



CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 26, 2016 –9:00 A.M.

Commissioners' Hearing Room, Courthouse Annex

94235 Moore St., Gold Beach, Oregon 97444

Commissioners Present: Chair Thomas Huxley, Vice-Chair Susan Brown

Commissioners Absent: David Brock Smith

Support Staff Present: Administrative Assistant, Shelia Megson; County Counsel, John Hutt

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Huxley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The pledge was said by all.

Huxley read an introduction to the meeting declaring the way in which this meeting would be handled. This meeting was to be run by the Chair and the sole purpose is to hear oral responses by Weeks to the 17 questions previously supplied to him concerning the GIS system. Huxley said that there were to be no public comments. He said that the Chair would read the questions and then Weeks would respond. He said that the Board may ask for clarifications only directly related to that question and response.

2. AGENDA AMENDMENTS

(None.)

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(None.)

4. PRESENTATIONS

(None.)

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(None.)

6. NEW BUSINESS

(None.)

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Conversation with the County IT Director regarding the County's GIS program.

Commissioner Huxley read the numbered questions aloud with IT Director Weeks responding immediately after each.

1. Have the Commissioners charged you with GIS oversight? If your answer is "yes," were you given additional compensation if they did?

Answer: Yes, in 2012 the Board of Commissioners assigned the support of the GIS Enterprise to the IT Department, and no, there was no additional compensation provided to me for the additional responsibility.

2. One of your essential duties in the IT Director job description is to provide recommendations regarding network, hardware and software requirements. Were you ever instructed to forego providing your recommendation regarding the GIS system, and instead do "as you're told by the Board"?

Answer: Yes, with regard to GIS, I was instructed to do as I was told by the Commissioners when I attempted to warn the Commissioners that the steps that I had been directed to take with regard to Mr. Massie and Lane County were like to cause what precisely occurred.

3. On September 29, 2015, you responded to Commission Chair Brown's direction to remove Keith Massie and/or anyone from the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) from having continued access to the GIS database with: "The Curry County Board of Commissioners now assumes all responsibility and liability of inconsistent, stale data and a predictably unstable Enterprise GIS system." At or about the same time (Sept. 30, 2015) you confirmed that the directive from Commission Chair Brown had been followed. Why did you refer to this as a "predictably unstable Enterprise GIS system"?

Answer: Microsoft Sql 2012 database security relies on local or domain account user mappings of permissions associated with roles to assigned levels of user access to a given database. The domain user accounts that were granted to Keith Massie and his programmer, both GIS User and GIS Admin, were unique domain accounts that were used for GIS Sql database mappings to allow the inner process communications to occur across GIS servers. These unique domain accounts have special identifiers that cannot be reproduced. Those service accounts must be recreated and re-coordinated with the vendor to map the appropriate user roles and permissions to the GIS database as they were before Commissioner Brown's directive. The understanding of technical repercussions of actions before they are taken is essential to efficient and effective management of IT systems. The sequence here is important. I tried to warn Commissioner Brown of the danger of doing precisely what I was directed. The response was a written directive to do what I had been told.

Huxley asked a question in regard to special domain procedures.

Answer: I was in consultation with my Counsel and I was not prepared for follow-up questions. If the Board would like to submit those in writing, I would be happy to answer those in conjunction with Counsel however was not prepared and I have no comment at this time.

4. Per Contract 4812 Section 11 and Contract 4723 paragraph 8, all documents, papers, and work product are and shall remain the property of Curry County. Revocation of the Consultant's access to the County's GIS system was requested by the Board of Commissioners on 9/29/2015. Per your email dated 9/30/2015, access revocation cannot be 'undone' and resulted in the GIS system shutting down. Please explain how this work product is the property of Curry County if the ability to access or continue development is dependent upon the consultant's access.

Answer: The question posed here is one that should be addressed to County Counsel. IT had no role in drafting the contract of the GIS system. IT did not review the contract in advance of it being signed by the County Commissioners. County Counsel approved the contract for legal sufficiency. I believe that County Counsel was aware of my communication concerning the likely effect of removing the accounts as directed. I assume that if County Counsel believed that the contractor breached this contract and failed to provide the County with its ownership property that it contracted for and to provide, the County Counsel will recommend and undertake the appropriate legal action.

5. Did you check to see if CurryMap.org was still active after removing the requested accounts?

Answer: No, this was not necessary. I fully understood and communicated that the new GIS system would not function correctly or be unstable if the Sql database domain service accounts assigned to the developer were removed.

6. If the answer to question number five is "no," when did you become aware that CurryMap.org was no longer online and what steps did you take (including reviewing the ArcGIS portal logs and Server logs) to determine what actually occurred, and when did you take these steps?

Answer: With all due respect, I knew what would happen. That's why I tried to warn the Commissioners that it would occur.

7. When did you first contact ESRI after you became aware that CurryMap.org was offline? Please describe what the contact with ESRI involved.

Answer: I did not contact ESRI. Our GIS vendor is the only authorized expert to open support tickets if or when ESRI software has technical issues which was clearly not the case here. Another unauthorized user Commissioner Huxley contacted ESRI and requested that a help ticket be opened on my behalf. I requested the ticket be closed as the requester was not only unauthorized but the reason for the database going offline was well known.

Huxley replied saying that he was authorized to open a ticket with ESRI at any time.

8. During October 2015, staff with the Oregon Geospatial Enterprise Office (GEO) were contacted and offered at no charge to Curry County to review the current status of CurryMap.org from a design perspective when compared to specific contracts awarded to Keith Massie, dba Columbia Cartographic. To accomplish this, GEO required admin access to the county GIS system.

- a. Do you agree that the Board of Commissioners directed you on November 24, 2015, to provide GEO with admin access to the County GIS system?

Answer: Yes

- b. Why did you delay providing GEO admin access to the county GIS system until December 29, 2015?

Answer: The Board of Commissioner directive did not include a timeframe. I contacted the State GEO office via telephone several times over the month to coordinate the Boards directive. While scheduling around the holidays can be difficult at best, we both did find some time in our schedules and scheduled to meet via teleconference on December 29th. The GISP or the Geographic Information System Professional experts spent several hours in the systems after I granted them unrestricted remote access to the Curry County GIS servers and they determined why it was offline. Thorough investigation revealed that the user service accounts that were removed caused the database to go offline as predicted.

9. When GEO staff attempted to access the system and take a look at the four GIS servers they encountered problems and provided you a report December 30, 2015 with the probable cause for the fatal error messages they received. When Commissioner Brown asked you that same day if you had provided access to the GEO staff, you responded yes and followed with "Their response shows that the service accounts that were removed caused the system to crash (as predicted)." Knowing that CurryMap.org was still offline, why did you not take the initiative to correct the technical issue(s) and get CurryMap.org back online?

Answer: I was told explicitly that no changes were to be made. Commissioner Huxley also had an associate and others working on the issue and I was marginalized.

10. Did you know that CurryMap.org would go offline when you removed the accounts as requested on September 29, 2015?

Answer: Yes, and again, this was clearly communicated before the action was taken.

11. Did you know the probable cause for the system 'crashing' prior to December 30, 2015? If your answer is "yes," what did you determine to be the probable cause for the system crashing, and when did you reach this conclusion?

Answer: Yes, I knew that would happen. That's why I tried to warn the Commissioners that it would occur.

12. On November 30, 2015 you were asked to provide a list of individuals who had access to the GIS servers in September 2015. You provided group names and not the names of individual people. What are the names of the individual people who have admin access to the GIS servers now and in September 2015?

Answer: Individual group membership in a domain environment is visible to the domain users. The public listing of account identifiers is not only contrary to my professional

education and security training but furthermore the public disclosure of sensitive accounts is a violation of Curry County personnel rules page 96 as well as a serious violation of the State of Oregon Criminal Justice Information Systems Requirement and disclosure of sensitive information in addition any unauthorized disclosure must be reported by myself to the Oregon State Police.

13. On November 30, 2015 you were asked to provide the login file(s) for physical or virtualized instances of GIS servers for the month of September, 2015 by Commissioner Huxley. You responded; "Your request is unintelligible." Then you followed with; "Please reply to all (five people you Cc: on your reply) describing the information you require and the intended purpose." ArcGIS Portal Logs and Server Logs are dependent on how the software is configured so these logs (evidence) may have already been deleted. You have yet to provide the requested information. Please provide the GIS access logs for the month of September, 2015.

Answer: Security log review and network security of the Curry County network are the sole responsibility of the Curry County IT Director. Administrative access to the GIS servers were granted to the State GEO office. If reviewing logs was determined to be beneficial in any way, I'm sure they would have looked at them. Apparently they were not and they did not.

14. Why were Mr. Massie's and LCOG's login accounts linked to and/or included in profiles that the GIS is dependent upon for normal day-to-day operations? If you didn't create those login accounts/profiles, who specifically is responsible for those configuration errors?

Answer: Under normal circumstances vendor or consultant assigned domain service accounts are not removed from the system at the end of the service contract. A final phase of information sharing is an industry standard where security accounts and passwords are shared by the vendor and secured by the customer.

15. Are you able to correct the cause of the issues with our new GIS servers that are known and place CurryMap.org back online? If you are able, when can this occur?

Answer: I will work diligently with Keith Massie and company as recommended by Assistant County Counsel to comply with the Board's directive also recreate the domain service accounts and work with Keith's programmer to reapply the roles and permissions to allow the database application to function properly again. This is a coordinated effort between myself, Keith Massie, and Assistant County Counsel and can occur immediately following this meeting.

16. Please explain procedures your department has in place for contract monitoring and provide back-up data used to determine the contract tasks regarding GIS were on schedule and approved for payment.

Answer: Service contract monitoring is an internal IT process that evaluates progress based on deliverables and verifies compliance within the terms of the contract. In the case of GIS, the service contracts were negotiated by Commissioner Brown, signed by the entire Board of Commissioners, and then simply left the IT Director to assume the responsibility of performance. The new GIS application was paid for in full by the City of Gold Beach and the City of Brookings. All coordination, all implementation tasks were done exclusively by the Curry County IT Director and Keith Massie. Mr. Massie and myself met regularly and discussed in detail the progress and the concrete milestones that ultimately delivered the beta CurryMap.org product. Phase one of this product is considered in beta form or what we call “still in testing phase not for public review”. Then the highly anticipated and partner agreed upon second phase was to be a final output deliverable. This type of develop methodology is widely used in computer software engineering.

17. Your job description says you are to "coordinate activities with Curry County users, contractors and vendors" (Curry County Job Description – Director of IT & Enterprise Network Security). Have you done this in regard to GIS? If your answer is "yes," please explain how you coordinated activities with Curry County users, contractors and vendors per the Job description?

Answer: Yes, in fact with coordination with Keith Massie we scheduled several meetings and demos with the end user agencies. Matter of fact, the last meeting we coordinated a demo of the beta product for the agency review. The members all agreed to report the issues and requested enhancements for preparation of the next stakeholder meeting to take place after phase two the final alpha draft was contracted. The County did not issue phase two of the contract and that meeting has not occurred. IT did not recommend summary termination of the contract with Mr. Massie. The directive to proceed as I understand it resulted from one of the Commissioners enlisting a competitive vendor to examine Mr. Massie's efforts as the Commissioner's surrogate and agent. That person contacted Mr. Massie informally and without introduction by County Counsel or by the Commissioner in question and interfered with my ability to work both with the contractor and the users who were generally pleased with the contractor's efforts. I have done what the job description requires of me. But in the case of GIS, one of the Commissioners chose to usurp my role. If that Commissioner had concerns about fulfillment and performance of phase one part of the product, then those should have gone to County Counsel and IT rather than the Commissioner and his surrogates becoming directly involved with end users and the contractor.

Thank you for your time today.

Commissioner Brown requested a copy of his answers. County Counsel Huttl asked if he had been reading his answers and Weeks informed him that what he had were notes taken during his discussion with his attorney. Weeks cited from the email that was sent to him the section that concerned his responses to the questions. It said that he may respond in writing and pointed out the word “may”.

8. PROCLAMATIONS/ RESOLUTIONS/ LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

(None.)

9. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS/ APPOINTMENTS

(None.)

10. CONSENT CALENDAR

(None.)

11. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ LIAISON & STAFF REPORTS

(None.)

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(None.)

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Huxley did not read announcements aloud.

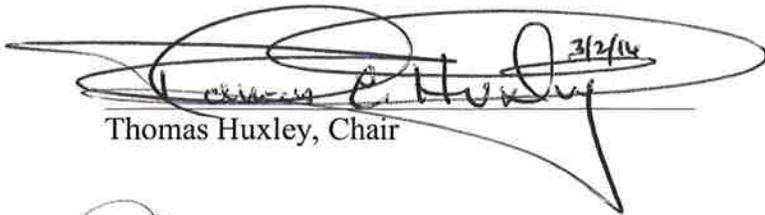
14. ADJOURN

Huxley adjourned the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelia M. Megson

These minutes from Tuesday, January 26, 2016 Board of Commissioners' Special Meeting approved this 02 day of March, 2016.

CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Thomas Huxley, Chair



Susan Brown, Vice Chair



David Brock Smith, Commissioner