

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
SPECIAL MEETING**

August 8, 2011
2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Faye Stewart presided with Commissioners Jay Bozievich, Sid Leiken and Pete Sorenson present. Rob Handy was excused. County Counsel Liane Richardson, County Counsel Stephen Vorhes and Recording Secretary Melissa Zimmer were also present.

Interim County Counsel Interview

Madilyn Zike, Human Resources, indicated that she posted the position for Interim County Counsel for a week. She indicated that there was only one applicant, Dan Olsen.

Stewart recalled the Board had asked to do a quick one week outreach to potential people who would be interested in stepping in an interim position in County Counsel. He added the position would be to help manage the department and to give an outside perspective analysis of the department and any potential suggestions as they are looking to fill the position of County Counsel. He added there are also several open positions in County Counsel.

The Board interviewed Dan Olsen via speakerphone.

Bozievich asked Olsen about his availability if they choose to contract with him.

Olsen responded that his preference would be to come to Eugene two to three days per week unless there was a special project. He said he had the availability to work on line.

Stewart asked what the compensation would be.

Olsen requested \$150 per hour. He added that he would not charge any travel time or mileage. He indicated that he would charge a six hour minimum. He indicated that he would be looking to use the support staff in County Counsel to assist him.

Richardson recommended that if the Board chooses to contract with Olsen that instead of Olsen sitting through Board meetings that the Assistant County Counsel in charge of the agenda item would present in front of the Board.

Zike asked Olsen when he would be available to start.

Olsen said he could come down to Eugene on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. He asked what he could be looking at this week so he could get up to speed. He said he wouldn't charge for the work this week. He indicated that he looked at the Strategic Plan on line.

Stewart asked Olsen if he had questions for the Board.

Olsen asked what three or four things the Board wanted to see get accomplished.

Sorenson responded that first and foremost Olsen needs to talk to the lawyers in the office about the current high priority problems the lawyers in the office observe. He asked Olsen to suggest how they might improve the office by either filling vacant positions or restricting the positions in light of their fiscal problems and offer his view on the major policy issue the Board has been discussing; whether to have a contract with a private law firm or to have Legal Counsel do the work. He wanted to have Olsen interview the lawyers to get a feel of what they think should be done, look at the whole budget picture, talking with the County Administrator and Budget and the amount of money to be allocated to this function in light of their fiscal problems.

Stewart concurred with Sorenson's concerns. He said in light of the fact they are in the position they are with the vacancies in the department, and knowing they are facing difficult fiscal challenges, to look at different ways to do business to achieve cost savings. He believes they need Legal Counsel and the need to have a department but he didn't know at what level. He added that if they came across a specialized item they are dealing in Legal Counsel and they don't have the expertise on staff, to look to an outside firm instead of trying to deal with it in house. He felt an obligation to the citizens that they make sure they do the best job they can. He thought Legal Counsel was one of the most important departments in the County.

Bozievich echoed Sorenson and Stewart's comments. He spoke with Commissioner Duyck in Washington County and Duyck had nothing but great things to say about Olsen.

Stewart indicated that he also called Washington County and spoke with someone in Legal Counsel who also gave Olsen a rave review. He also spoke with Commissioner Rogers who thought Olsen did a fabulous job.

MOTION: to appoint Dan Olsen as Acting County Counsel effective August 15, 2011 for 90 days.

Leiken MOVED, Bozievich SECONDED.

VOTE: 4-0.

Olsen indicated a contract would need to be drafted. He asked if Legal County had a standard professional services agreement.

Zike indicated that she and Olsen can coordinate the contract.

There being no further business, Commissioner Stewart adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Melissa Zimmer
Recording Secretary