

Union County Board of Commissioners

Joseph Building Annex Conference Room
Regular Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Present: Commissioner Paul Anderes, Chair
Commissioner Donna Beverage
Commissioner R. Matthew Scarfo

Commissioner Anderes opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was given with all three Commissioners present.

Public Comment

Elevation Pointe Subdivision Plat

Jeff Hsu, Bagett, Griffith and Blackman, provided the plat to the Commissioners for their approval.

Mr. Hsu stated that the City of La Grande Planning Department approved the subdivision on January 8, 2020, which also requires the Commissioners approval and signature.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the Elevation Pointe Subdivision Plat. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Cap & Trade Letter to Legislature

Jim Kreider, La Grande, addressed the Commissioners regarding the letter drafted not in support of SB1530 and HB4159. Mr. Kreider is concerned about this because he believes it is premature. He would like to see the Commissioners hold off on submitting the letter until the short session is complete.

Bill Whitaker, 1002 G. Avenue, La Grande, addressed the Commissioners regarding the letter drafted in opposition of SB1530 and HB4159. Mr. Whitaker spoke to the Commissioners against the proposed letter to the Oregon Legislature in opposition of SB1530.

Reverend Colleen Nelson, 706 M. Avenue, La Grande, addressed the Commissioners regarding the letter drafted in opposition of SB1530 and HB4159. Ms. Nelson would like the Commissioners to hold off on sending the letter.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

2020 Fund Exchange Agreement

Doug Wright, Union County Public Works Director, presented Fund Exchange Agreement No. 34036 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

The agreement is between the State of Oregon Department of Transportation and Union County Public Works Department. Union County would like to trade

\$295,916.00 federal funds for \$278,161.04 of state funds to purchase an overlay chip spreader, and purchase $\frac{3}{4}$ minus aggregate for a base on county roads.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the 2020 Fund Exchange Agreement presented by Director Wright. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Anderes stated that he is pleased to see dollars leveraged.

Letters for Commissioners Consideration

Fair Funding

Commissioner Anderes presented the first letter for consideration, which is a letter to support county fair funding. The letter highlights the value and importance of local fairgrounds and annual fairs. The letter requests \$25,000 per fair in state funding and \$250,000 for a comprehensive study of county fairgrounds.

The letter was drafted by groups that the Commissioners participate in.

Commissioner Anderes stated that it is hard to grasp the fact that we have to result in requesting assistance to keep the fair going.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the Fair Funding Support letter. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Grand Staircase

Commissioner Anderes presented the second letter for consideration, which is a letter to support funding for the restoration of the Grand Staircase at Eastern Oregon University (EOU).

Commissioner Scarfo stated that he discussed the letter with EOU Vice President, Tim Seydel, and he appreciates the support.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the Grand Staircase Support letter. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beverage stated that she believes it is important to stand together in support of things that benefit Union County.

Cap & Trade

Commissioner Anderes presented the third letter for consideration, which is a letter not in support of SB1530 and HB4159.

Commissioner Beverage stated she agrees with number one (1) regarding an economic study of the potential effects of legislation on each of the 36 Oregon counties, and two (2), removing emergency clause from both bills. Commissioner Beverage also stated that she would recommend removing number three (3), eliminating the discussion of carve outs.

Commissioner Scarfo supports the language in the letter, without the elimination of number three (3). However, he would like to hold off on approving the letter until the legislature meets on Saturday, February 8 to see where the discussions go.

Commissioner Anderes suggested a motion to approve the Cap & Trade letter as written to be sent no earlier than Tuesday, February 11. Commissioner Scarfo made the motion as suggested.

Commissioner Beverage stated she would second the motion if number three (3) were removed.

Motion failed due to lack of second.

Commissioner Anderes requested discussing the letter further before another motion is made.

Commissioner Anderes commented on Mr. Kreider's comments that there are multiple studies out there. He believes that the stances are based on political philosophy and party affiliation, which is bothersome. The bill itself is at 157 pages, with over 50 pages of amendments to date. Commissioner Anderes is not taking SB1530 lightly, with much thought believes the three (3) bullet points are the most crucial to Union County.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to send the letter immediately removing number 3.

Commissioner Scarfo is opposed to the carve outs, however would like to see how the legislature moves forward on Saturday, February 8.

Commissioner Beverage is also opposed to the carve outs, but at the same time, if the bill passes, and there are no carve outs, there are businesses, such as Ashgrove Cement in Baker City that won't receive an exception.

Commissioner Anderes stated as much as he would like to be in control of the Legislature's process, the bullet points are only suggestions. It is not guaranteed the bill will pass without carve outs. Governor Kate Brown has been very clear that Ashgrove Cement will remain open. Commissioner Anderes also stated the proposal is frightening because it could decimate Union County's economy.

Commissioner Beverage stated she used Ashgrove Cement as an example for Northeast Oregon.

Commissioner Scarfo asked Commissioner Anderes what the timeline is on the letter.

Commissioner Anderes relayed it would be more impactful if the letter was approved and sent before tomorrow, February 6, as it is the 2nd of three hearings on this particular bill for public testimony.

Motion failed due to lack of second.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to send a letter after SB1530 and HB4159 are finalized with Commissioner approval. Commissioner Beverage seconded.

Commissioner Beverage asked for clarification on which letter would be sent.

Commissioner Scarfo stated that several Union County residents approached him in opposition to Cap & Trade.

Commissioner Beverage retracted her second.

Commissioner Scarfo retracted the original motion, as amended.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to send a letter to the Oregon Legislature in response to SB1530 and HB4159 by Tuesday, February 11 depending on negotiations within the Oregon House. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to send the letter immediately, eliminating number 3.

Motion failed due to lack of second.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Scarfo moved approval of the January 16, 22 & 23 Claims Journals and meeting minutes from the January 22, 2020 Commissioners meeting as presented on the consent agenda. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Court Order 2020-09: Appointment to the STF Advisory Committee
Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Court Order 2020-09 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Byron Whipple retired as the Veterans Service Officer and has resigned from the Special Transportation Fund (STF) Advisory Committee, creating an opening for a representative.

Brian Blais has expressed an interest in serving on the Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee and is eligible to fill the open position.

Mr. Blais' term will begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2022.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to adopt Court Order 2020-09. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Court Order 2020-10: Appointment to the STIF Advisory Committee

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Court Order 2020-10 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Angie Peters served on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Advisory Committee prior to her departure as the Public Transit Manager with Community Connections.

Heath Sell replaced Ms. Peters as the Public Transit Manager and has shown interest in serving on the advisory committee. This court order would appointment Heath Sell and Brian Blais to the committee.

Their term would begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2022.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to adopt Court Order 2020-10. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Court Order 2020-11: Appointment to the Union County Fair Board Association

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Court Order 2020-11 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Scott Hoadley was appointed to the Union County Fair Board Association, but is unable to continue to serve.

Jamie Haddock has expressed interest to serve on the Board of Directors.

Her term would begin immediately and expire on December 31, 2021.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to adopt Court Order 2020-11. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2020-02: Appropriating Unanticipated Funds

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Resolution 2020-02, to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Unanticipated grant funds from the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission have become available through the Justice Reinvestment Grant Program after the fiscal year 2019-20 budget was adopted.

The total amount to be included in the 2019-20 budget is \$162,720. The funds will be added to the District Attorney fund and the Community Corrections fund.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-02 Appropriating Unanticipated Funds. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2020-03: Recognizing Congressman Walden Service

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Resolution 2020-03, to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Commissioner Anderes stated if the resolution is adopted, the plan is to put it in a frame and mailed to Washington, DC with arrangements through Tucker Billman to present while Commissioners are attending the NACo Legislative Conference.

Commissioner Scarfo stated that he is pleased to see this done.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-03. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: Court Order 2020-08: Annexing Property into La Grande Rural Fire Protection District

Staff Report

Stacy Warren, Associate Planner, provided a brief staff report to the Commissioners for their approval of Court Order 2020-08 Annexing Property into the La Grande Rural Fire District.

Union County received petitions from Ralph & Jenny Andyke and Cindy Hamilton to annex into the La Grande Rural Fire Protection District. Letters were received from the La Grande Rural Fire Protection District stating their board voted to allow both properties into the district.

Public Testimony

There were no public comments at this time.

Discussion/Action

Commissioner Beverage stated that she is happy to see these annexations.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve Court Order 2020-08. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The chair called an 11-minute recess.

FY 2018-19 Audit Report

Chelsea Hewitt, Connected Professional Accountants, addressed the Commissioners with the audit report. Mrs. Hewitt stated that she is always very pleased working with Union County staff during the audit.

Mrs. Hewitt stated the county is required to have an audit because we have over \$500,000 in expenditures. The county is also subject to a federal audit because we also have federal expenditures over \$750,000, which is also known as a compliance audit.

There were no major journal entries to review. Most of the journal entries are done out of convenience, which are done routinely each year.

There were a couple of items that are not considered findings, however, were appropriate enough to bring to the Commissioners attention.

The Sheriff's Commissary bank account is not properly reconciled each month. In the prior year, the exact total in the account with all outstanding items was unknown and did not reconcile to the bank statement total.

A recommendation to the Sheriff's Office would be to maintain a detailed listing of all outstanding checks and outstanding deposits. The list should be updated monthly and tie directly to the monthly reconciliation. This is an important procedure that will help in evaluating the outstanding checks that need to be forwarded through Oregon's unclaimed property process and help in evaluating outstanding deposits.

Mrs. Hewitt also stated during the testing of federal programs, it was found while the county is performing sub-recipient monitoring, is not documenting the monitoring over the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, CFDA#20.513. The county should be performing and documenting regular site visits in which it reviews ride logs and other documentation to determine the sub-recipient is keeping this information on file.

Overall Union County received a clean opinion, meaning all financial statements are materially stated as presented. Any new governmental accounting standards are reported; the only adjustment found was related to debt disclosures which did not change any numbers.

The Management Discussion and Analysis is completed by Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, who is one of the few clients that drafts their own Management Discussion, which is very positive.

Financial statements reflect that there was a \$1.2 million dollar increase in net position which has continued to increase for the past few fiscal years. The county is in sound financial condition.

There were no other items to report on.

Good of the Order

There were no comments at this time.

Next Commissioners Meeting

The next work session will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020.

Adjournment

Commissioner Anderes adjourned the meeting at 10:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Moore / Senior Department Specialist