

Board of Commissioners Meeting
July 7, 2011

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

Call To Order

Chairman McClure called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all three Commission members present.

Bridge Material Award

Bob Kelly, Public Works Assistant Director, explained that Union County Public Works Department advertised for the replacement of Little Creek Bridge for the City of Union. There were two bids received. Big R Manufacturing bid \$41,995 and Eagle Cap Steel bid \$39,434.11. He is recommending that the Commissioners award the bid to Eagle Cap Steel for \$39,434.11.

Commissioner Davidson moved to award the bid to Eagle Cap Steel as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Flood Damage Repair

Bob explained that because of the flooding and high water on the road system they feel it is necessary to set some funds aside to do repairs on the roads. An estimate of \$300,000 will be needed to take care of those repairs and put the roads back to a safe condition. There were 23 roads under water this Spring as well as two mud slides on two different roads that will need to be fixed. Because of the moisture and the amount of precipitation the base is saturated on the paved roads. It has caused pot holes and soft spots in those roads. They had budgeted for \$40,000 for hot mix this year. If they want to try and recover those roads and save them without being destroyed and turned back to gravel they will need to double that amount of money to take care of hot mix patches. Their first recommendation would be to reduce their chip seal program. They had originally scheduled 19.8 miles of chip seal to be done in the North Powder area. They would like to move the chip seal into the valley and do 9.8 miles on their arterials and major collectors with the idea to keep those up in good shape. In their preservation pavement program they have 150 miles of paved roads. To stay on a seven year rotation which is required to keep them up in shape they would have to do 21 miles of chip seal a year. They haven't been able to do that in the last 10 years and it is showing. They would also like to either reduce or eliminate the dust abatement program. They haven't had a dust abatement program for dust for about the last 20 years. They used to have a program to help property owners but because of the increase in material and the decrease in funding the program had been removed. They now go out and maintain the road; water it, grade it and get it prepped. The dust abatement then comes in and does it for the property owners who incur that cost. They have done 5 miles of road stabilization with the material on three of their roads with steep grades and hills. It is just for

stabilization only. They would like to eliminate that. The cost this year would be \$10,000 a mile for dust abatement. They can grade, water and roll a road for about \$450 a mile. They will need to do that more often but even if they have to do it often they are still into it a lot less per mile.

Commissioner Rosholt asked if the citizens realize it is not dust abatement. Bob stated that most of them don't. Commissioner McClure explained that any time that services are being reduced the County will receive phone calls.

Commissioner McClure asked if they have thought about using any Magnum Chloride on Morgan Lake Road. Bob stated that they could use it. The reason they haven't used it in the past is that they have tried it back in the early 80s. A South facing slope like Owsley Canyon or Fox Hill it bleaches out in about a week. The Forest Service uses it a lot in the mountains because it is shaded and there is moisture first thing in the morning that picks up the residue and reworks it. It could be worth trying on Morgan Lake Road. It is quite a bit cheaper than the material that they usually use.

Commissioner McClure would like them to try Magnum Chloride on Morgan Lake Road. He thinks the chip sealing recommendation makes sense. Because of the flooding the Public Works Department is behind. It would almost be impossible to get all of that rock hauled to North Powder. He explained that he talked to J.B. Brock, Emergency Services Officer, who stated that there may be an opportunity to receive some Federal funding to help repair some of the roads. There are still places that cannot be repaired because the water is still too high.

Bob explained that if the money isn't used to chip seal this year. It can be rolled over to use for chip sealing next year.

Consent Agenda

The June 16, 22 and 23 claims journals; the June 15 and 22 Public Works claims journals; and the May 18 Board of Commissioners Minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Marine Board Contract

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, brought the fiscal year 2011-12 contract between Union County and the State of Oregon for the boating safety and law enforcement services, to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this is a renewal for an ongoing contract that the County has with the Marine Board. They provide \$10,341 for the Sheriff's department to provide marine patrol at Wolf Creek, Pilcher Creek, and Thief Valley. The County's required contribution for the agreement is \$7,115 and most of that is in fuel and little bit of labor. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the contract for Boating Safety and Law Enforcement Services as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

4-H & Extension Lease Agreement

Shelley brought a lease between Union County 4-H & Extension Service District and Union County to the Commissioners for approval. She explained that this lease is for the space in the Ag Service Center for the assistant water master. She stated that she needs the Commissioners approval acting as the Board of Commissioners for Union County to enter into the lease and then as the Board of Directors for the 4-H & Extension District as well. It is a five year lease. It is for 130 sq. ft. office space. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the lease agreement with the 4-H & Extension Service District as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Acting as the Board of Directors for the 4-H & Extension Service District Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the lease with Union County as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Uncollectable Personal Property Tax Court Order

Court Order 2011-38, In the Matter of Cancellation of Uncollectable Personal Property Taxes, was presented for consideration. This court order has come to the Commissioners at the request of the Assessor/Tax Collector. It has been approved by the District Attorney. These cancellations would be pursuant to ORS 311.790. This Court Order would cancel the property taxes for Benjamin Brown Book and Billiards, Tina Richardson, Cathryn Sanders, Tom and Debbie Rachau, and Raquel Hickey. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2011-38 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Business Recruitment Strategy and Budget

Dan Stark, UCEDC, explained that the document that he is presenting is a draft and has not been reviewed by their communications marketing team or the Board. The communications marketing team met a few weeks ago and have set an August 4th meeting date to further pursue the discussion of business recruitment. In preparation for that he has begun putting together what a recruitment program would look like and to detail some of the action items that need to be done before business recruitment is done. He also included action items that would be involved in the actual implementation of that program. He thinks this is something new. He does not believe that the County has ever done an effort to recruit. They have reacted to business leads from the State. The community readiness is something that needs to be worked on. There is a workshop next week that will talk about site selection criteria and what companies look for when they are looking at potential sites. To understand that would help the County to begin to identify the local assets and liabilities.

He explained that he has layed out a document that talks about organization, the goals and activities for this coming year for UCEDC as well as the strategic plan that was put together in 2009 which designates UCEDC as the lead organization

for developing and implementing business recruitment. He stated that what they would be looking at would be to form an advisory committee of 10-12 people to help advise how the program is implemented and carried out. They are beginning to gather names of some potential people. The second part of the document is the community readiness. There are a lot of holes to fill and some things to do so that UCEDC has the data information and structure to support going out and doing business recruitment. He would like to have a website presence that addresses what people want to find out. He stated that the Union County website has the least information on it. He is looking at developing a template so that if they get a business lead they can quickly put together a response document. The one practice that they did it took almost a week and a half to pull together the information to do the response. The advisory committee would work with the communications marketing team in assessing the marketing message and the type of product that will be circulated. He also addressed in the document that they need to define the target industries which will take work. They need to identify the types of industries that they will try and recruit but they will also define the industries that best match the local resources. They are marketing to the La Grande Business Park which is a shovel ready property. It is unique and will have a narrower niche of companies that will be marketed to regarding that property. There are some private properties available. There is 60 acres at the Baum Industrial Park. There is 30 acres in Union and there are also some smaller pieces throughout the County that could be marketed but they need to get the owners to the table and get their buy-in to participate in marketing the properties. There is an action timeline.

He stated that the budget that he has discussed with the committee and the UCEDC Board looks to be about \$18,500 for the year. Of that \$10,250 is hard costs that would be expended. The other \$7,000 would be if they wanted to attend some trade shows. There is a small amount to cover some travel for UCEDC staff in order to make some company visits. He explained that there is \$5400 set aside in his budget for advertising and marketing and a portion of that is the business part. He thinks there would be about \$3500 towards the recruitment process.

Commissioner Rosholt asked Dan why he thinks there needs to be such a large committee with 10-12 people. He explained that he felt it would be wise to bring local businesses who have been to trade shows and have contacts to the table as well as other key people.

Commissioner McClure stated that it is a very difficult climate for business recruitment right now. The unemployment rate nationally makes it very competitive. He supports the efforts to go out and actively promote the community. Commissioner McClure stated that the biggest issue is the land acquisition.

Dan stated that they will have a meeting on August 4th to discuss this plan that he has put together.

Commissioner Rosholt asked why Union County gets hit harder for funds than the City of La Grande when he sees this as a bigger benefit to the City with the industrial park. Dan explained that the budget was one that he put together. He thinks the discussion should be how to equitably split the cost. He stated that it is a negotiated item. Commissioner McClure stated that in this county there is one hub and it is the City of La Grande. If anything happens in any of the outlying areas it will benefit the City of La Grande with the possible exception of North Powder. He would argue with the City of La Grande that their participation directly benefits them. It is because of the geography of the County that it works that way. Commissioner Rosholt explained that the reason why he asked that question was because Dan mentioned the inefficiency of the Union County website which will take some money to put together and fix the way it should be. It is necessary to update the website. Dan stated that he would like to get everyone in the community that has community based websites together and coordinate with each other.

Commissioner McClure stated that he agrees that the County website needs to be updated. He feels that the County needs to budget some money to get the website up to date. He feels that the website does not engage the public in what the County is doing enough.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Sr. Dept. Specialist