

County Commissioners will be facing financial problems, requiring new ways to work

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ty inmates and also prepared them for release, so the funds came from the Feds whether the beds were full or not. The new jail space is a good idea if your contract includes uniforms, Cost of Living Adjustments and other costs. You should get the contract, then build the facility, otherwise it will fail and the community will need to bail them out.

Dickerson – No, it never will be because it costs way too much, there's no self-supporting mechanism. All the jail bed rentals in the world won't make enough money to do that. Adding to the jail when the [U.S.] Marshals are guaranteeing 160 beds a night at \$100 per bed will pay off the expansion, but it's not going to be a panacea without Cost of Living Adjustments and other costs built in. Will have to have the right people in place to handle these types of prisoners. It comes down to leadership.

Simmons – No, it's close to self-supporting, but not. This year we will bring in close to \$1.5 million on jail beds, out of a jail budget of about \$2.2 million. The [U.S.] Marshals want to do business with us because they like the way we do business. Now we're doing 60 beds a day, with expansion it would pay for the facility and put more patrol deputies on the road. How many I can't tell you, but around 10-12 deputies.



Robert Crain

3. Do you have ideas for increasing funding?

Crain – It's almost inevitable that in about two years there would have to be a levy, but first you need to see about the best use of available funds. Take the current crew and re-establish 24 hour coverage, answer ALL calls, and combat illegal drugs and the 'spiderling' crimes they cause. Then look for grants and obtain a grant writer, plus use as much U.S. military surplus as possible. We also need to change the perception of the public by being friendly to the community, listening to them and being open.

Dickerson – Yes, improve service and tell the story, "Look what we did with this level of deputies, do you want more service?" If they elect me, they'll get the best service that can be had with available resources. We could use more, but incremental raises can be used. My focus right now would be improving what we have.

Simmons – Yes, jail expansion is one idea. What we need is permanent funding. I think we have to go for a taxing district like the Rural Fire Departments use. I have a little knowledge about that, and a couple people ready to sit on committees and look at this idea more closely. We need to look at long term solutions.

4. How much County law enforcement will there be in the Nehalem Valley?

Crain – A lot more than there is now. I would look at not requiring a resident deputy but rather have deputies assigned to the district at a substation that, with funding, would eventually be open 24 hours. Need to look at the day and the kind of calls we get, to stagger start and stop time of deputies to cover more hours. Divide the county up into different areas and ideally work into resident deputies.



Gerry Simmons

Dickerson – What I picture is that the Nehalem Valley would be one of the patrol areas, down to Chapman, and might have two deputies. I will have to look at the call volumes, but I will guarantee there will be one deputy in the Nehalem Valley.

Simmons – With the present funding, it's not going to change a lot. When you need us we'll get there when we can. With the jail expansion we'll get more deputies to go to 24-hour coverage and more coverage throughout the county.

5. Anything you'd like to tell our readers?

Crain – I have a combination of 20 years of law enforcement between being a police officer in Hillsboro and Las Vegas and a corrections officer in Multnomah and Clackamas counties. I owned one of the largest security companies in the Northwest, doing crowd control and celebrity security, working with a \$4.2 million budget. My education is in law enforcement and I have all my interim and advanced law enforcement certificates. I look forward to having the opportunity to protect and serve you. I hope to make this a safer community for all to enjoy.

Dickerson – When I came back to Columbia County (I grew up in Scappoose and am an Oregon State Police Officer) I found the need for a professional Sheriff's Office. I saw poor leadership, poor direction and was encouraged that everyone I talked to

saw the same thing. I'm running a positive campaign to change and save the Columbia County Sheriff's Office from oblivion – that's pretty strong, but that's how I see it.

Simmons – I have over 27 years of experience with the Sheriff's Office. I have held every position in the office. I understand how the county system and budget work. My competitor has no law enforcement experience. He doesn't understand how to make the Sheriff's Office work.

Columbia County Commissioner Position 1

The Independent interviewed the candidates for the Columbia County Board of Commissioners, asking the same questions of each one. Here are the questions and the candidates' responses. This is a partisan position, so responses of Commissioner, Position 1 candidates – Joe Corsiglia (D), Earl Fisher (D), Glen Dorschler (R) – are in alphabetical order, first by party affiliation, then by surname. Warren Nakkela (R) was not available for an interview.

1. What are your plans if federal timber dollars don't come to the county?

Corsiglia (D) – It's going to take more creativity than we've typically had to use. I've worked on city and county budgets for 17 years and I know the realities. We may have to shift personnel around as best we can. There's no magic, just the reality of cutting costs. We're always looking for new avenues of funding.

Fisher (D) – The county would face significant problems and I'm not sure there is a quick, easy solution.



Joe Corsiglia

The county would need to prioritize and make decisions based on the amount of money available. As superintendent of schools in Clatskanie, I had to handle a loss of revenue. You have to prioritize and find out what services people find most important and find ways to find it. Want to end up at a place where people may say they

don't like the decisions, but they understand the decision.

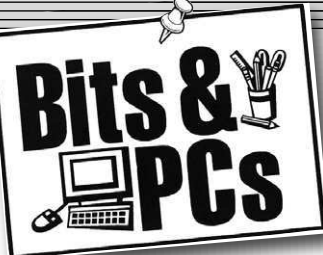
Dorschler (R) – I hope that we can get the federal government to keep sending that money. I don't know what the alternative would be. We need to be fiscally responsible, when it comes to budget we should start at a zero baseline. Those wanting money need to come before the budget committee and explain what they need and why.

2. Do you think the county commissioners should reassume responsibility for departments rather than depending on middle managers to assist department heads?

Corsiglia (D) – I feel we do upon occasion, there have been many times when we have taken a greater role.

Fisher (D) – If commissioners act as direct supervisors they should have some background in the area they supervise. It's

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