



CURRY COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner's Hearing Room, County Annex, 94235 Moore St., Gold Beach, OR 97444

Cy Vandermeer
Chair

Christine Nichols
Vic Chair

M. John Spicer
Secretary

Dan Brattain
Business Owner

Jeff Davis
School Superintendent

Deborah Krambeal
Insurance Agent

Gary Milliman
City Manager

Rory Smith
CPA

Christopher Wallace
Police Chief

David Smith
City Councilor

Russell Merkley
At-Large

Les Cohen
South County Rep.

John Hewitt
North County Rep.

TV Skinner
Central County Rep.

Thomas Brand
At-Large

John Bishop
Sheriff/PSBRC Liaison

Everett Dial
District Attorney

Kenneth Dukek
Juvenile Director

- 1. Introductions/Opening:** Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Cy Vandermeer. The following members were present: Tom Brand, Dan Brattain, Les Cohen, Jeff Davis, John Hewitt, Debbie Krambeal, Russell Merkley, Gary Milliman, Chris Nichols, TV Skinner, John Spicer, Cy Vandermeer and Christopher Wallace. Others in Attendance: Commissioner Bill Waddle, Commissioner George Rhodes, John Bishop, Everett Dial, Bob Rector, and Kenneth Dukek.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** 1/7/09 minutes reviewed; moved by Debbie Krambeal and seconded by Chris Nichols to accept minutes as written; no discussion, all in favor, no abstentions, motion carries.
- 3. Old Business:**
 - A. Bylaw Review & Reading:** Gary Milliman and Les Cohen worked on Bylaws, circulating revised Bylaws to entire committee with revisions redlined. Motion made by Gary Milliman and seconded by Les Cohen to accept Bylaws as amended. Tom Brand then asked about Article IX which mentions the Law Enforcement Department Review Committee and what that committee does. Gary Milliman stated he left that committee in, as it was his understanding that there was to be a subcommittee to meet periodically with the law enforcement departments and report back to this committee. After discussion, motion was made by Gary Milliman to delete "1.a" from Article IX and accept the Bylaws as further amended, seconded by Debbie Krambeal, no further discussion, all in favor with no abstentions. Motion carried. Clean copy of Bylaws will be provided via email.
 - B. Mission Statement Review.** This was included in the amended Bylaws and accepted as part of the Bylaws.
 - C. Website Development.** Ken Dukek advised that this is still being worked on and hopes to have an update by the next meeting.
 - D. Law Enforcement Department Review Discussion.** A meeting and tour was conducted today at the Sheriff's Office and the Juvenile Department with each making a presentation to the committee. Several members of this committee were present for that meeting. Chris Nichols and John Hewitt complimented the departments for the tours, the presentations and the materials provided to the committee members. The floor was opened for discussion and comments from various members were made regarding various issues as follows:
Sheriff's Office and Jail: Several members of the committee expressed serious concerns about the condition of the jail. Sheriff Bishop said he did not have the committee tour the jail to ask for help getting it repaired and/or replaced but simply to show the members of the committee the Sheriff's offices and the responsibility of the Sheriff to run the jail. However, he stated that the condition of the jail would have to be addressed at some point but probably by another committee formed for that purpose. As for budget constraints and the possibility of losing staff in the near future, he felt that no additional loss of staff was coming during the next one or two years because of the federal funding received and, in fact, felt he might be able to add staff. He stated that by the third or fourth year, if something had not been done to replace the federal monies that will cease, the department would have to close the doors. The Sheriff's Office is looking into obtaining grants through Obama's new package, which grant money would come directly to the County for repairing/replacing the jail and other County facilities. He said he would update the committee regularly regarding the status of obtaining those monies. Commissioner Waddle pointed out that Curry County is actually just one event away from being put into the position that Josephine County was put into a while back wherein the federal government stepped in and forced the issue regarding building a new jail. He assured the Sheriff of the Commissioners' support and appreciated his efforts to upgrade the jail and properly care for the inmates. He said the Commissioners are aware of the need to replace the jail but that there just is no money available right now. Chris Nichols emphasized that the safety of

the inmates is a primary concern which means that the repair and/or replacement of the jail is also of primary concern. Sheriff Bishop said that he had a couple of grants in the works for new equipment for the jail and he would keep the committee advised of the status of those grants. Part of that equipment would deal with some of the safety issues at the jail.

Juvenile Department: Ken Dukek voiced his desire that if the jail was renovated or replaced, a juvenile detention facility needed to be included as part of the facility so that the County is not housing its juveniles out-of-county as it is now.

District Attorney's Office/Courthouse: Sheriff Bishop said the new equipment the Sheriff's Office has requested also deals with Courthouse security issues. He says the State surveyed its court system and found that the Curry County courthouse ranked 42 out of 48 in the state with regards to security. Gary Milliman raised the issue of adding Deputy D.A.'s to the staff but having no place for those Deputy D.A.'s to work. Everett Dial said that storage space was very limited at the courthouse and that created problems for everyone at the courthouse.

Grant-Writing: Cy Vandermeer asked about recruiting volunteers to do grant-writing, that maybe the different departments should look into getting volunteers to do grant-writing for the departments rather than using staff for that purpose. Ken Dukek emphasized that grant-writing is very technical and needed to be geared specifically to the department for which the grant is being requested. The person doing the writing needs to be very knowledgeable about that specific field in order for the grant request to be considered.

General Comments/Goals of Committee: Several members commented on the purpose of the committee and the need to stay focused on that purpose. Others said that the condition of a facility had to be considered along with funding for staffing that facility. There is a major difference between maintenance/repairs and capital improvements. Funding for the departments to staff their departments and maintain their facilities is quite different from funding for the County to repair, renovate or replace those same facilities. The staffing and maintenance of the departments are issues the committee can address. The actual repair, renovation and/or replacement of the facilities in which the departments are located are issues the County needs to address, but the committee can help make the County aware of those issues through the Commissioners. The core commitment of this committee is to obtain sustainable funding for law enforcement. The mission statement doesn't limit the committee to operational funding, that upgrading of facilities could be incorporated into the funding language of anything to be presented to the public. Commissioner Waddle ended the discussion with an assurance to the committee that the Board of Commissioners was very supportive of the committee and the law enforcement departments and that it would continue to work on behalf of all the citizens to make good decisions.

4. New Business:

- A. New Member** – Russell Merkley applied to be named to the remaining At-Large position. Jeff Davis moved and John Hewitt seconded that Russell Merkley be placed in the remaining At-Large position. All in favor, no abstentions. Motion carried. Ken Dukek to get the approval of the Commissioners.
- B. Presentation of D.A.** – Chris Nichols asked, since the committee did not get to tour the D.A.'s office, when would that information be provided to the committee. Sheriff Bishop stated that several members were not going to be available on February 4, 2009, so maybe that would be a good time for the committee to get the D.A.'s presentation. It was decided that Everett Dial would give the committee a tour of the office and give his presentation at the end of the meeting on February 4, 2009.
- C. Bonds and Ballots Workshop** – Chris Nichols is attending a workshop on Bonds and Ballots and will give a report regarding the workshop at the next meeting.
- D. Project Report and Alternatives** – More time is needed to digest the contents, therefore, Cy Vandermeer asked that this be reviewed by all the members and then discussed at the next meeting.
- E. Next Board Meeting** – The next meeting will be on February 4, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. in the Blue Room, County Annex, 94235 Moore St., Gold Beach, OR 97444.

5. Good of the Order: None.

6. Adjourn meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.