



IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF UPDATING)
COUNTY PROPERTY) RESOLUTION AND
MANAGEMENT POLICIES) ORDER
)

WHEREAS, The Clatsop County Commission finds that their Property Management Policies should be reviewed and updated from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners deems it in the County's best interest to amend these policies; NOW, THEREFORE

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Property Management Policies attached hereto as Exhibit "A" are hereby approved as amended by the Board of County Commissioners.

DATED this 25th day of April 2012

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON


Peter Huhtala, Chairperson

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT POLICY**Adopted by the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners****ADOPTED: _____ 2012**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Property Management program is to maintain a complete and accurate inventory of County-owned or tax-foreclosed real estate and to return surplus properties to the property tax rolls through a fair and equitable manner.

This policy establishes procedures and criteria for categorizing County-owned property for future use, managing those properties and for selling, leasing or trading County-owned or tax-foreclosed land.

PROCEDURES:**I. CATEGORIZATION OF COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTIES**

Staff will inventory and identify for future use all real properties owned by the County and recommend the appropriate category for each parcel to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Staff will review the categorization of parcels and make recommendations to the Board at least annually

A. The County Property Categorization Committee, generally to include the County Manager, Public Works Director, Surveyor, Assessment and Taxation Director, Chief Deputy Assessor and Tax Collector, Appraisal Supervisor, Community Development Director and Property Specialist, will review the categorization of parcels and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners based on these policies.

B. The Categories are:

1. Properties to be Sold at Public Auction or Private Sale

This category includes most properties considered surplus. Statutory exceptions are described in other categories. State law requires surplus tax-foreclosed property be sold at public auction unless it cannot be built on and qualifies for private sale under ORS 275.225. For a public auction, a minimum bid is established by either a fee appraisal or an estimated market value determined by the County Assessor. Properties may be designated for sale for cash or contract and may be designated for sale by oral auction or written bid

2. Properties Held for County Government Use

This category includes properties held for future County facilities or properties held for trades, for wetlands mitigation or other uses.

The County will follow Oregon Revised Statutes regarding payment of Local Improvement District assessments on County-owned land.

3. Properties Held for Other Governments

This category includes street plugs, rights of way and other properties that are within other governmental jurisdiction.

Property sold, traded or given to a government outside the auction process must be retained by that government and used for a public purpose.

4. Properties On Which the County Holds the Mineral Rights Only

The County may retain mineral rights on parcels that may have future County use, such as a rock quarry.

5. Properties Held for Industrial Development

State law authorizes the County to sell or otherwise convey County-owned property for "industrial uses." Industrial uses include manufacturing, commercial, research and development and warehousing activities. Property to be used for industrial purposes can be sold, traded or conveyed to an individual or business through private negotiations without going through the auction process. Proceeds from the sale of tax-foreclosed property are distributed to the appropriate taxing agencies, unless the property is zoned industrial and the Board of Commissioners designates the proceeds for industrial development investment at County facilities.

6. Properties Held for Right-of-Way Purposes

This category consists of properties that will be incorporated as rights-of-way or dedicated to the public for road purposes. Parcels incorporated in the right-of-way or dedicated to the public will be deleted from the County's inventory.

7. Properties Held for Future Park and Recreational Use

This category consists of parcels of land that have been received by the County through the tax foreclosure process, received as a donation, purchased or otherwise acquired, and that are held in trust for future recreational or possible park use.

Parcels will be held for potential parks use if so identified in the County's officially adopted County Recreation Lands and Parks Master Plan. Generally, parcels held for this purpose should be held for no more than five years and will be reviewed by the Property Specialist in a report to the Board of Commissioners every five years.

In accordance with the Recreational Master Plan, Clatsop County shall utilize the County Recreational Lands Committee as a primary public review body for potential County land sales involving County Park or recreational lands or lands adjoining County park properties.

No existing County-owned recreational lands shall be sold, traded or exchanged without the input of the Clatsop County Recreational Lands Committee.

State law authorizes the County to sell or otherwise convey public parks or recreational areas so designated by Order of the Board upon a finding that the sale or conveyance is in the best interest of the public. Any proceeds from the conveyance shall be held for maintenance and improvement of existing parks and recreation lands or future acquisition of lands to be set aside for park or recreational purposes.

Recreational lands will be retained in their natural state and not developed or operated as County Parks without the approval of the Board of Commissioners.

8. Properties Held for Timber Harvest

This category consists of parcels of land that the County is holding for potential timber harvest and forest management.

9. Properties Being Used by the County

This category consists of the properties that are currently in use by the County. These include the Courthouse, Public Works Building, Judge Guy Boyington Building, 800-820 Exchange Street complex, Animal Shelter, Community Corrections Transition Center and all other buildings and land used by the County, existing County Parks and those properties under active lease by the County to other parties.

From time to time, Clatsop County may lease property from a private party for special needs, such as stockpiles, storage or program needs.

10. Surplus Property Leased to a Private Party

Surplus property may be leased to a private party as office space, tower sites, substations, etc., for profit as per contract with terms.

- C. First priority will be given to the County's needs and interest for the use of County owned land. Generally, the County will designate that property for the County's future use.
- D. The next priority should be other local governments that show a public need and demonstrate the ability to purchase the property within three years.
- E. All properties will be placed in Category 1 unless identified as in another category.
- F. Tax-foreclosed land may be held for trade if unsold at public auction pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes.

II. SALE OR TRADE OF PROPERTIES

A. DISTRIBUTION OF SALE PROCEEDS

- 1. The proceeds of Sheriff's sales or public auctions shall be distributed as provided in ORS 275.275. Prior to distribution to the taxing districts or any other use of land sale proceeds, the County will reimburse itself for the incurred management costs of those properties from the sale proceeds. These costs include but are not limited to staff time, publication costs, preliminary title searches, recording costs, appraisal fees and timber cruises.
- 2. The County will record all deeds and Memorandums of Sale and will reimburse itself for recording costs from the proceeds of the sale.

B. SALE OR TRANSFER TO NONPROFITS

- 1. Nonprofit organizations that qualify as tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and meet the criteria of ORS 271.330 will be offered an opportunity to acquire any properties the County may receive through the tax foreclosure process that are not being used for a County

purpose. The property must be used for a public purpose and must be within their local jurisdiction.

2. The property may be transferred or sold at any price the Board of County Commissioners deems appropriate if the proposed use is found to be in the best interests of the County. The criteria set forth in C.1. below shall be considered. The use of the property shall be restricted to the public purpose for which it is transferred, and a reversionary interest shall be retained, unless waived pursuant to ORS 271.330(5). The reversionary clause should be waived for property purchased for full market value.
3. Nonprofit organizations must provide a copy of their tax exempt letter, current bylaws, and corporate registration when making a request to acquire County property.

C. SALE OR TRANSFER TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS

1. Property sold, traded or given to a government outside the auction process must be retained by that government and used for a public purpose. The County should seek full compensation from other governments for tax-foreclosed property unless the Board determines it is in the County's best interest to donate the property or accept less than market value. The following criteria shall be considered:
 - Whether the value of the property is significant;
 - The possibility of finding a private purchaser;
 - The liability or potential maintenance costs if the County retains the property;
 - Cost of disposing of the property at public auction or negotiated sale vs. potential sale proceeds;
 - Amount of back taxes owed on the property and the willingness of the local government to pay the County to cover its costs and taxes owed;
 - The intended public use by the local government and whether the use would provide significant benefits to county residents and taxpayers as whole rather than benefiting primarily local residents and taxpayers.
2. Property should be transferred or sold with a reversionary clause for not less than 20 years, unless the Board determines the reversionary clause should be waived pursuant to ORS 271.330(5). The reversionary clause should be waived for all property purchased for fair market value.

D. REVERSIONARY RIGHTS

1. The County will uniformly enforce its ownership rights the reversionary clause in any deed or other conveyance to a public body or non-profit corporation.
2. The County will examine the specific language of the instrument and the purpose for which conveyance was made.
3. If the document conveying property to a municipality without consideration does not expressly mention a purpose or include a reversionary clause, the County

shall take a position that the conveyance was made for a public purpose and that a reversion to the County was required by ORS 271.330.

4. In a dispute over reversionary rights, the County should first attempt to economically resolve the matter by mutual agreement in the spirit of the original conveyance. If agreement is not reached, the County will seek resolution through appropriate judicial means.
5. All property re-acquired by the County through a reversionary clause will be categorized and managed pursuant to County Property Management Policies.

E. PUBLIC SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTIES BY AUCTION

1. Parcels in category 1 will be offered for sale at public auction to the general public in a fair and equitable manner.
2. Staff will strive to hold at least one public auction each year to dispose of property, unless the Assessment and Taxation Director determines there is insufficient property available to sell.
3. Before each public auction, the Property Management division will present the date of the sale and the notice of sale listing the properties and minimum bids and whether the sale will be cash or contract, to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

The Property Specialist, Assessment and Taxation Director, Chief Deputy Assessor and Tax Collector and the County Manager are authorized to remove property from the public auction during the two weeks prior to the sale. The Board shall be promptly notified with an explanation of the circumstances justifying the removal.

4. Contiguous properties should generally be grouped together for sale as one unit of ownership. This policy will allow the County to dispose of property and receive the best return for its surplus property. Parcels to be grouped together shall be annotated on the inventory to be sold as one unit of ownership.
5. Sales under \$20,000 will be for cash only. Sales over that amount may be offered on contract. The interest rate will be a fixed rate set as to the farm credit service rate. The rate will be that rate effective the January of the year of the start of the contract and will be applied to the unpaid balance per annum.
6. Staff shall provide Instruction Sheets for prospective bidders detailing the terms and conditions of sales and bidder responsibilities during registration at all public auctions.
7. High bidders who do not pay for property by the deadline established for payment are prohibited from bidding or purchasing County-owned property for two years after the date of the sale.
8. The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all offers on real property. In the event the County does not accept an offer or removes a property from sale after taking bids, bidders will be refunded all deposit monies on that property.
9. Sales may also be conducted by written bid. To conduct a written bid auction, the County will advertise the property that is for sale and date and time of bid

closing in a newspaper of general circulation in the County at least 15 days before date of opening. Written bids received will be secured unopened until the bid closing. All submitted bids must be valid for a period of 30 days from date of opening. Property will be sold to the highest and best bidder who meets the conditions of the sale.

F. DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY THAT DID NOT SELL AT AUCTION

1. After each auction, surplus properties that did not sell will be made available for private sale for a price not less than 80% of the established minimum bid to the first person offering to purchase it. Any offer to purchase must be in writing, and is only accepted when approved by the Board of Commissioners.
2. Property that has not sold within one year of the first auction will be re-evaluated by the County Categorization Committee and either re-auctioned by oral bid or sold by written bid auction. The Categorization Committee shall establish the revised minimum bid price.
3. Tax foreclosed land that did not sell at auction may be exchanged for land of equal appraised value pursuant to ORS 275.060.

G. UNBUILDABLE LAND

1. Unbuildable tax-foreclosed property as defined by ORS 275.225 may be offered to contiguous property owners through private sale or trade. These parcels are usually small slivers of land that are of value only to the adjoining property owner and require time and expense to the County to manage.
2. The Property Specialist will maintain a list of these properties and initiate contact with contiguous owners. In identifying potential purchasers the property manager will take into account access to surrounding properties.
3. With the recommendation of staff, the Board of Commissioners will establish the minimum bids; authorize the Property Specialist to accept offers that meet or exceed the minimum bid and to prepare the deeds, and authorize the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or designee to sign Quit Claim deeds and purchase agreements.

H. EXCHANGES

Tax foreclosed property may be exchanged for property of equal value, pursuant to ORS 271.340, however, the property received shall be managed as tax foreclosed property.

I. MINERAL RIGHTS

Mineral rights may be sold as provided in ORS 275.312-316 or by public sale.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. The County may consider easements, sales or leases of County-owned parcels that involve lease agreements with the Department of State Lands and adjoining Floating Recreational Cabins if the applicant is in compliance with state and local land use regulations.
- B. The Property Management Specialist will be the Official Manager of the Clatsop Plains Pioneer Cemetery with the authority to operate a cemetery in municipal

ownership. This position is responsible for informing the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board of any changes in management and care of the cemetery and for filing forms with the controlling authority.