested giving the school districts an implementation date of April 1, 2008 and said that any districts not wanting to wait that long could still enter into an agreement with the Education Service District to collect the taxes for them. Mary stated that this later date may eliminate the need for some school districts to phase in the tax rate. John G suggested that the commissioners think about the proposal and discuss the issue again at the formal session.

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Anne Britt  
Secretary