

Board of Commissioners Meeting
January 18, 2012

Present: Commissioner William D. Rosholt
Commissioner Steve McClure
Commissioner Mark D. Davidson

Call to Order

Chairman Rosholt called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. All three Commission members were present.

Public Comments

Bill Gamble, of the United States Forest Service, introduced himself as the new District Ranger for the La Grande Ranger District of the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. Commissioner McClure offered to have him represent the Forest Service on the MERA Advisory Committee, of which Mr. Gamble agreed. Commissioner Davidson stated that in the past a Union County timber tour was conducted annually, in cooperation with Union County, Department of Forestry, OSU Extension, Forest Capital and The American Society of Foresters and is hoping that will continue. Mr. Gamble stated that any opportunity to interact with the community is beneficial and he would like to continue that program. Mr. Gamble stated that the Community Forestry Board used to be fairly active and he would like to reinvigorate that committee and participate. He agreed that establishing a collaborative foundation to help benefit the community would be beneficial. Commissioner Rosholt welcomed him and thanked him for coming.

Irene Gilbert, 2310 Adams Avenue, La Grande, Oregon spoke on the wolf depredation proposal and voiced her agreement and support to the local ranchers in their plight of the wolves. She believes that ranchers should be compensated for the losses but compensation should come from the groups that brought the wolves into the community, not Union County.

Elected Official, Department Head and Employee Comments

Vehicle Bids

Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen presented on the lease/purchase of a department vehicle. His recommendation was to accept the bid for the leasing of a Chevy Tahoe through Wire Works, who is based out of Salem, Oregon. The vehicle will be purchased locally from Goss Motors by Wire Works and then transferred to Salem for vehicle upfitting. Union County will then lease the vehicle from Wire Works. The vehicle will be utilized by Deputy McKaig, and will replace a Chevy Impala with approximately 150,000 miles logged. It will then be rotated out from being utilized as a response vehicle to being used for transport. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the recommendation for leasing a 2012 Chevy Tahoe for \$45,124.00 from Wire Works. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commission on Children and Families . Intergovernmental Agreement

Vicky Brogoitti, Director of Commission on Children and Families, was unable to attend due to weather. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Amendment 1 to Oregon Commission on Children and Families 2011-2013 County Healthy Start .

Medicaid Administrative Activities Intergovernmental Agreement UNI1113-Mac discussing the two changes which included a modification of Section III to increase payment to the state from 1% to 1.5%, and Attachment A, which includes a modification to update the code definitions under which expenses can be billed. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Amendment. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

The December 7, 29, 2011 and January 4, 2012 Public Works claims journals; the December 8, 29, 2011 and January 5, 2012 claims journals; and the January 4, 2012 Board of Commissioners Minutes were approved as presented on the Consent Agenda. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Administrative Matters

Appointment to Renewable Energy Advisory Committee

Court Order 2012-05, In the Matter of Appointment to the Renewable Energy Advisory Committee, was presented for consideration. This Court Order will appoint Raymond Randall for a term to expire on December 31, 2014. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2012-05. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appointment to the Union County Fair Association Board of Directors

Court Order 2012-06, In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Fair Association Board of Directors, was presented for consideration. This Court Order will reappoint Sharon Dykes, who is an active member and interested in continuing to serve, for a term to expire December 31, 2015. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2012-06. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Court Order 2012-10, In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Fair Association Board of Directors, was presented for consideration. This Court Order will replace the expired term of Becky Hamann-Nilsson, with Cheryl Hagan who has applied to Board of Directors with a term to expire December 31, 2015. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2012-10. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Establishment of Wolf Predation Compensation Committee

Resolution 2012-01, In the Matter of Establishing a Wolf Depredation Compensation Committee, was presented for consideration. Commissioner Davidson stated that the rules have just recently been completed and we only have until February 15, 2012 to have a committee established, the program designed and approved, and the grant application submitted to the Department of Agriculture. He also wanted to clarify that the funding will come from the state, who has budgeted \$100,000 for a trust fund to fund this compensation and the counties are required to contribute only 10% of the program cost which was wrongly assumed by Irene Gilbert as stated above in Public Comments. This committee purpose is not to debate whether we want wolves in the county or not, but to help with compensation in the result of loss of livestock. Commissioner McClure asked what projects are scheduled. Commissioner Davidson stated that the program rules require that 30% of funding are to be used towards non-lethal methods of livestock management techniques to discourage predation. He is planning on having the

committee use the Wallowa County Wolf Depredation plan as a reference and collect input from the stock growers to discover what will work. An application needs to be put together fairly quickly to secure money for both reimbursement and funding the non-lethal measures. The State funding is to be disbursed on a first-come first-served basis, with no guarantee of approval, which creates an additional need to get the application quickly submitted. Commissioner Davidson stated he would be surprised if Union County out of pocket expenses exceeds \$2,000. Commissioner McClure stated that in Wallowa County the Sheriff is highly involved in depredation investigations and wondered if the same model would be followed in Union County investigations. Commissioner Davidson stated that the committee would only come into play after the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has determined that wolves were responsible, and at this time, the investigation procedures have not been determined.

Dennis Murchinson, Cove, Union County Cattlemen's President, on behalf of cattlemen, stated that he has some names of interested parties interested in serving on the Committee if it is not too late. Don Dodson of North Powder is interested and Jason Beck would be interested if needed.

Jerry Gordon, Lower Cove, is a goat farmer and wanted to make sure goats and sheep are represented in this program.

Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Resolution 2012-01. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Court Order 2012-09, In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Wolf Depredation Compensation Committee, was presented for consideration. An advertisement was placed in The Observer for applicants interested in serving on the committee and we did receive applications from Gene Hardy and Patrick Currin as Livestock Owners or Managers, Rob Beck and Theodore Taylor as Supporters of Wolf Conservation or Coexistence representatives, and the County Commissioner position would be filled by Commissioner Mark Davidson. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2012-09 as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Davidson stated that this will be an open process and that meeting times and dates will be published in the newspaper. Input and opinions are appreciated.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m. until the 10:00 a.m. Public Hearing.

Hanley Jenkins, Planning Director for Union County presented the offer for the City of La Grande for portions of 12th Street. He presented Court Order 2012-07, In the Matter of Transferring a Portion of South 12th Street, a County Road, to the City of La Grande, for consideration.

This is a follow-up on the 12th Street reconstruction project and the agreement between the City of La Grande and Union County to transfer the jurisdiction for the right-of-way to the City of La Grande. ORS 373.270 provides the procedure for offering to the city the jurisdiction of the road right of way. The city has six months to consider and accept the jurisdiction, which would be July 18, 2012. This Court Order is a formal offer to the City of La Grande, allowing the Board of Commissioners to accept testimony and make a decision on the Court Order.

There were no public comments or testimony.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the County and the City have had a shared jurisdiction over this section of road because the city limits partially includes the street, and where it doesn't, there hasn't been any city involvement or jurisdiction over city limits. However, the city's urban growth boundary goes all the way to the south terminus of this location, and so that is why the county proposal goes to within 130 feet of the nearest road.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2012-07. Commissioner Davidson seconded approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Following the Hearing, the Commissioners discussed an upcoming meeting with Planning Commission members.

Hearing adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Powers
Department Specialist