

Board of Commissioners Meeting  
February 1, 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

Steven Donnell, 2505 East L Avenue, La Grande, spoke in support of solar energy and the benefit of utilizing solar energy to heat water.

Maxine Hines-Huber, 701 D Avenue, La Grande, spoke in support of solar energy and feels this is a great use of county renewable energy money.

Steve Bartell, owner of Bubbles Laundry, resides at 68500 Grays Corner Road, Imbler, Oregon. He currently uses solar systems and saves upwards of \$300 per month at his local laundry business, Bubbles Laundry. He stated that this program is great for the community and a good use of energy funds. Being able to employ local contractors and keep many of the dollars in the community is a good boost to the local economy.

Jeff Clark, 64718 Orchard Road, La Grande, Oregon, is a realtor with John Howard and Associates, and also is involved with Solarize Union County, presented a written proposal. Solarize Union County is a program spearheaded by Oregon Rural Action and Union County in collaboration with local Project Partners. The goal of the program is to help the residents of Union County overcome the logistical and financial obstacles of installation and utilization of a solar hot water heater system. The Commissioner's agreed that this is a great project, however, the consensus was that details need to be arranged first. Once that is completed, they will then have Mr. Clark back to the Commission for final arrangements.

Bridgett Callahan, 802 Miller Drive, La Grande, is working with Oregon Rural Action as an Americorp volunteer. She wanted to stress and solidify that this project is local and benefits directly to Union County. The goal is to make sure that the economic benefits stay in our region and Union County as much as possible.

Susan Badger-Jones, 108 S East Street, Joseph, Oregon, Energy Efficiency Consultant. She has worked directly with the Solarize Pendleton project and Oregon Solar, which is part of the support network for Solarize Union County. The education to this program would be shared with Pendleton, who is in its third year of operation, and Wallowa County, which is looking at starting up a similar solar project. She stated there is tremendous momentum behind this project since these communities are on a parallel track and this program could benefit directly by the shared resources and media.

William Whittaker, 1108 G Avenue, La Grande. He is very impressed by the forward thinking of the Commission and believes this project is a win for the community. He fully supports the proposal and appreciates the support of the Commissioner's as well.

Palmer Dobbs, 60024 Thew Loop, Cove, is a general contractor and is interested in becoming a licensed installer for the solar systems. In order to do so, he has to put in a certain number of training hours. The prospect of obtaining the needed hours locally is very beneficial to him and his family.

Elected Official, Department Head and Employee Comments

Richard Comstock, Union County Public Works Director, stated that the early buyout and approval of two graders was done a few months ago and is now ready for the third. He is asking for the approval of the early buyout on an all wheel drive grader located in the Imbler District. The early buyout comes about 1 ½ years early. Lease payments for the interest on the loan would be between 3.2% and 3.4% and is expecting the payment to be about \$28,500. This amount is less than the amount of payment currently being made. The length of term for the lease would be five years. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the road grader early buyout as suggested. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Robin Wortman, Commission on Children and Families, is working on a continuation on the Drug Free Communities Grant, and in need of signatures. There are not many changes to the program, although they will be implementing a program called Family Matters. Commissioner Davidson stated that Commission on Children and Families is most likely going to be defunded as is proposed by the Governors budget effective July 1, 2012. He questioned how we are proposing to fulfill the responsibilities to personnel with regards to the match amount of funds. At this time, Robin was unsure, but stated in the event this occurs, another department would be assigned to oversee the grant. Commissioner McClure stated that this conversation has come up before and it was suggested that CHD would be looked to as a sponsor of the grant. **Commissioner Davidson moved that it be authorized for Chairman Rosholt to sign the grant application. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

The January 11, 18, 2012 Public Works claims journals; the January 12, 18, 2012 claims journals; and the January 18, 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 the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Board of Directors

Court Order 2012-11, In The Matter of Reappointment to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Board of Directors, was presented for consideration. This Court Order will appoint Karen Antell and reappoint Norm Cimon for terms to expire on November 30, 2013. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2012-11. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appointment to the Renewable Energy Advisory Committee

Court order 2012-12, In The Matter of Appointment to the Renewable Energy Advisory Committee, was presented for consideration. This Court Order will appoint Randy Knop for a term to expire on December 31, 2014. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2012-12. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appointment to the Transient Tax Discretionary Fund Advisory Committee

Court Order 2012-13, In The Matter of Appointment to the Transient Tax Discretionary Fund Advisory Committee, was presented for consideration. This Court Order would appoint Tracy

Christopher for a term to expire on December 31, 2014. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2012-13. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appointment to the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District Budget Committee  
Court Order 2012-14, In the Matter of Appointment to the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District Budget Committee, was presented for consideration. This Court Order would reappoint Donna Heffernan and Charlie Mitchell for terms to expire on December 31, 2014. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2012-14. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consideration of a Vehicle Bid Award

A vehicle bid award for the Assessors office for a 4x4 Sport Utility vehicle for County Assessors to use in the County, was presented for consideration. Legacy Ford submitted the lowest bid for a 2012 Ford Escape, in the amount of \$22,918, and was at bid specifications. The recommendation of the Assessors office is to award this bid to Legacy Ford. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the bid award to Legacy Ford. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.** The vehicle being replaced will be rolled out to another department and used as a check out vehicle for county employees.

Wolf Depredation Grant Application

The Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program Application was presented for consideration. The application is to be submitted to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and is due by February 15, 2012. Even though the application has not been completed as yet, Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, is seeking approval to submit the grant application upon completion. The Wolf Depredation Compensation Committee will hold its first meeting this afternoon (February 1, 2012) at 4:00 p.m., and would like the opportunity to discuss the amount of grant funding with the committee. In addition, they will appoint two business applicants and discuss the draft of the program that has been developed. There is no Commission meeting prior to the deadline for submitting the grant application, which is why the request is being made today. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of submitting the grant application, but asked that the completed document be circulated to himself and Commissioner Rosholt. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Refunding Real or Personal Property Tax

Court Order 2012-15, In the Matter of Refunding Real or Personal Property Tax, authorizing a refund in the amount of \$2,115.49, was presented for consideration. A petition was received from the Treasurer and Tax Collector for a refund to David Morris, in the amount of \$2,115.49, due to the qualification as an Oregon Active Military Service Member exemption. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2012-15 as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Memorandum of Understanding between Union County and Eastern Oregon University

This agreement will allow funding paid to Eastern Oregon University for EMS/Public Safety continuing education opportunities in Union County. This was provided for in the 2011-12 Fiscal year budget. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between Union County and Eastern Oregon University. Commissioner Davidson seconded, and stated that this strengthens our connection to EOU and knows that the smaller communities appreciate the EMS training. Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 until the 10:00 a.m. Public Hearing.

### Public Hearing

Hanley Jenkins, Planning Director for Union County, presented information for the naming of a private county road. There is a Rural Addressing Ordinance that includes road naming and addressing provisions. The uniform rural addressing system identifies that routes that run north-south are Roads and east-west are generally identified as Lanes. This particular route runs north-south, and is a private easement road. The easements have been checked and there are reciprocal easements among the land owners. The Rural Addressing Ordinance requires that when three or more residences on a route are to be addressed, then the route must be named, whether it is public or private. The request is to address the most southerly property on this road, which would constitute the third residence, and therefore it is asked that the applicant pursue road naming.

The process is that the adjacent landowners impacted by the road naming participate in the development of the road name. One requirement is that the name doesn't sound like or duplicate any other road names in the county. The name agreed upon by the landowners for the naming of the road is Craddock Road, as one of the occupants on the road is Ted Craddock.

Court order 2012-08, In the Matter of the Naming of Craddock Road, was presented for consideration. Commissioner Davidson asked about the easement for the location with regards to Marks Road, wondering if the proposed road will tie-in or abut Marks Road. Mr. Jenkins stated that the easement does extend south to the dedicated right-of-way for Marks Road, but the east-west portion of Marks Road is not built. It does have private property improvements in that dedicated right-of-way, and so this is the best solution for access to the property. Tax lot 1800 is pursuing the address, and the best route for access to tax lot 1800 is down what is being proposed as Craddock Road. Commissioner McClure asked about the improvements in tax lot 1800. Mr. Jenkins stated that there is a house, corral, storage shed and gravel pile that are in the dedicated right-of-way, but that these are located in tax lot 3800.

Cliff Woodell, 406 G Avenue, La Grande. Mr. Woodell stated that his property is the furthest one down on tax lot 1800. When he got his address, it was listed as Marks Road, and his property was not located on Marks Road, so he talked with the County about the naming of this road.

As there were no additional comments or concerns, Commissioner Rosholt stated that the Public Hearing would close and would commence with the general session of the Commission meeting.

**Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2012-08, as presented.  
Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Powers  
Department Specialist