

Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 2, 2012

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

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

Building Department Update

David Kloss, La Grande/Union County Building Official, 10502 Telos Court, Island City, gave the Commissioners a biannual update on the Building Department. He gave the Commissioners a copy of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 and went over any changes proposed from the current year.

Commissioner McClure asked if there will be any fee increases in this budget. David stated that there will not be an increase of fees in this budget but there will be an increase at the end of the calendar year. Commissioner Rosholt asked why the fee increase would not be in the proposed budget. David stated that it is not known what that fee increase will be at that time. He explained that he does not depend on general fund money at all and should be self supported.

Intergovernmental Agreement with CASA

Vicky Brogoitti, Director of Commission on Children and Families, brought an Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County Commission on Children and Families and Union County CASA to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this agreement would increase the CASA allocation to Union County.

Intergovernmental Agreement with Healthy Start

Vicky Brogoitti brought an Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County Commission on Children and Families and Healthy Start to the Commissioners for consideration. This agreement refers to Medicaid Administrative Earnings for the Healthy Start Program. She explained that in the past Union County has been paying 1% in the Medicaid earnings back to the State. The State will now be charging counties 1.5%. This agreement clarifies the increase of the administrative fee.

Provider Contracts

Vicky Brogoitti brought the provider contract amendments to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that these amendments are for Fiscal Year 2012-13. The State has directed counties not to add new programs or new activities so these amendments would release the second half of the funds for the biennium. There is a balance remaining in juvenile crime prevention funds of

a little over \$1,000 that will be determined on where those funds will go at a later time.

Commissioner McClure moved to approve the two intergovernmental agreements between the State of Oregon and the Commission on Children and Families as well as all of the Provider Contracts as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Idaho Power Agreement Amendment

Hanley Jenkins, Planning Director, brought a renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and the Cooperating Agencies to the Commissioners for consideration. He explained that the changes are to correct some distances, terminology, and duties that were identified by the perspective Federal agencies. There are no changes to the Union County responsibilities in the MOU. There were several cooperating agencies added to the MOU. The term of the agreement was changed from three years to five years. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of modification of MOU between BLM and Union County as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Cultural Services Agreement

Hanley Jenkins explained that he and Commissioner McClure met with the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation and had a conversation about how to address the evaluation of cultural resources on Mt. Emily Recreation Area (MERA). There was an opportunity to submit a grant request to obtain funds to do an entire survey of the MERA and at the time there was a focus on high probability areas which is approximately 1200 acres of the property. The high probability areas were identified and there has been some interest in doing areas beyond that. There have been some conversations with the Umatilla Tribes Cultural Resources Division and they have expressed a willingness to do the additional areas beyond the high probability areas within the grant amount. An agreement has been drafted between the Tribes and Union County to perform that work. That work would take place in this calendar year. Because of the nature of doing Cultural Resource surveys there are narrow windows in which to actually do on the ground surveys. It amounts to May and October. It has to be done when there is no snow on the ground and when the ground is not covered in vegetation. The Tribes does have staff that can get out this month and do the survey work. There is a large amount of documentation work that would follow and there would need to be time to do that documentation. The terms of the agreement would be until the end of December. The amount is just less than the granted amount at \$39,997.08. The County does have approximately \$8000 of match in this project and the rest of the money is coming from the grant. Hanley stated that he did speak to County Counsel about whether this would need to go out to bid on the contract and he explained that the Tribes are exempt from the bidding requirements because it is ceded lands for the Umatilla Tribes.

Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the Cultural Services Consultant Agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation of the Mt. Emily Recreation Area as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Airport Engineering Contract

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, explained that Union County has gone through the Request for Proposal process to select Precision Approach Engineering as the consultant for the Airport. He brought the contract for the Commissioners consideration. This contract will allow the County to enter into work order contracts to perform work on the Airport. He is recommending that the Commissioners approve the contract. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Airport Engineering Contract with Precision Approach Engineering as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

The April 12 and 19 claims journals; the April 11 and 19 Public Works claims journals; the April 4 Board of Commissioners Minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Older Americans Proclamation

Proclamation 2012-03, in the Matter of a Proclamation Declaring May 2012 Older Americans Month, was presented for consideration. The Proclamation came to the Commissioners from Community Connections of Northeast Oregon. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Proclamation 2012-03 as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Unanticipated Funds Court Order

Court Order 2012-23, In the Matter of Appropriating Unanticipated Funds, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer explained that this Court Order would appropriate funds into the project fund for the Ellis Lane bridge project. This project was brought to the Commissioners for approval at an earlier meeting. This Court Order would allow acceptance of the funds in the amount of \$500,000 and authorize an expenditure of \$500,000 for the project. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2012-23 as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Unanticipated Funds Court Order

Court Order 2012-24, In the Matter of Appropriating Unanticipated Funds, was presented for consideration. Shelley explained that this Court Order is in the amount of \$49,000 and it is to accept funds from the OWEB Grant for the project of the Gekeler Slough Drainage Surface Water Management Plan. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2012-24 as**

presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineering Services Order

Shelley Burgess brought an Engineering Services Work Order 2012-02 to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that the Commissioners would be approving the work orders for the Gekeler Slough Surface Water Master Plan. A grant was accepted at the last meeting. There is an ongoing contract with Anderson and Perry who were selected to be the engineers for projects.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of Work Order 2012-02 as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discretionary Fund Recommendation

Shelley explained that the Discretionary Fund Advisory Committee met and reviewed two applications for funding. The Committee is recommending the Commissioners fund the Liberty Theatre project at \$800 and the Smith Rock Race Group for the Hells Canyon Relay at \$1500. Commissioner Davidson explained that the Liberty Theatre Foundation is asking for support for acquiring some equipment to help with the fundraising efforts. The Hells Canyon Relay was looking for a substantially larger donation than what the Committee has recommended. The Relay will begin and end in La Grande and cover in excess of 200 miles following the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway. They are anticipating being able to accommodate up to 200 teams. It could be a significant impact on the communities. He is recommending that the Commissioners fund the Liberty Theatre for \$800 and recommends increasing the amount awarded to the Smith Rock Race Group to \$2500. He stated that there are sufficient funds in the grant to cover both awards. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the recommendation for funding as revised. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Coordinated Care Organization Presentation

Dwight Dill, Mental Health Director at Center for Human Development, came to the Commissioners to explain what a Coordinated Care Organization is and what GOHBI has been doing in the CCO process. He explained that it is a reform to the Oregon Health Plan and GOHBI has applied to be a CCO within the plan. He gave the Commissioners some information from GOHBI and explained the process involved in the reform.

FY 2012-13 Transient Tax Allocation Presentations

Judy Hector, CEO of the Union County Chamber of Commerce, explained that the proposal for the Blue Mountain Conference Center is seeking funding of \$10,000. She stated that the Center was rented for a total of 78 events in the last fiscal year which is up by 20% over the previous year. Nine of those events lasted for two days or more and four of those were organized by businesses or

agencies outside of the area. The Center agreed to rent the kitchen out commercially starting last year. There were no rentals on the kitchen but the fee was raised for caterers so that was up. She believes that it is a beneficial facility and is useful to the County to help attract people to the area.

Judy explained that the Union County Chamber of Commerce is seeking funding in the amount of \$14,070. The money is used to supplement for membership dues. Some of the things that the Chamber does on a continual basis is to promote local shopping with shop locally programs. She explained that there is an annual banquet which is a great way for the area businesses to get together and present the chamber to the community. The farmer merchant banquet is to help support and honor the local farming community. There is membership and business promotion efforts with business after hours, promoting in the newsletter and on the website. The chamber is participating in economic development efforts with UCEDC and the City of La Grande. They are working with the Chambers in the other communities to help the small chambers get going. Union County is a large area and there is a lot happening.

Commissioner McClure asked Judy why this budget doesn't show a contribution from the City of La Grande Transient Room Tax funds. Judy explained that the Chamber does not receive TRT funds for the Chamber of Commerce from the City of La Grande. They purchase an annual membership for \$165.

Judy explained that the Tourism Promotion Program is requesting funding in the amount of \$40,000. The Tourism Promotion Program started in 2010 and she feels that there has been some good results since the start of the program. She explained that they have been able to focus in the geographic market in Western Oregon and track the website to that area. She stated that last year she presented La Grande and Union County at the Oregon State Fair. They developed an outdoor recreation website and won an award from the State Chamber of Commerce. They have made sure that their literature has a similar look and feel to it.

Dan Stark, Executive Director of Union County Economic Development Corporation, explained that his proposal to the Commissioners this year is requesting \$31,200 for general operation and \$23,719 for the supplemental contract. UCEDC has decided to focus in on business retention and business recruitment goals of the plan. The request for funds for general operations would fund 25 hours a week of the director's time and 27 hours a week of the administrative assistant's time. In that program is the management of the La Grande Business Park as well as the implementation of the program that is specified in the work plan. This budget is unchanged from last year. The supplemental contract that was entered into two fiscal years ago is at the same level of request as it has been. Those funds support 10 hours a week of the director's time and 8 hours a week of the administrative assistant's time. This

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portion of the job is to focus in on the economic development activities that the County Commissioners deem important.

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that she provided the Commissioners with a summary of the collections of the Hotel/Motel taxes showing when it began being collected to the current year. She also showed the expenditures that have been made through the years. Ten years ago the County began looking at a five year average rather than changing the amount every year on the allocation. It helps the entities that the fund is supporting be able to plan budget wise. The five year average shows that the fund can support the amount requested.

Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the requests as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

The meeting went into executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(e) Real Property Transactions and 192.660(1)(d) Labor Negotiations.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Sr. Dept. Specialist II