

Union County Board of Commissioners
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room
Regular Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, February 19, 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

Irene Gilbert, 2310 Adams Avenue, La Grande, addressed the Commissioners regarding the Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) project.

Ms. Gilbert informed the Commissioners with concerns she has with B2H and the draft permit. She stated she wanted to insure the Commissioners are cognizant of the fact that if there isn't specific wording in the draft proposed order on requirements, Idaho Power is not obligated to meet the criteria.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

2020-21 Specialty Court Implementation Grant

Valerie Schlichting, Victims Assistance Program Director, presented the Implementation Grant to the Commissioners for their approval.

The Union County Mental Health/Veterans Court has been awarded six months provisional funding of \$106,495.00 under the 2019-21 Special Court Grant Program. Grant award amendment of the remaining funding of \$140,106.00, for a total award of \$246,601.00, is contingent upon the grantee's performance and progress.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the Mental Health Veterans Court grant. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Senate Bill 1530 Comment Letter

Commissioner Anderes stated the matter was tabled from a previous meeting.

After brief discussion, the Commissioners agreed with the Oregon Legislature walkout, there would be no reason to send the letter at this time. Also, the Commissioners had already individually expressed their thoughts to the Legislators.

Due to lack of need, the topic has been closed.

Eastern Oregon Film Festival Funding

Commissioner Anderes presented the tabled motion item from the December 18, 2019 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Scarfo stated he is not in support of funding the operations of the film festival. He realizes the film festival is reaching out for help, however, the county should not be responsible for keeping the festival running. If that were the case, the county should be in charge of oversight, which is not possible. He recommended the film festival reach out to the Chamber of Commerce or La Grande Main Street to assist in the production of the festival, if they are in dire straits.

Commissioner Anderes restated the motion to approve \$6,000 funding towards operations of Eastern Oregon Film Festival.

Commissioner Beverage stated that the \$6,000 funding request does not fit in to the criteria for funding events in Union County. There are many other events held in the county, where we do not fund staffing. Commissioner Beverage asked if there were any other funding options for the film festival within Union County.

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, relayed with the restructure of the Transient Room Tax program, EOFF is still an eligible applicant under the discretionary fund. This fiscal year, the county allocated \$15,000 for discretionary funds, \$12,000 has been awarded, leaving \$3,000 available. One thing that the current discretionary fund does not allow is funding operations. However, they could request support for another need within their budget.

Roll Call on the Motion:

Commissioner Scarfo; no
Commissioner Beverage; no
Commissioner Anderes; no

Motion failed.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Scarfo moved approval of the January 30 & February 5 & 6 Claims Journals and meeting minutes from the February 5 & 10, 2020 Commissioners meeting as presented on the consent agenda. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plan

Margaret Davidson, Executive Director of Community Connection and Heath Sell, Public Transportation Manager addressed the Commissioners with the Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plan update for approval.

The original transportation plan was adopted in June 2016. Their request is to approve the 2019 partial update for the fiscal year with the newer services listed as; change in the low-income threshold, increased reporting requirements, student transportation support and limited regional access.

Commissioner Anderes inquired with Ms. Davidson if the Public Transportation employee tax dollars are being expended. Ms. Davidson relayed with the high demand of public transportation, those taxes are expended monthly.

Mrs. Burgess added that Mr. Sell predecessor assisted in the draft of the transportation plan, and there were several public meetings held for input and by the STF Advisory Committee participated in the meetings as well.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to accept the Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plan update. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Scarfo welcomed Mr. Sell in his new position as the Public Transportation Manager.

Wolf Depredation Grant

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Wolf Depredation Grant to the Commissioners for their review.

For the Commissioners consideration is an application to the 2020 Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance program that is available through the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

The application to be submitted to the Department of Agriculture includes a request for \$1330.00 for compensation for livestock that were killed by wolves in 2019 and a request for \$20,000.00 for preventative techniques that would be implemented in 2020.

If awarded the Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee would begin to accept applications for the prevention techniques.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to accept the request for \$21,330.00 towards the Wolf Depredation Compensation Grant with the Tri-County Weed Management area. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Tri-County Weed Management Building Lease Agreement

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the lease agreement to the Commissioners for their consideration.

This particular lease it to be approved as the Board of Directors for the 4-H & Extension Service District. This is a 2-year renewal lease for space that is located in the Ag Education Building.

The annual rent for the space they occupy is \$4,885.60.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the 4-H & Extension Service District Building Lease Agreement. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Building Lease Agreement (LGPD)

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the lease agreement to the Commissioners for their consideration.

The La Grande Police Department shares space with the Union County Sheriffs office in the Law Enforcement Annex.

There is space that is leased that is exclusive to the La Grande Police Department and there is shared space. For the shared space, LGPD pays 50% of the full rental rate. The building lease before the Commissioners has been negotiated primarily between Mrs. Burgess and Police Chief Harvey of LGPD.

This is a five-year lease agreement for the space, effective at the beginning of this fiscal year back to July 1 due to the increase in rent.

The lease has been approved by the City of La Grande and is also to be approved by the Union County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the building lease agreement between Union County and La Grande Police Department. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Good of the Order

Commissioner Beverage relayed that she held the Business Summit with the assistance of Allison. The event was a success. She has received several phone calls from presenters who are working with new clients that attended the summit. There were also presenters that reached out to her to present next year.

Commissioner Anderes relayed he attended the Elgin City Council meeting. Senator Merkley is going to be in Elgin on Friday, February 21. Mayor Duffy has made a great connection with Senator Merkley's office and great things are coming for the city of Elgin.

Next Commissioners Meeting

The next work session will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

Adjournment

Commissioner Anderes adjourned the meeting at 9:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Moore / Senior Department Specialist