

Commissioner Huxley Agenda Item 12B

Unprovoked Verbal Attack by Commissioner Boice – April 19, 2018 at 9:37AM

At 9:37 AM Thursday, April 19, 2018 I (Commissioner Huxley) was walking out of my office toward the break room adjacent to the commissioner office when from behind me there was a loud, angry verbal attack directed toward me by commissioner Boice.

The alleged attack lasted between one half and one minute. I did not turn around to look toward Boice during his outburst out of concern that it might ignite a potentially volatile situation.

While there had been many previous rude angry disruptions during commissioner meetings by Boice, the tone and anger in his voice April 19th far exceeded that of previous meetings April 5, September 6, October 18 and November 1, 2017. (15-minute Video Clip) <https://youtu.be/Zc5Z7-61arA>

The angry tone and message from Boice April 19 appeared to be:

- Was I happy (did not know at the time) now that Interim Administrator Hitt had resigned effective April 19?
- I (Huxley) was the cause of Hitt resigning.
- There was absolutely no class on my part in the actions which caused Hitt to leave.

There was no one in the commissioner office area at the time. Administrative Assistant Jezuit was not at work that day. The door to Mr. Hitts office was closed and the blinds were shut. Whether Hitt was in the office at the time is unknown.

Legal assistant Starbird was in her adjoining office at the other end of the hallway. When asked a few minutes later if she had heard the comments from Boice she replied no.

The situation was relayed to County Counsel Huttl a short time later.

The anger from Boice at 9:37 AM was and remains very concerning.

While the motive behind the April 19 verbal attack is purely speculative, the four closing paragraphs below may offer reasonable possibilities for the behavior by Boice.

At the General Meeting April 4, 2018 during Commissioner Updates, documents were entered into the record regarding the lack of follow through by then Interim Administrator Hitt on the Commissioner Fund Travel Expense Overages attributed to Boice.

The same documentation was again entered into the record at the General Meeting April 18, 2018 (the day prior to the alleged verbal attack). During Executive Session April 18, 2018 there was board discussion on this subject which, upon coming out of Executive Session resulted in direction from the board for Interim Administrator Hitt and accountant Kallstrom to proceed as discussed.

During a short break (3:20 PM) following the Executive Session discussion on Elected Officials Travel Policy, Boice was outside the board meeting room speaking with Mr. Barbas, a principal member of social media group Curry News and Views. Mr. Barbas is also a current elected board member of the Port of Brookings Harbor.

The very next day following the Executive Session (April 19, 2018) there was social media activity on Curry News and Views disclosing the specifics discussed during the Executive Session on the Elected Officials Travel Policy. This begs the question; will any and all future confidential matters discussed during Executive Sessions by Curry County Commissioners be immediately disclosed following the Executive Sessions and posted on social media? What are the legal authorities regarding such disclosure? What are the legal consequences?