

Board of Commissioners Meeting
March 5, 2014

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

Chairman McClure opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with all three Commissioners present.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Circuit Court Facility Site Selection

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that the purpose of her staff report is to bring every one up to date on where the County is at with the new court facility. In 2008 the Union County Court Facilities located in the old St. Joseph hospital building were ranked as worst in the state (48th of 48) in a study of court facilities commissioned by the State and performed by Hennebery Eddy Architects. In August, 2008, at the request of then Chief Justice Paul DeMuniz, Union County formed a Court Facility Task Force to review the space needs, potential locations, costs and funding opportunities for a new facility. The Task Force was co-chaired by Judge Russell West and retired Judge Warner and the Commission representative was Commissioner Nellie Hibbert. There were subcommittees formed on location, space needs and financing. During the activities of that Committee they secured funding for the completion of a Court Facility Master Plan which was finalized in November of 2009. The needs that were reviewed by the Committee during their work were the Circuit Court, county juvenile department, community corrections, District Attorney's office, Sheriff's office, county jail, La Grande Police Department, and 911 dispatch.

The Committee submitted two Federal appropriation requests to receive funding assistance. In February 2009 appropriation requests were submitted to Representative Greg Walden and Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkeley. The amount requested was \$14,872,000 which would have funded a full Justice Center which would have housed Circuit Court, DA, juvenile, parole & probation, Sheriff, La Grande police department, 911, and jail. No funding was approved. The next request was submitted in February 2010 to Senators Wyden and Merkeley and Representative Walden for \$5,118,297 and would have also utilized \$1,781,000 in Recovery Zone Facility Bonds. The funding would have allowed for construction of a third floor on the current law enforcement facility and would have housed only Circuit Court. No funding was approved.

Shelley explained that over the two years that the Task Force worked they considered multiple sites and narrowed the possibilities down to three sites which were reviewed in detail in the Court Facilities Master Plan prepared by Chang-Ming Yeh, a Facility Planner from the National Center for State Courts. Two of the three sites were of campus sites at that time.

In November 2010, the Task Force concluded their work after having made the recommendation for construction of a third floor on the existing law enforcement facility to house only Circuit Court. The factors contributing to the on-campus location was the proximity to related services, lower overall project cost, and lower ongoing operating costs.

In 2012, the county funded feasibility studies to determine if the proposed addition of a third floor to the existing law enforcement building was cost effective. The studies estimated the cost of the third floor addition at \$6.1 million due to the need to upgrade much of the existing infrastructure.

Because the county was unable to fund a \$6.1 million expenditure and there was still a need and a strong push from the local Circuit Court Judges for a new facility and an indication from the Oregon Judicial Department that they would advocate for state funding assistance. In late 2012, Union County submitted a request for funding in the amount of \$2 million to the Department of Justice for a new Court facility. The project cost was estimated at \$3,069,910 which would include a new two-story building to be located within the current county campus. This was a substitute alternative identified by the National Center for State Courts project team in the November 2009 Court Facilities Master Plan. The county pledged to provide \$750,000 in cash with the remainder in land and in-kind services toward completion of the project.

After much effort and lobbying \$2,000,000 was allocated to Union County via HB5016 for the Court facility project. This was an approval that came to the County from the Legislature. The \$750,000 that the County had pledged was obtained through full faith and credit obligations that were issued December 23, 2013. In January 2014 a contract was signed with the Oregon Judicial Department for the \$2,000,000. The contract requires construction of a 13,000 square foot facility to house only state courts. The county must receive proposals on a design/build structure and contract with a contractor by October 1, 2014 and the facility must be constructed by October 1, 2015. If the funds are not spent by October 1, 2015 the funds must be returned to the State.

Following execution of the agreement with the Oregon Judicial Department, the Circuit Court judges and staff informed the County of their preference for a one-story facility. They indicated that workflow efficiencies and public service would be improved with a one-story facility. They also expressed concern about the very lean budget and indicated the funds that would be required for two elevators could be better spent. The estimated cost of an elevator is \$90,000 each for a total of \$180,000 for the construction of two elevators. In addition to the construction cost of \$180,000, elevator maintenance is estimated at over \$1 million for the 50 year life expectancy of a building.

The Commissioners are now at a point where they need to make a site selection and the criteria that is recommended for consideration is an on-campus facility, proximity to local law enforcement building to recognize efficiencies in handling Jail inmates,

meeting the City of La Grande Development code requirements, housing only State Courts and Court personnel, the DOJ contract terms that require selection of a contractor by October 1, 2014, and must provide for a 13,000 sq. ft facility within the \$2,750,000 budget for design and construction.

Hanley Jenkins, Planning Director, explained that the effort is trying to find a site on campus and in order to do that the County would need to meet the City of La Grande's Land Development Codes. He has been in conversations with the City trying to identify what the requirements would be. It looked like there was a potential for four different kinds of applications that the County would have to submit to the City to be in compliance with their Codes and meet their requirements. All along it was very clear that the biggest challenge is trying to create off street parking opportunities associated with the location of a new building. Because a new building would be constructed somewhere on the County campus the County would be subject to meeting the City's formula for off street parking. He looked at what the opportunities might be to meet that formula. What that meant was to first identify what the existing parking opportunities are now and what the demand would be based on the square footage and the number of employees that the County has and would be projected in the new building. One of the recommendations that the City made to the County early on was that K Street be vacated which is its own application and is part of the City's Land Development Code. The street would be vacated between 5th and 6th Street. Vacating that Street would give the County the opportunity for new off street parking. There are approximately 28 parking spaces that are within that segment of K Street. He has submitted the vacation application on February 18th. His hope is that he will have a decision by the City by May 1st on whether that is a viable option.

Another issue would be to look at what the change would be in the traffic. The City's Land Development Code requires that if a new facility is constructed and that new facility will generate 400 average daily trips than the City requires a Traffic Impact Study to be done. There have been a number of conversations with the City on whether or not the facility would create that many trips. He believes that he can demonstrate with findings that it will only generate about 200 average daily trips and therefore a traffic impact study is not necessary. He is hoping that will be an application that will not have to be submitted to the City.

If the County cannot meet the off street parking requirements than the County has the option to pursue a variance application. The variance application has specific criteria that have to be satisfied. The first criteria is that the County demonstrate that there is some exceptional or extraordinary condition that exists with the property in order to get variance approval. The City believes that because the County is the party requesting a new location and building the facility on a new site that is a self-imposed condition rather than a physical condition associated with the property. The City believes that it would be difficult for the County to get approval for a variance on the parking standards. With that understanding the County than set about the task to try and calculate the maximum number of parking spaces that can be generated on campus to see if the

parking standards could be met. He stated that there are currently 125 off street parking spaces within the two blocks that make up the County campus. The parking standards require that there be 182 spaces. He believes that he has found the 57 spaces on campus. He has demonstrated to the City how the spaces will be created. It will mean converting some of the grassed landscaped area around the facilities into parking lot but the standard can be met so a variance application will not need to be submitted. The standard can be met based on one site and that site is where the Shelter from the Storm building is located. If the County picks a different site than the County will probably have to put in a variance application.

The last application that would need to be submitted to the City is a Site Plan Application. It would identify the site once it is selected, identify the new parking and the existing parking, connection to utilities, landscaping and a number of other factors are required as well. A site plan cannot be denied but it can be required to be changed. That would not be submitted until a contractor is selected. Some of the biggest concern is the amount of time it is going to take to get the application process completed.

Commissioner Davidson asked Hanley if he could describe the lengths the County will have to go to and the location of the parking work to meet that requirement. Hanley explained that the area immediately South of the Commissioners building has two parking lots now. There is a one way traffic flow that comes off of 6th Street and that parking area will be maintained. There is a larger parking lot to the South that is divided by a landscape area that has trees and grass. That larger parking lot can have a new travel isle and parking lane in that larger parking area by reducing the grass strip adjacent to J and reducing the amount of grass area between the two parking lots. The second lot that would be created is to the East of the Commissioner's building between that building and 6th Street which is now a large grassy area. It would be identified for two parking lanes and it would "L" around the North side of the Commissioner's building where there would be a single parking lane that would exit onto the vacated K Street. K Street would be blocked off so there would not be an opportunity for through traffic. Any footprint for any site has an impact on the parking. Even with the footprint where the Shelter building is there are 18 parking spaces lost which was factored into the formula.

Commissioner Rosholt asked Hanley if he could briefly explain the other options that the County looked at to site the facility. Hanley explained that there were several sites. One was East and North of the Commissioner's building. Second, would be to site the Circuit Court where the Shelter building is located and moving the Commissioners and administrative services into the Joseph Building where Circuit Court is now and moving the Shelter into the Commissioners building. Third, locating the Courts where the Commissioner's building is now by removing the Commissioner's building and rebuilding Circuit Court on that footprint. Fourth, siting the court facility between the Shelter and the Jail where there is 84 feet between the buildings so there could be a very narrow building built there. Fifth, would be a two-story building anywhere on campus. Sixth, would be to site the court facility where the Shelter is now and Seventh would be similar to the Sixth but it would identify the Shelter being located in the Waller

block which is immediately North of where they are located now. The block is for sale. There is a residential home that has 4000 sq. ft. in it.

Commissioner McClure asked Shelley if she felt that the timeline is reasonable to complete a RFP process by October 1, 2014. Shelley explained that it is important to get the RFP out soon so that there is adequate time allowed for those that would be interested in submitting proposals. Any delay would delay the time that can be allowed for proposals to be developed in order to get through the process and meet the deadline.

Commissioner McClure asked Shelley what happens to the \$2 million if the County does not meet the deadlines specified in the Agreement. Shelley stated that the State Legislature approved the appropriation of \$2 million and it is clear in the Agreement that if the money has not been spent by October 1, 2015 that the funds have to be returned to the State. She believes that it would require legislative re-approval if it is not used within the time frame given. It was not a department decision it was a Legislative appropriation. Commissioner McClure asked if it would have to be a Legislative process for the timeline to be adjusted or if the Department of Justice could make that decision. Shelley explained that it is her understanding that it would have to be a Legislative process and that DOJ cannot make that determination.

Judge Russ West, presiding Judge for Union and Wallowa Counties, stated that this has been a big project for him and everyone that works in the courts. He pointed out that the courthouse is a place where everyone comes in the community to solve their problems, to deal with community safety issues and to litigate their cases. He believes that the courthouse needs to be dignified but not opulent. He is not here to ask for a courthouse with pillars but wants something that will serve their purpose and yet be dignified and something the community can be proud of. He stated that he appreciated Shelley's background because he was going to say a lot of the things that she had explained. The reason it is important is to show that this issue has been studied extensively. A great deal of time, money and energy has been spent on studying this project.

Judge West explained that the courts were moved in 1990 into the basement of the Jail facility and moved two years later into the Joseph building where they are located now. The footprint is 140'X109' approximately. It would provide about 13,000 sq. ft. on the interior which is needed. They set about to receive funding three times and were denied by the Legislature. To his knowledge it is the only time the State has funded the majority of a courthouse project. The footprint had to be evaluated because it is a \$3 million total project and the costs to build a two story building would be too high. A two-story building also wouldn't work because it is very inefficient to have the courts on two separate floors. The resources have to be spread throughout the building instead of in a central location. Ideally there would be three elevators; public, private and prisoner. It would push the budget over the limit. The current proposed location where the Shelter building is would be next to the Jail where a breezeway could be constructed to bring the prisoners into the courthouse. He wants to apologize to Teresa Crouser and her Board

at the Shelter because they feel that they have been left out of the process and that they haven't been able to give input and for that he is sorry but it is time to face reality that given the budget restraints and given the time limits it is the only location that will work. They don't have the time to wait for a grant to build a multi-purpose justice center. They are on a biennium budget cycle and the funds have to be spent by the end of the biennium. If there was another location he would be all for it but he feels that this is the best option and he supports the decision to site the court facility where the Shelter building currently sits.

Judge West recognizes that the Shelter from the Storm provides a vital service and the courts will work with them and allow their clients to appear by video if they have to move a distance away. They will do whatever the law allows to try and accommodate them. The Shelter averages about one restraining order every ten days and the courts is willing to work with them on those as well because they feel their service is important. He urged the Commissioners to locate the project at the location where the Shelter is and move forward. There is a risk of losing the funds that were fought so hard for.

Judge Brian Dretke, Union County Court, stated that a two-story courthouse is just not feasible. The current courthouse is two-stories and it is substandard for a court facility. He explained that himself and Judge West are not specialists where they handle only certain cases. They handle all cases. A lot of the cases come together. It is not efficient to have the courts on two floors. The costs of the elevators has been discussed and is true. He explained that it gives him no pleasure to displace the Shelter building. The Shelter provides a wonderful service to the people that need the service within the community. The County has an obligation to provide a facility that serves everyone in the community. The facility has to be a one-story facility and has to be close proximity to the Jail to efficiently serve the community. He stated that he will do everything he can to work with the Shelter and make sure it doesn't interrupt their current situation. He feels that the location where the Shelter building sits is the best location on campus for the court facility.

David Baum, Attorney, explained that he has practiced law in La Grande for almost 40 years. He originally tried jury trials in the first courthouse that had to be condemned. About 22 years ago the courts moved to the St. Joseph building. The building was a hospital and has been very difficult to try a case. There are pillars in the courtrooms which makes it difficult to examine a witness and talk to the jury correctly. He feels that a new courthouse is needed. The County has a \$2 million grant and he would hate to have the timeline of October 2014 go by without a contract or October 2015 go by without spending the money. This is the County's one chance. He is not going to be doing jury trials much anymore but he is going to have partners that will come along that will try cases and he would like them to have a courthouse that would be good for the next 50 years. He understands the Shelter's position but because of the way the Land Use Planning laws read he feels the Commissioners have one choice. He thinks it is important for the County not to let this opportunity be lost.

Bruce Anderson, Attorney, 1206 Penn Ave. La Grande, explained that he has been in private practice in this area since 1988. Everyone has known that this courthouse project has been going on officially since 2008 and unofficially back into the 1980's. Going into a space that represents justice for the community should not be a nickel and dime operation. He has practiced law in the Portland area before moving to La Grande. He has been in about half of the courthouses in the 36 counties in Oregon. Union County is the worst. He doesn't know of a county that has had its building inspector condemn its courthouse. That is what prompted the move to the basement of the Jail which was supposed to be temporary and then moved into the Joseph building. Everyone knows the limitations of that building.

As recently as this morning Bruce wanted to speak with Judge West so he walked up the three floors of steps to the civil courts records office where staff screens any visitors to the Judge's office on the third floor. He was told the Judge was in court. His court room is on the third floor. There is no passage from his office to the courtroom. He walked down the three flights of stairs went outside the building to another entrance where he went in and went up another three flights of stairs to go to the courtroom. The Judge was not in the courtroom. He then walked back down the three flights of stairs and went outside and back in the other entrance up another three flights of stairs and he was in his office. On his way he ran into a woman who was trying to find her way. It is very confusing for people to find their way through the current court building. He is in favor of the proposal.

Bruce Anderson explained that everyone knows what a valuable service the Shelter performs. He knows that the people past and present that provide that service do a wonderful job. The Shelter relied on Union County to provide the footprint they have which allowed them to get the grants they received to build the building they have. He urged the Commissioners and other community leaders to not break faith with the Shelter from the Storm but to keep faith and do everything possible to minimize the disruption of going forward with this proposal. This is a window of opportunity with a very narrow time frame and limited geographic options. He will personally and professionally do everything that he is able to assist the Shelter with whatever consequences flow from the decision made today. This community has some history from his observation of doing things piecemeal like the County office building that was built during this time and the Shelter building that was built during this time. He would hope that the Commissioners, their successors and other community leaders can go forward with this decision without back biting and work together. He hopes that the community can go forward with whatever the decision is in a united way. He hopes from this history that the community can learn some lessons and not defer maintenance and not hope that someone else like the Legislature will take care of the things going forward. He thinks the community can do better and he hopes they will.

Steve Joseph, 806 Highland Place, La Grande, explained that he came to La Grande in 1975 to practice law. He wants to echo the comments of each of the previous speakers. During this period of time in La Grande he has also had the opportunity to see the

facilities that are outside of this area. The reflection of a community of its courthouse is so significant. He has tried cases in the old courthouse and tried them in the basement of the Jail facility and was participating in the activities of the community when the Jail facility was first built with its long range plans and goals of the extended floors and courthouse facilities. Because the situation before the Commissioners is regrettable and no one is against what the Shelter from the Storm does the siting issues are so paramount for the communities overall good that the County has to go forward with the proposals that have been presented to the Commissioners with the construction funding that has been limited and never available before. He didn't think he would ever see Union County get a courthouse. He feels the Commissioners need to move forward for the communities good. He knows the financial circumstances are a unique once in a lifetime opportunity for this County.

Mary McCracken, 63036 Buchanan Lane, asked what the Shelter from the Storm building cost to construct. Shelley explained that she doesn't have the files with her to give the amount. Mary stated that she felt it would have cost at least \$2 million to construct. Shelley stated that she knows the cost was less than \$500,000 to construct but she didn't have the exact amount. She stated that the Shelter building was built on campus for a reason. It was designed and grants were written by the Shelter Director after many years of being housed in the basement of the old courthouse. They were able to write grants to get their operation in a dignified and appropriate building on campus as it should be. She pointed out that the grant writing in Union County has gone from \$14 million to \$5 million to \$2 million. She doesn't feel like \$2 million is a huge amount of money and she can't see why they are rushed into destroying a very appropriate building to serve another group with the same campus interests of justice and serving the public. The Shelter building has as much right to be on campus as every other building. If it would be built somewhere else to begin with, with the thought of building a courthouse she thinks the County Commission is showing a real lack of vision and seeing the big picture. She believes they should go back to the drawing board and try and get a larger grant and have an all-encompassing building built near the animal shelter where there has been a lot of money invested in infrastructure.

Mary stated that she also sees that the Joseph building is well beyond its 50 year life expectancy. It is a difficult building to operate in and she suggests tearing it down and build the facility that is needed. She stated that she has never seen any of the Commissioners at the Shelter fundraisers. Although everyone is giving lip service to the Shelter she has seen no involvement from the County Commissioners and she is not sure that they realize the depth of their involvement within the community. She opposes being rushed to knock a perfectly good building that is serving an important service down because there is \$2 million dangling in front of the County.

Steven Donnell, 2505 East L Avenue, explained that he has been watching this debate about what to do. He stated that one of the questions that need to be answered and people need to know where the extra money is coming from for the grant. He supplied a letter to the Commissioners on Monday for the record. He stated that if he were to come

In as a stranger to this meeting he would have thought that parking was being discussed. He hears nothing about what this meeting is all about. It is about the safety, health and welfare of the people of this County. There are inadequate facilities. There is a building that was built and he was a part of when Earl Misener was Judge. The old County courthouse had to be removed so a building was built that was supposed to be three stories. There was not enough money for three stories. There was a temporary roof put on and there it sits. He proposes that the Courthouse be put on the top floor of that building. It can then be added to and there is plenty of room to add to it all the way around. That would be a cost effective situation.

Stephen stated that one of the functions of the County Commissioners according to the State constitution is safety, health and welfare. A big issue in this situation is the Shelter from the Storm. There was a number of people himself included that asked for and received a Block Grant to build a facility specifically for their function and their needs. One of the functions that is in that building is security. That building is made for security of the people. They are the people that the Commissioners are supposed to address and take care of with the facilities and money they have. If the County doesn't have enough money the County is responsible to go to the public and say what is available and show a cost effective analysis and whether or not what the County has can be modified at a lesser cost. A new building will completely rebuild the infrastructure that is already existing in the building the County has.

Stephen has talked to a lot of people and a lot of people are concerned. There is a changing society. There is now a drug society. Nobody knows including the police but have a taste of what will happen with Colorado who has legalized a narcotic drug. Anyone will tell you that will produce big problems because it is a gateway drug. What is going to happen when that group of people start coming into the system. Has the County made any provisions for expanding, more security, more jail space. He would like to see a forward looking group that addresses the whole problem. The police chief, the sheriff, social workers, and judges have all told the County they have a need but the first twenty minutes of the meeting has been about parking. It doesn't make sense to him.

Stephen worked with the County when the Chaplin building was being built and buildings at the College which he was responsible for. He also was working with the architects and engineers with the building the County has now. The contractor was working from prints made by the electrical and mechanical engineer who was also doing the electrical and mechanical engineering for the College. He is well aware of what is in the building and when the architects and engineers had a problem with the building instead of sending someone out he volunteered his time to the County and to them and would find out what the problem was and get them the information. It benefited the County because it piggybacked with the work at the college. The County got the Jail facility at a steal. As always there is a monetary problem. He thinks that the Commission are at the point since they have the money and have a time frame to come to the people and show the plans to get the extra money that the County has to have.

Show the people of the County that they have made a cost effective analysis and that this is the most bang for the buck. Above all else the people that the Commissioners are serving are the people that go to Shelter from the Storm, the police chief that has to put someone in a jail, the county Sheriff that has to police the whole County. The Commissioners need to make sure they are being served at the level they want and above all else this is a justice building and it is supposed to be a courthouse. The judges, the District Attorney and the other people that use this facility that will be built have satisfied that they have everything they have to have after they have looked in their crystal ball of what is coming down the line.

John Howard, former County Commissioner, 62359 Stanley Lane, expressed his thanks to the County Commissioners, Judge West and others that have been involved in receiving funds for the new courthouse. He knows all the time commitment and the feeling of receiving funds and losing them when the session is over. He feels that the Commissioners are on the right track. He has to honor the people that are involved in the decision making process. The County is on a short timeframe to make decisions. There have been opportunities for voters to give a chance to support ballot initiatives and that has been voted down three times. He thinks the opportunity of trying to get the voter support for some larger project is over and putting everything at risk he would advise going on with the process. The prospect of being denied a fourth time and losing \$2 million and then still at the bottom for the worst Courthouse In the State of Oregon isn't the image that the County wants to have. He would offer his support to continue on with the efforts and he encouraged the Commissioners to work with the Shelter from the Storm, who provide a valuable service to the people of the County, with relocation efforts.

Nellie Bogue Hibbert, former County Commissioner, 62478 Carroll Lane, explained that she appreciates and supports this effort to get a new courthouse. When she was County Clerk she had a National Historian come in the office and ask where the Courthouse was. She explained that she didn't have a Courthouse but a location where the courts do business but nothing with a designation of a Courthouse. He was amazed and told her that this was the only County in the United States that doesn't have a Courthouse. The County also has the distinction of having the worst court facilities in the State of Oregon. Those are two designation in which the County cannot be proud of. Not only for the aesthetics and removing those about the County she would support the County moving ahead with a court facility. However, she is a little dismayed that the Shelter from the Storm will be disrupted and their efforts to reach out to the community. Knowing that the building was built specifically for the Shelter puts a new connection to her as to what that building was meant for and why it was built and the needs that it meets. The Commissioners know what her preference was when she was on the Commission. She had an architect come in and look at the existing law enforcement building and also had a contractor come in and look at it and said it was fully sound for putting another story or two-stories above that building for what it was meant to do. Even though that is her choice and apparently not the current Commissioners choice she still supports moving forward with building the court building. It is needed and is

time to move forward. She knows of all the hours that have been devoted to this process that began before her tenure. She encouraged the Commissioners to move forward but in doing so make sure that the Shelter from the Storm is given the courtesy and respect that they deserve to serve the community.

John Howard explained that if the Commissioners are to go out to the voters to pass a bond it would be in direct competition with the La Grande School District. They already have a committee organized that is looking at the facilities. They are looking for \$14 million worth of projects and they will be asking the tax payers for funding. He feels that if the Commissioners are going to go down that road they should talk to the School District about their plans.

Valerie Schlichting, 1104 K Avenue, Office Manager for the Union County District Attorney's office, read a statement from Chief Deputy District Attorney John Schilling. He is sorry that he cannot address the Commission this morning but he is orienting the new grand jury. Ironically, several of the cases that this new grand jury will hear will be domestic violence cases. This County has a troubling domestic violence problem. He handles virtually all of the domestic violence cases in the District Attorney's office and these cases are a substantial part of his case load. In this role he works closely with a number of community partners in trying to achieve justice for victims. One absolutely vital partner in this ongoing goal is Shelter from the Storm and its staff. Having trained and caring people for these victims are essential to the best chances for success and achieving the goal from the day the victim first reaches out for help through the court process and beyond. Having a physical location for the staff to provide the lifeline to those victims is just as essential. The domestic violence victim faces a sometimes crushing array of pressures; emotional, financial, familial and logistical to not follow through with changing the dynamics of a relationship with someone who is controlling and hurting them in every possible way. Though others in the system provide important support to them having the resources the Shelter from the Storm provides and a facility close to the courthouse is extremely important to helping the victims escape the abuse, have an alternative to continue to live in the abuse and provide needed services of protection, shelter, food and counseling. While the court process plays out to provide a hopefully more permanent solution to those challenges though staff members and the Shelter itself must continue to be available without interruption. Otherwise, he foresees hard fought grants frozen because the services are not being offered and consequently a domino effect of frustrated police officers, shelter staff members, victim advocates, prosecutors, judges, councilors and probation officers. More important, he foresees victims increasingly recanting, abuse continuing and abusers feeling a license to inflict physical, emotional and mental injury on their victims. He asked the Commissioners to develop a plan to make a requirement equal in the importance to building the new courthouse to ensure that the Shelter from the Storm continues to provide services without interruption.

Maureen Kelly, 81062 Stackland Road, Cove, explained that she is a relative new comer to the area so she doesn't know some of the history of the courthouse. One of

the things that she is surprised that the Commissioners would even consider tearing down an existing building that is providing essential services to the County to build the courthouse. She understands the reason for wanting a new courthouse. She asked if Shelter from the Storm is getting any compensation for moving. Commissioner McClure explained that the Commissioners are there to hear what the public has to say and if she has questions she can direct those to staff after the meeting. She thinks that the existing structure should stay the way it is and other options should be looked at. She thinks the Commissioners need to look a little more detailed at the impact on everyone in the community that this will have. She understands the need for the courthouse but she thinks that can be addressed and more money will be available later.

Linda Hill, Union County Assessor/Tax Collector, explained that she wasn't planning on speaking but she would like to give some perspective. She doesn't have any interest in the new courthouse but she has worked for the County for 24 years. She has always been thankful that the Commissioners at the time found the resources to build the Chaplin building which was not easy. The County has never been flush with money and the County has had to make do a lot of times with what they have and have done a good job and the best they can. The County pushes forward and finds the resources and provided a good building for her department because it makes a difference to be able to provide an efficient service to the citizens the County serves. The Commissioners are faced with a dilemma and not an easy decision. It is unfortunate that something has to go in order to have the courthouse that is needed. Listening to what testimony has been given and knowing what it was like to work in a building that didn't have the infrastructure that is needed or didn't give the efficiencies that are needed she encouraged the Commissioners to take the resources that are available and go forward with a new courthouse. She doesn't see how the County can walk away from the money that is there because she doesn't see that the opportunity will come again.

Ken Waters, 66437 Hunter Road, explained that he is hearing speculation that no moneys will come here again and this is a once in a lifetime opportunity and it has to be acted upon now. It seems as though the County has acted on it and have received a certain amount of money. Acting on it some more may get some more money and actually be able to build a building that would be sufficient for everyone. He stated that sometimes it is necessary to sit back and take a look at what the long term goals are and if the County acts as if there is only one chance in a lifetime to do something there are mistakes made. Considering the fact that there is money available, there are legislators that are willing and interested in helping this problem out and maybe taking a second look at getting enough money to build a building that would adequately house all the people is more important than jumping into something and building an inadequate facility as well as getting rid of an adequate facility. \$2 million doesn't build a lot of building. There are alternatives and no question that there is a rush and a concern about it but is it the right action to take only because that it is a belief that only one time \$2 million will come to this County and never again will it ever happen. He thinks that some long term thought in regards to this is important and needed. He appreciates that

the court system is definitely a problem but take a look at what can be done that doesn't destroy an existing beautiful working building and do something else that could work such as a building with parking underneath of it if it as to stay in the campus. If that can't be done correctly sometimes it is best to do nothing at all.

Laura Morgan, 2705 N. Birch, La Grande, explained that she has been with Shelter from the Storm from the very beginning. Shelter from the Storm has also bounced around the community. They started in the basement of the Joseph building. She originally thought that the County donated that space but she found that they paid for that space. They were then donated space in the basement of the old courthouse in the public health area. When that building was condemned the County did not offer them anything. The City picked the Shelter up and paid for a year's worth of rent at the Sac Annex building. They were glad that they were waiting for the Block Grant that the County had supported them to get a new building. It took five years for the designs to be approved. It was designed specifically for their services and works for their services. Their client numbers have increased over the years not only because they are more visible in the community but also because they have a safe environment for them to come to. The current building is visible and protected not only by the courts but by the fact that the police station is next door. There have been many times that they have had to call law enforcement because abusers were waiting or circling the block. They are able to lockdown the building. It is a secure one story building and children can go immediately into a play room so the trauma to them is lessened while the mom is explaining the situation. They have been bounced around a lot in facilities that didn't meet their needs. Some of the facilities that she knows the County is looking at would again not meet their needs. She doesn't feel that she has seen any breakdown on demolition costs and why demolishing their building is the cheapest way to go. She stated that there is a need for a courthouse and it is not an issue but where to locate it is the issue. She believes there is a better place. She thinks that the County should either continue with the original plan to add on to the Jail building. She doesn't feel like it should be piecemealed based on one person's need. She would like to see the County look hard at a plan that would allow for expansion. There is a bigger plan that needs to be made. \$2 million seems like a lot of money. She wanted to clarify that the legislature approved that \$2 million and it is in the Department of Justice budget so it is not any longer in the hands of the legislature so the DOJ would be the ones to look at extensions or working with the County on how those funds would be spent. She would oppose taking down the Shelter from the Storm building and she encouraged the Commission to look at demolishing the Joseph Annex building to build a structure that would then be able to be phase one of a Justice center that would serve the entire community.

Michelle Leonard, 608 Aquarius Way, La Grande, clarified that it is the Oregon Judicial Department and not the Department of Justice. She explained that the Oregon Judicial Department is not allowed to pay for and build their own facility as part of an agreement back in 1983 to help facilitate the payment of Court Appointed Council and Court Staff. That was the agreement. From that agreement came the Statute that says that the OJD does not pay for the facility but does pay for the staff. She also wanted to make sure

everyone knows that the reason the courthouse was deemed the worst out of all the courthouses in the State was not structural it was due to the public service and the layout of the courts and how it has to be operated between the courtrooms, judges and staff.

Commissioner Davidson stated that he thought there were also problems with the safety of the public and staff because of the lack of distinct corridors for the public, private and prisoners that Judge West talked about. Michelle stated that is correct and is one of the main issues that they deal with. There is not one secure entrance. The only way to secure the area outside of the courtrooms is to make it so the public cannot go through the courtrooms to the other part of the building so they have to go outside and around to get to the other services. She explained that prisoners are brought to court through staffing areas and are unshackled outside of Judges chambers because they cannot bring them in through the public areas because they may interact with victims or jurors.

Commissioner McClure asked Michelle if the \$2 million is with the Department of Justice or Oregon Judicial Department. Michelle explained that the funds are coming from the Oregon Judicial Department. He asked if the OJD can extend beyond the legislative language that was given with the money. She explained that it is her understanding that they cannot. This is unprecedented and the money given to the County for a courthouse is the first time ever that it has happen. The money has never been seen before so most likely if it is not used it will never be seen again. It is unprecedented because of the law that says that OJD cannot construct a facility. It is under a biennial budget. It was given during the current biennial budget and that is the reason for the timelines.

Commissioner Davidson asked Michelle to describe the conditions that the Legislature placed on the appropriation. She explained that the conditions were the square footage for the courts to operate set at 13,000 sq. ft., the timeline, and the money can only be spent for court facility purpose. Michelle explained that the court staff can only be in the 13,000 sq. ft. but if the facility is bigger others can be in there but there is not enough money for a bigger facility. When the Jail building was studied to add additional stories about half of the estimated cost of \$6.1 million was just to bring the current building to code before the second floor could be added.

Debra Whitewaters, 66437 Hunter Road, explained that she personally and professionally completely supports the court house. There is no way for her to know the Commissioners history with domestic violence or sexual assault. She explained that the Commissioners have wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters and she thinks that if they have had a situation where someone was violated sexually that they would want an agency like Shelter from the Storm to be available for them. When the Commissioners make their decision she asked them to consider that rape, sodomy and other things happen every day in the County. If it were to happen to anyone in their lives they would want the Shelter to help them. Remember that there are other places to put the courthouse except for where the Shelter building is located. She stated that the Commissioners have the power and the ability to make that decision and she hopes

they don't buy into the good 'ol boys club by all the people speaking to them today. She thinks that they have the power to make it right. The Commissioners were elected by the people and remember what sexual assault and domestic violence is before they do anything to close the Shelter or move them or disrupt them.

Mark Carl, 906 3rd Street, explained that there are a lot of good reasons to keep the Shelter where it is and there have been no options. He thought that an option could be to take the parking lot that is behind the Jail and by the Shelter and build a courthouse and use the money to tear down the Joseph building which seems to be the obsolete building in the equation and turn that into parking. He thought that might satisfy everyone.

David Trift, 2807 N. Fir, La Grande, explained that he has been on staff for the Shelter for 25 years. He is not a spokesperson for the Shelter on this issue and is speaking privately. He works regularly with almost everyone in this room. His concerns are that he believes this has been a flawed process although well intended. It has led to a situation where everyone agrees that a new courthouse is needed. He believes that there is a false construct that this is somehow Shelter versus Commission or Courts. Everyone that he works with in this room all have the same goals. They all have the same population to serve and the same needs for resources and facilities. There is never enough. He feels the process has been flawed in starting with the intent to have a wholistic facility that addressed all the needs and funding was not approved which evolved into the current situation. When there is a complex problem with multiple variables and multiple players it is by definition problematic to have a solution that is only solving for one variable which he feels this current plan does. He feels that if there is not a plan to incorporate the facility into a longer range thought. If it is not taken into account the courthouse needs and community needs, county agency needs, law enforcement needs and that there are stages or plans in place to secure funding. The Shelter unique in the State of Oregon is heavily meshed within the County structure in their connection in their involvement with the other agencies, their financial support of multiple County funded positions. This is not about the Shelter versus the County. Everyone in the County serves the same people. It is not about the Shelter not wanting their stuff taken from them anymore than it is about Judge West wanting a personal palace. Services to the community are what everyone is paid to do and is the interest of everyone he works with. Most Shelter's in the State of Oregon don't have anything to do with the law enforcement and the County in their area. It is incumbent on the Commission to come up with a plan that includes the needs of all the workers and critical for the Commission to step back and work a more wholistic plan up wherever the building ends up but that being the goal to solve the multiple problems for multiple agencies. He encouraged the Commissioner to slow down and relook and go back to the original thought of a wholistic building. He is not sure that the Commission has explored the potential of grants.

Mary McCracken, 63036 Buchanan Lane, stated that it is her understanding that usually CDBG grants that go through the County or the City are generally the case that

when the project is completed the governing office gives title to the non-profit that wrote the grant. It was not done here and she suspects that has some reflection on what is happening now.

Teresa Crouser, 1111 5th Street, believes that the Commissioners are aware of where she stands in all of this so she is not sure she can say anything she hasn't already said. She is extremely dismayed that she has to hear that it either be the court or Shelter from the Storm. The building they are in was built for them. Commissioner McClure's signature was on the grant. She asked Commissioner McClure to revisit the intent of that day when the document was signed. The intent was to provide a home for the Shelter that was adequate for them to be able to provide the services that are provided within the community. A new courthouse is needed. Her concern is that from what she has heard today every person even if they are 100% in support of the courthouse has concerns about the Shelter and what will happen. Her concern is moving forward with selecting the site may be the one thing that actually impairs the courthouse funding. She doesn't want to see that happen. She wants to see the County get the courthouse but wants everyone to come together and think of a better way to do it.

Margaret Mead, 57744 Foothill Road, explained that she would hate to see the Shelter from the Storm torn down. It seems like it would be a waste of the money that has gone into it. It is a good building. They got the Block Grant and operated in good faith where they are. The clientele that are being served there have already been kicked around and abused. She thinks by moving them out and disrupting their services it further says that they don't matter. She knows that it is a difficult problem and that there is a need for a new courthouse. A few months ago in the paper the Police and Sheriff's office were talking about separating because they need more room. How would this impact the facilities and what the function is supposed to be of the courthouse having ready access to the services to the law enforcement bodies if they do separate. What difference will that make to the operations. She asked about having underground parking or ground level parking and building above the parking. She feels like that would be a good option.

Darilyn Perry Brown, 2607 N. Ash , La Grande, explained that she worked at Shelter from the Storm for seven years and five years as the director. She explained that during the time that she worked at Shelter she started taking a look at how many times they were required to use the security that the building provides and lockdown to protect the clients and workers within the building. They were always grateful each time that had to be done to be so close in proximity to law enforcement because they were able to be there within a minute. They were able to help the Shelter assess the safety issue and feel safe. That happened at least four times a year. She has grave concerns for the people that work for these victims and their family's safety. She has concerns for the people they are serving and their safety. She has concerns about what is going to happen if this tremendous service is disrupted. She asked if they are going to get stuffed in a house somewhere that doesn't afford them that ability to be safe and keep their clients safe. She is disturbed by the fact that there is an either or option. Either there is a courthouse or there is a Shelter. That does not seem acceptable. She feels

that both can be valued. There is certainly a need for a new courthouse. The current courthouse doesn't work but there also needs to be a functioning Shelter that serves the victims and their families in the community. She also mentioned that the Shelter is very familiar with grants and the granting process and provides a great service to this community in terms of supporting positions within law enforcement and the court system that serve all of the community. She thinks that the Commissioners need to remember that there is a lot of value that comes from having a very close relationship with professional shelter service. It is a big asset to this community and she thinks it needs to be recognized as such. She asked the Commissioners to find a solution for both.

Commissioner McClure closed the public hearing with no more testimony received.

Commissioner McClure thanked everyone for their participation.

Commissioner Rosholt stated that he has been involved in it a lot and he understands the importance of the Shelter from the Storm. He does not want to see anything jeopardize that service because as important as it is he has never had anyone that has needed the service but he wants it continued. He feels that it is vital that the service continue in the County. It is amazing the service that is provided and he wants to work with the Shelter. He has suggested in the past that the County will do everything to keep it as seamless a transition regardless of what is done. In talking about the \$2 million one thing that has not been mentioned is that as the County went forward and went to the Legislature to talk about this money that could be available the Association of Oregon Counties formed a committee. This committee was formed by all the counties that had courthouse needs. It was suggested in the committee that it was much easier to get the money for the counties that needed the money if it was done one biennium at a time. The other fourteen or fifteen counties that were on that committee came to the agreement that Union County had the worst and needed the \$2 million more than anyone else did. Therefore, they backed off and said that the next biennium another County will come forward for the money. The reason why money was not received when requested before was because other counties were there looking for money. They wanted the money for other projects. Union County was on the back burner and got nothing out of it. The \$2 million is very vital in the operation and was not an easy thing to come up with. It is historic in the fact that the State has come forward to give the County the funds for this project. He thinks that it is important to move forward with this project or the money will be lost and other counties will use it for their projects.

Commissioner Davidson asked Commissioner Rosholt if there were other representations or promises that were made to the Legislature in the process of convincing them to allocate this money. Commissioner Rosholt explained that Senator Hansell went to the Committee and suggested that this money was vital to Union County. One Senator he talked to suggested that if the money was used for anything but for court facilities he would not vote for that appropriation. Therefore, because of his agreement it cannot be used for anything but court facilities. Commissioner Davidson then asked if there was a representation made to the Committee that the County had

the ability to borrow the County share of the funds and would not delay by looking for additional grants or go to the voters for a bond levy. Commissioner Rosholt stated those promises were made and that is why the County went out and sold the bonds and acquired the \$750,000. They wanted to see this happen and they wanted it to be done in a short timeframe.

Commissioner Davidson explained that one of his loved ones has been beneficiary of the Shelter's service in the past. It made all the difference in the world to her life. No one values the service that the Shelter provides to this community more than he does. He has also been a financial donor in the past. He recognizes the value that the Shelter provides to the community. He believes that it is the staff and the volunteers that provide the service and not the building. The building is a tool but it is not the only building in La Grande. He would like to put to rest the notion that he doesn't value the Shelter and the service.

Commissioner Davidson thinks that the County staff has done a good job at laying out the history and how the County has arrived at where they are at today, the challenges, the efforts and the concerted long term efforts by dozens of volunteers that have worked towards a solution to this. There have been multiple bond levies, multiple appropriation requests and there was a holistic look at it from the beginning and it was not successful to fund that project. He doesn't believe that the County would be successful going to the voters and asking for a bond levy. He thinks that some of the testimony today pointed out that the need that exists with the La Grande School District is extreme and there has been few instances where a bond levy for schools have passed. He stated that if school bond levies cannot pass to support education for the children in this community the County will be severely challenged to pass levies for courthouses, jails, justice centers and offices for the Commissioners. He feels that the County has worked through the options. He feels that the potential options on the existing campus have been exhausted given the criteria that has to be met and the codes that have to be met. The County has spent hard earned tax dollars to explore the idea of a third floor on the existing law enforcement building. He wished that was the most cost effective option but the fact is that according to the report of the engineering firm it is twice the cost. It takes the project out of the scope of affordability and puts the County back to asking the voters for more funds. He does not feel that would be successful.

Commissioner Davidson explained that Judge West testified today that there would need to be three elevators now. The cost analysis done by the County was based on two elevators. The construction and maintenance costs will be even more of the budget to build a two-story building. The maintenance costs are not dollars spent today but that is dollars spent every year out of the County's very limited budget. Eventually, when the PILT funding is cut and all of the other resources are taxed to their limit the County will be at a decision point of having to make cuts. That is when that extra money being spent on maintenance of elevators make the budget committee and the Commission make decisions about assistant District Attorney, Sheriff deputies, or Juvenile counsellors because those are the kind of positions that the Commissioners have the

discretion to cut. The Commissioners are routinely called upon to be efficient and prudent and mindful of the way they spend the tax dollars. He thinks that given the constraints and the challenges when the broad community need, the effect on the budget and the most efficient use of the resources is considered the single story courthouse is the right choice. He is not happy about it or proposing to tear down a building that is 15 years old and fits the tenants purpose. He thinks that it is the option that the County has to pursue.

Commissioner McClure stated that the constraints put on by the City of La Grande plays a role as well such as the parking requirements. He pointed out that Stephen Donnell stated that the first 15 minutes of the meeting was talking about parking but that is the constraints put on the County by the City of La Grande. Commissioner Davidson explained that there are Oregon Land Use laws and then the cities have zoning ordinances and standards that have to be met. In the zone that the County campus is in there is a requirement of providing off street parking. If the County campus was in the central business zone downtown that would not be a requirement. It is the differences in the zoning. Those are the rules and part of the challenges and constraints that define how the decision can be made.

Commissioner McClure asked Shelley what the rules were on transferring property to a non-profit without going through a process. The reason he is bringing it up is when the County acquired the Riveria Activity Center from the School District the County was told it could not be transferred to Community Connections because they were not another government agency. Shelley explained that she would have to research it because her understanding is the same as Commissioner McClure's. The County is restricted by Statute on how the County can dispose of publicly owned property. The grant was given to Union County. Union County built the building and is the owner of the building. The grant requirement was to allow the Shelter to use the building for five years. It has been fifteen years so every obligation of that grant has been met.

Commissioner McClure explained that the suggestion that the County has not done an adequate job of research on this he does not find true. He feels that Commissioner Hibbert did an excellent job with the Task Force and the big picture was looked at but the funds were not available. To suggest the process was not open and complete he finds to be untrue. The County gave the Task Force free reign to look at all possibilities. That group of people who he does not consider to be good 'ol boys but standing people in the community took a hard look at it and came back to the Commissioners with a recommendation. The recommendation was to build a third floor on the law enforcement building. He wanted to do that and made more sense but he also knows the condition of the building. The only alternative would be to go into that building and replace the infrastructure in that building to accommodate a new floor which is what drove the cost to \$8 million. The County hired an engineering firm for \$20,000 to look at that building and give an estimated cost.

Commissioner McClure explained that when the County went to the Legislature they went with a two-story building that was not going to impact the Shelter from the Storm. That was never the intention during the process. That issue came up when the discussions between the OJD and the County started. The County received a letter from the OJD stating what they wanted in the building. They wanted a salty port, holding cells and a list of things that would have driven the cost up considerably. Those facilities are already in the current Jail so there would not need to have those built again. The County went back and negotiated with the State to take those items out to locate the building next to the Jail so the use of those services could be done. The County didn't approach the City of La Grande until an agreement was made with the State. The County then goes to the City and finds that the parking is going to be an issue. The other sites have been looked at. If it made more sense for the Shelter to move into the Commissioner's building he wouldn't mind being where the courts are. It is not the building but the services that are provided in them. He is proud of the County buildings and would work in any of them if needed. He is a firm believer that this is a tough decision. He did sign the CDBG grant and the reason the grant was signed is because the courthouse had to be torn down. The Shelter asked where they could go. The County stepped up and sponsored the grant to try and find them a place.

Commissioner McClure explained that the impacts of what the Shelter does is also in his life in a very personal way. The belief of what they do is important. The County is at a point that the project needs to move forward. He explained that Commissioners have been looking for a good solution for the courthouse for years. He assured the Shelter that the County wants to work with you to find a solution. He doesn't know what the solution will be but the Shelter's importance is strong enough that their placement needs to be made part of what is done. He also has to look at it that a courthouse will be built and the reality of the money that is available is that he wants to make the best courthouse possible with the constraints. He doesn't see any other alternative. He doesn't like the idea of tearing down a 15 year old building.

Commissioner Rosholt thinks that it is very important the County understands, as he suggested to the Shelter's Board of Directors, that the Commissioners are here to support any phase two or three of the operations and it is important to look at those things. He will go forward with an open mind to look at those options because they are important for the entire community.

Commissioner McClure thinks that the County needs to sit down with the Shelter's Board of Directors and have a discussion about what the first steps will be and how the situation will be solved. He doesn't feel like it has to be either/or. He is not happy winding up at the last minute with this decision but it is the reality that he has to deal with. The idea that the County is going to find \$15 or \$22 million to build a brand new center is not something he feels will happen. The County has worked 22 years to get the \$2 million. He doesn't want people to think that he takes the Shelter lightly. He feels that he has an obligation to try and do the best job he can with the things that are there.

Stephen Donnell stated that the dissertation that he just heard from the Commissioners is exactly the same that he heard when the County was trying to build what they have now. Unfortunately, there was a run up of building costs and construction costs. It was also approximately the same time the State changed their building codes. That is the reason there was not enough money to put the third story on. The Commissioners need to convince the people that what they are spending their money for is the biggest bang for the buck and is an absolute necessity and it is worth their time and effort to put the money into whatever funding agency or method the County is going to use. His question, which is unclear to him, is whether the \$2 million will be lost if the project does not go forward. The Commissioners answered yes. He thinks there is an opportunity with competing agencies with the school bond issue. He doesn't know how the County is getting their money for this project. Commissioner Rosholt asked if he was talking about the \$750,000 that the County is contributing. Commissioner McClure explained that the County went out and got a bond rating and borrowed the money to do it with. The payments will be made over 20 years and will be \$50,000 a year. Commissioner McClure explained that the decision was made at a public meeting. Stephen stated that it wasn't in the newspaper because he reads the newspaper. Shelley explained that there were notices of the budget action that were published in the public notice section of the newspaper. Commissioner McClure explained that there has been no hidden agenda on where the funding was received.

Commissioner Rosholt moved to go forward with the option of siting the court facility and removing the Shelter from the Storm building, construct a one story building and work with the shelter to find a new location. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Intergovernmental Services Contract with Oregon Department of Forestry

J.B. Brock, Emergency Services Officer, brought an Intergovernmental Agreement with Oregon Department of Forestry to the Commissioners for consideration. He explained that as a part of the cohesive wildfire strategy one of the points that came up was revisiting the County CWPP within the project area. The project area is actually the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center footprint. As an initial effort it was decided by the Committee that a template would be created. Union County would be the first agency to go through the CWPP process and create the template for the other counties within the footprint. As a result he is proposing to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with ODF to provide funding for Union County to go through the CWPP rewrite. Some of the efforts that are underway at this point are some individual evacuation plans and some pre-fire planning. It is a locally driven process.

Commissioner Rosholt moved approval of the Intergovernmental Service Agreement between Union County and the Northeast Oregon District of the Department of Forestry. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wallowa Resources Contract

J.B. Brock, Emergency Services Officer, brought a contract with Wallowa Resources to the Commissioners for consideration. He explained that this is to provide staff work to support the effort. Essentially he will be taking the money that has been granted to the County from ODF and entering into agreement for support work from Wallowa Resources. The GIS work which is a significant piece of the effort will be done by Wallowa Resources. Because Wallowa Resources is a local contractor as it is expanded to the Blue Mountain footprint the adjacent counties will have access to the same expertise. They will most likely be a good support for the region.

Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the Independent Contractor Agreement between Union County and Wallowa Resources as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

The February 13 and 20 claims journals; and the February 12 and 19 Public Works claims journals; and the June 26, July 10 and 24 and August 7 and October 2 Board of Commissioners meeting minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Livestock District Annexation Court Order

Court Order 2014-21, In the Matter of Annexing Land Into Union County Livestock District #1, was presented for consideration. Hanley Jenkins explained that the Commissioners held a public hearing at their last Commission meeting and made a decision to remove three properties from the application. One of the properties was not contiguous and the other two did not have 100% of their land owners approval to enter into the livestock district. The Commissioner instructed staff to prepare a Court Order for this meeting for approval. Hanley explained that the County is in conversations with Bob Morgan to resolve the issue with his land. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2014-21 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appropriating Unanticipated Funds

Court Order 2014-20, In the Matter of Appropriating Unanticipated Funds, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess explained that this Court Order is necessary because funds became available after the adoption of the FY 2013-14 budget. Additional grant funds from OYW Rural Grant program via the Shelter from the Storm have become available for Community Corrections. These funds in the amount of \$30,435 have to be utilized for a specific purpose. **Commissioner Rosholt moved approval of Court Order 2014-20 as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appointment to the 4-H & Extension District Advisory Committee

Court Order 2014-18, In the Matter of Appointment to the 4-H & Extension District Advisory Committee, was presented for consideration. This Court Order would appoint

Union County Board of Commissioners

March 5, 2014

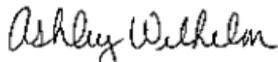
Page 23 of 23

Rey Moreno to the 4-H & Extension District Advisory Committee with a term to expire December 31, 2016. Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2014-19 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Handwritten signature of Ashley Wilhelm in cursive script.

Ashley Wilhelm

Sr. Dept. Specialist II