

Board of Commissioners Meeting
June 30, 2015

Present: Commissioner Steve McClure
Commissioner Mark D. Davidson
Commissioner Jack Howard

Chairman Davidson opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. with all three Commissioners present.

FY 2015-16 Union County 4-H & Extension District Budget Hearing

Resolution 2015-12, In the Matter of Adopting the Budget, Appropriating Funds Levying Ad Valorem Taxes, and Categorizing Taxes, for the Union County 4-H and Extension Service District for the Fiscal Year 2015-16, was presented for consideration.

Commissioner Davidson opened the public hearing for testimony.

Don Sands, 4-H and Extension Budget Committee Member, stated that the budget supports an excellent operation in Eastern Oregon. He appreciates the county's support of this budget.

Commissioner Davidson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner McClure moved approval Resolution 2015-12 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Irene Gilbert, 2310 Adams Avenue, explained that she went through some of the comments that were submitted on the Boardman to Hemmingway (B2H) project from Union County and it was minimal compared to the level of concern that exists within the community. She would like the Commissioners to put together an Advisory Committee to discuss the local concerns about the B2H project with the Commissioners since the Commissioners are representing all of the citizens within the County to Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC). She feels that when the EFSC gets involved the local people lose their opportunity to file appeals and have access to the County system in terms of getting a resolution to concerns. She stated that the Department of Energy has not been responsive to community contested case requests. She knows that the Eastern Oregon Water Association and the Farm Bureau are both not happy with the current plan of where that line is going to be placed. It will impact a lot of high value farm land.

Commissioner Davidson asked if any of the high value farm land that would be affected is located in Union County. Irene stated that it is not in Union County. She asked that the Advisory Committee inform the citizens of the opportunities for input, to solicit more direct input from the people within the community and to provide an outline to the Commissioner of the input that is received. It would give the people of the community a contact where the information can be funneled through. Irene submitted a written statement to the Commissioners for the record.

Matt Cooper, 302 C Avenue, La Grande, thanked the Commissioners for republishing the budget document in the newspaper after the readability of the original publication was unacceptable. He encouraged the County to continue to solicit citizen input on the siting of the B2H project.

Margaret Mead, 57744 Foothill Road, La Grande, stated that she was interested in the article in the newspaper about the County actively pursuing getting an agreement signed with the Animal Shelter. There has been a lack of cooperation on the part of people at the Shelter. For many years she was an active supporter of the Shelter and under the current administration a lot of the supporters were treated badly and were not given information under the nonprofit rules in Statute. She feels that it is time to get this resolved.

Updated Emergency Operations Plan Adoption

Resolution 2015-09, In the Matter of a Resolution Adopting an Updated Union County Emergency Operations Plan, was presented for consideration. J.B. Brock, Emergency Manager, explained that this Resolution would adopt the updated Emergency Operations Plan for Union County. He explained that this project began about five years ago with a grant where the idea was to bring all County EOPs in line with the Federal and State format. The State hired a contractor to work statewide on the project. He has taken the last few years to revise the final product that came out of that process to fit the needs of Union County. Union County is limited on resources as compared to the larger counties within the State but the final product was similar for all counties in the state. He didn't find that the final EOP was functional for his purposes. He explained that there are additional supporting documents that will be developed moving forward. He stated that the purpose of this document is to set the general authorities to establish which ORS and federal code is followed and set the template for the details to follow. The annexes to this plan will be established by a Hazard Vulnerability Analysis which is a part of the EOP.

Commissioner Howard asked what the timeframe is on the completion of the ESF and the Incident Specific Annexes. J.B. explained that he would like to complete the ESF within the next calendar year and the Incident Specific Annexes the following year.

Commissioner Howard asked if J.B. was anticipating that this document will be online and searchable at some point. J.B. explained that the base EOP could go online but the Incident Specific Annexes the Commissioners will need to discuss that because of the security component of the information within those plans. He feels that large portions of the plan could be accessible online but the Commissioners should decide if the details regarding infrastructure and critical components should be made available online.

Commissioner Howard asked if the ambulance coordination will be done in the annexes in the future. J.B. explained that the ambulance coordination is done through the service area district which is a separate process in which he participates in.

Commissioner Howard asked if J.B. had anything against a well-organized, intelligent and proactive group of community citizens to help fulfill a role in vital emergency management strategies through an emergency management board. J.B. explained that is a model that is supported in other counties. He explained that Union County is a small government entity in that he has direct access to the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners have always been the board to guide the emergency management process. As representatives of the citizenship within the County he believes he accomplishes that task by utilizing the County Commissioners as that advisory board. Commissioner Howard asked why he does not have individual households as a formal part of the emergency operations process. J.B. stated that he interacts with agencies that have formal organization. He explained that Union County's emergency management depends on personal preparedness. The County is not able to accomplish emergency operations on a scale of a large area so as a result individuals have an active role in the plan through personal preparedness but not on a formal level. Commissioner Howard stated that he advocates having a formal role for a community structure organization of volunteers recognizing the importance when a major event occurs. J.B. explained that there are volunteers in a formal role in entities like Search and Rescue and American Red Cross where citizens can be involved and volunteer on a formal level. J.B. explained that those entities need to have a mission to support their involvement during the years that there is no significant event. The issues with those groups is there is no mission to sustain the resource because they don't have a primary mission that they can then be used in an emergency.

Commissioner Howard stated that he did not see anything in the EOP on care of animals in an emergency. J.B. explained that would be something that would be addressed on an incident specific annex. Commissioner Howard asked where the vulnerable populations would be located in the plan. J.B. explained that they are addressed in the public health section of the plan.

Commissioner McClure asked what input J.B. had when developing the Plan. J.B. explained that he meets regularly with public health and emergency responders who had input on the Plan as well. The Plan was put out for public comment for a three week period. There were no comments received. The Plan was also sent to partnering agencies for comments and none were received.

Commissioner McClure asked what the Commissioners roles are pertaining to this EOP. J.B. explained that the Commissioners are the approving body. During an event the role is to serve as the overlying authority guiding the Incident Commander. There is a diagram in the Plan that shows the role of the Commissioners. Statutorily the responsibility for emergency management within the County lies with the County Commissioners. It creates some challenges at times because emergencies are expensive but that is how the Statutes are written. That information is spelled out in the Plan.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of Resolution 2015-09 as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FY 2015-16 Union County Solid Waste District Budget Hearing

Resolution 2015-10, In the Matter of Adopting the Union County Solid Waste District Budget 2015-16, was presented to the Commissioners for consideration. Shelley explained that there were no changes made from the proposed budget approved by the Budget Committee.

Commissioner Davidson opened the public hearing. The hearing was closed with no testimony received.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of Resolution 2015-10 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FY 2015-16 Union County Budget Hearing

Resolution 2015-11, In the Matter of Adopting the Budget, Appropriating Funds Levying Ad Valorem Taxes, and Categorizing Taxes, for Union County for the Fiscal Year 2015-16, was presented to the Commissioners for consideration. Shelley Burgess explained that there are no proposed changes to the budget that was approved by the Union County Budget Committee.

Commissioner Davidson opened the public hearing.

Lois Barry, 60688 Morgan Lake Road, La Grande, stated that she feels there were areas of the budget that could have received further discussion and they did not. She is hoping that next year there will be an improved procedure in place that will allow for more interactive discussion between members of the community and the budget committee.

The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner McClure stated that he appreciates Mrs. Barry's comments and pointed out that this hearing is a public hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow anyone in the community to make comments about the budget. This public hearing and budget committee meetings were advertised extensively. He appreciates her public participation and encourages everyone to participate in the process. He explained that the County does provide opportunities for the public to participate.

Commissioner Howard stated that sometimes the community gets disengaged when they feel that they haven't been heard but there is no better way to be heard than to be active in every Board meeting and in between as well. This is his first cycle through the Union County budget process and he is impressed with the support staff and the people that this represents. He stated that the department heads and staff do tremendous work. There are public people working for the County and they deserve a thanks.

Commissioner Davidson stated that the County went through the budget this year in a way that far exceeded prior years. He stated that the budget committee met for eight hours. There was a great deal of opportunity for public comment. There were no limits on the time for public comments and listened to everything that Lois Barry had to say but she was the only public comment received on the budget. He stated that people need to engage and it would be nice if more people showed up. The County advertised and followed the public meeting notice law. If the citizens do not show up and testify the Commissioners cannot hear their concerns.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of Resolution 2015-11 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Davidson stated that he agrees with Commissioner Howard that Shelley and the staff does an excellent job in preparing a balanced budget as required by Statute.

MERA Grazing Lease

Sean Chambers, Parks Coordinator, brought a grazing lease on Mt. Emily Recreation Area to the Commissioners for consideration. He explained that the current lease is entering the final year with Matt and Katie Martin. The Martin's are no longer in business together and Matt will no longer graze MERA. In order to reflect that change he is asking that the County renew and extend the grazing lease to Katie Martin for an additional five years. He explained that the approval of this agreement will remove Matt Martin from the lease and make Katie Martin the sole grazer as well as extend the lease for an additional five years. Commissioner McClure asked if this is a continuation of the original lease. Sean explained that this is the final year of the original lease. He took the lease for legal review and it was approved that this lease could be extended for an additional five years. Commissioner McClure asked if Sean was satisfied with the cooperation he is receiving from his Lessee. Sean explained that there were some issues the first season of grazing but since then the grazing practices have been improved and he is satisfied with the grazing that is occurring on MERA. If another grazer is chosen there would be more growing pains in the process. Katie is maintaining fences and is good at responding to cattle being out of the fenced area. This year they are utilizing the upper portion of the MERA property to graze the cattle. Commissioner Davidson stated that the County has a responsibility to control the fuels. There is a lot of residential use in that area. They would not want a fire to start on MERA and spread to the private land owners. Commissioner McClure stated that when MERA was created the Commissioners made a commitment to make it a multiuse property. He feels that it is important for the Commissioners to hold up the commitment to the community.

Commissioner McClure explained that he appreciates the effort that Sean puts into MERA and the work that he is able to accomplish with volunteers.

Commissioner Howard asked Sean why he didn't just remove Matt Martin from the current lease and then renegotiate the lease at the end of the term. Sean explained that he felt this was a good opportunity to extend the lease to a lessee that has been more effective every year. Commissioner Howard asked how many people bid on the original request for grazing. Sean stated that he believes there were three requests.

Shelley Burgess explained that when the County goes out in an RFP process there is usually a set period of time. This lease was originally a one year lease with eligible renewals for a period of five years. Shelley explained that she does not have the RFP for the grazing lease with her but there may have been allowance made for additional years through the lease. Sean explained that he sent it to legal counsel for review and they approved the extension of the lease. Commissioner McClure asked Sean if he has a written statement from legal counsel approving the lease extension. Sean stated that he has a written legal opinion. Commissioner McClure stated that if there is a question about the ability to extend another five year lease to the grazer the Commissioners can amend the lease to be a one year extension and the following year there can be a determination if it is appropriate to continue the lease or go out for another RFP process. Commissioner Howard stated that he would like to table the lease until the determination is made. Commissioner McClure stated that this is the middle of grazing season so it doesn't make sense to table this lease and not continue at least until this lease is complete. **Commissioner McClure moved to amend the lease to only include Katie Martin and the expiration of the lease to be one year. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion to amend the lease carried unanimously. Commissioner McClure moved approval of the lease as amended. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chip Seal Contract

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, brought a Chip Seal Contract to the Commissioners for consideration. He explained that this contract has been reviewed by legal counsel. This would allow Union County to "piggy back" with Umatilla County's permissive cooperative procurement process. He is asking for approval by the Commissioners to move forward with the 2015 chip seal program.

Commissioner Davidson asked if this is the same material that has been used by Union County Public Works in the past. Doug explained that this is comparable to the product that they have used in the past and he feels the product will do well on the roads within the County and have a longer lifespan. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the chip seal contract as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Steel Bid Award

Doug Wright brought the Clear Creek Bridge Replacement Steel Bid Quotes to the Commissioners for consideration. He stated that he sent out requests for quotes to three entities and received two quotes. Eagle Cap Steel bid \$47,782.03 and Big R Bridge bid \$34,115. Doug is recommending that the bid be awarded to Big R Bridge as

the low bid. **Commissioner McClure moved to award the bid to Big R Bridge as recommended. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Intergovernmental Agreement with Energy Facility Siting Council

Scott Hartell, Assistant Planner, brought an Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County and the Energy Facility Siting Council to the Commissioners for consideration. He explained that at the last Commission meeting there was a Memorandum of Understanding signed to allow the County to participate in the Boardman to Hemmingway project at a Federal level. This Agreement is similar but at a State level. This would identify the County's position on the review of the application and gives the County an opportunity to be compensated for the review of the application. There was an initial Intergovernmental Agreement signed in 2008 for the project. This is amending that agreement to extend until 2017. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Department of Justice Cooperative Agreement

Valerie Schlichting, District Attorney Office Manager, brought a Cooperative Agreement from the Department of Justice to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this Agreement is for the Child Support Enforcement Program. It is a continuation of the previous Agreement. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Cooperative Agreement with the Department of Justice. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

The June 11 and 18 claims journals; and the June 10 and 18 Public Works claims journals; and the May 6 and 20 Board of Commissioners minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

USDA Wildlife Services Agreement (Predator Control)

Shelley Burgess brought a work and financial plan between USDA Wildlife Services and Union County to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this is a financial plan for the next fiscal year. This covers the predator control services that were discussed during the budget process. This Agreement details what services will be provided and the County's financial contribution. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Work and Financial Plan as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

ODOT Agreement – Special Transportation Fund

Shelley Burgess brought Agreement #30578 between the Oregon Department of Transportation Public Transit Division and Union County to the Commissioners. She explained that this is a grant agreement for Special Transportation funds for Seniors and persons with disabilities. This is a biennial contract. The funding amount is \$161,800. The County contracts with Center for Human Development and Community Connections to provide these services. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of**

grant agreement #30578 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Unanticipated Funds Court Order (Juvenile Department)

Court Order 2015-20, In the Matter of Appropriating Unanticipated Funds, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess explained that this Court Order would include Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) grant funding in the Juvenile Department. It would allow for the acceptance of \$26,000 in revenue and the same amount in expenditures. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2015-20 as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

FY 2014-15 Audit Proposal

Shelley Burgess brought an Audit Proposal to perform an audit on the County for the 2014-15 fiscal year to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this is to provide audit services by Lewis, Poe, Moeller, Gunderson and Roberts. The proposal outlines services that will be provided which comply with State and Federal auditing requirements. This is the same engagement that the County has entered into in previous years. The cost for the audit for the overall County budget will be \$36,050. That is a 2% increase over the cost for last year's audit. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the FY2014-15 audit proposal as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion Carried unanimously.**

FY 2014-15 Solid Waste Audit Proposal

Shelley Burgess brought an Audit Proposal to perform a review report on the Solid Waste District for the 2014-15 fiscal year to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this is a lower level report from an audit report but it does audit all of the financial transactions for the Solid Waste District. The services would be provided by Lewis, Poe, Moeller, Gunderson and Roberts. The cost of the audit on the Solid Waste District is \$2,380 and is the same cost as last year. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the FY2014-15 audit proposal as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Intergovernmental Contract for Professional Services Amendment (Juvenile Department)

Shelley Burgess brought Amendment #9906 to an Intergovernmental Contract for Professional Services to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this agreement is between Union County and the Oregon Department of Education. The previous agreement expired June 30, 2015. The contract is in place to accept Juvenile Crime Prevention funds. These funds are allocated by County. This amendment would extend the current contract for an additional two years and would award Union County \$45,000. These funds were anticipated and are included in the Juvenile budget. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Amendment #9906 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appointment to the Ambulance Advisory Committee

Court Order 2015-21, In the Matter of Appointment to the Ambulance District Advisory Committee, was presented to the Commissioners for consideration. This would reappoint Tracy Christopher, Steve Henderson and Jay Moore to the Ambulance District Advisory Committee. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2015-21 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Boardman to Hemmingway Update

Don Gonzalez and Renee Straub from the Bureau of Land Management and representatives from Idaho Power gave an update on the Boardman to Hemmingway Project planning process.

Commissioner McClure stated that there are two processes going on at the same time; the NEPA process through BLM and the EFSC process through the State of Oregon. He wonders how two processes that are opposite in their approach are going to come together. BLM wants to have alternate routes and EFSC wants one designated route. He asked if BLM and the State are going to have joint hearings or separate. How will that work out in the end? Don Gonzalez explained that their process is a little bit ahead of the State because they have to evaluate the full impacts on BLM and private land. Tamara Gerch explained that the BLM as the Oregon Department of Energy as a cooperating agency. They are aware of the EFSC process. The State has different criteria that they have to meet. As a cooperating agency they are making sure that the routes are ones that can be permitted by EFSC. There is no reason for them to be considering routes that cannot be permitted. Tamara stated that they expect to have their record and decision for the EIS done before the State hearings are done on this. They will not be having hearings for the EIS process. That is not a requirement of their process. Jeff Maffuccio, Facility Siting Coordinator for Idaho Power, explained that Idaho Power is wanting to define routes and alternatives with the BLM to then choose one of those alternatives to take to the State process. They expect to have an amended application submitted to EFSC early to middle 2016. A decision on that will most likely not happen for another two years. He explained that the need for the project is still a need for Idaho Power and their funding partners. He stated that this is the best alternative for rate payers and potentially for Bonneville Power and Pacific Power rate payers as well.

Max Woods, Oregon Department of Energy, stated that he is working closely with BLM that will come up with a line that doesn't have a fatal flaw and would be approvable. They are separate processes. Some other States have a combined review process with the Federal Government but Oregon does not but they try to work together to meet requirements for both the State and Federal processes. He explained that there are a series of public meetings. They will take public comments at those meetings. They will be held within the affected area of the B2H project. He is thinking those will take place early next year.

Commissioner Davidson stated that there will be time to receive public comments until a public hearing at 11 a.m. After that hearing the Commission will come back to accept other public comments on the B2H Project to give everyone that would like an opportunity to provide comment to do so.

Norm Cimon, 1208 First Street, La Grande, stated that his largest concern is involving the County in the decision making process. He would like to see a public advisory committee on the B2H project. He feels that the current grid is obsolete and will disappear in the near future.

Irene Gilbert, Friends of the Grande Ronde Valley, 1904 Adams Avenue, La Grande, explained that she visited with Senator Chris Edwards on the issue and he stated that the goal is to have small generation of electricity. She stated that she knows there are serious concerns with farm land and wildlife land. She would like to have a citizen advisory committee dedicated to this project. She would like the County to support the neighboring counties in their concerns as well.

Jim Kreider, 60366 Marvin Road, La Grande, stated that he has been trying to organize the neighbors in the area. He is seeing that it is more complicated than he had thought. He also asked the Commissioners to put together a citizen group with some resources to help the community to determine the best route for the project.

Lois Barry, 60688 Morgan Lake Road, La Grande, read a part of the comments she sent to the BLM. She feels that the only choice she sees is that there should be no action on the project. She sees no reference to alternate energy that has changed throughout this process. She feels that there is no reason the residents of Oregon should tolerate the intrusion of transmission towers.

Michael McAlister, 60069 Morgan Lake Road, La Grande, he is concerned with the proposed route that goes through elk habitat. They are discussing raising the rates because of the declining demand for excess energy. He feels that the prices of the energy will go up without the benefit being there.

Doug Bean explained that he owns land on the proposed route. He stated that there are four utilities that go through his ranch now. He is familiar with the process. He is asking for a centralized place for getting information. The process is confusing for him. He would like to know when the critical timelines are to take action. Tamera Gerch explained that the information he is looking for is available on the website: www.boardmantohemmingway.com.

Resource Zone Ordinance – 2nd Reading

Ordinance 2015-01, In the Matter of Replacing the Union County Zoning, Partition & Subdivision Ordinance Article 1, Section 1.08 Definitions; Article 2, A-1 Exclusive Farm Use Zone; Article 3, A-2 Agriculture-Grazing Zone; Article 4, A-3 Agriculture Forest Use Zone and Article 5, A-4 Timber-Grazing Zone, was presented for consideration. Hanley

Jenkins, Planning Director, gave a staff report. He explained that this is the second reading of this Ordinance. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Ordinance 2015-01 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Boardman to Hemmingway Update Continuation

Brad Allen, Elk Song Ranch, he asked if the County is staying with the statement of concerns that they submitted during the public comment process. Commissioner Davidson stated that they are taking testimony today to see what concerns are within the community. He owns cowboy ridge and he invited anyone involved in the process to come and view his property. He has four miles of transmission line going through the ranch on the current proposal. He would like it to follow the existing right of ways. He thinks that the separation limit is not in place any longer.

Shelley Cimon, 1208 First Street, La Grande, stated that she wants to hear that all of the options are open even not placing the power line. She believes that this line may be a stranded asset for Idaho Power in the future. She feels that the project should include cradle to grave costs so the costs of the removal of the project be included through bonds. She feels that there needs to be more transparency and that should be done through the Commissioners.

Jeff Maffuccio, Idaho Power, stated that bonding is required for the project and will cover the costs to turn the land back after the resource is used. He explained that they do a study that looks at the uses twenty years out and this is a source that they will need for that length of time. Because they look at only twenty years out at a time he is not sure how much longer it will be a needed source of energy beyond that.

Commissioner Davidson asked Jeff to go to the Commissioner's small conference room to answer questions and show the maps that he brought to the people that are interested. Anyone that has additional comments or questions can contact the interested parties directly.

Water Resources Lease Amendment (Ag Services Building)

Shelley Burgess brought a lease amendment to the Lease between the Union County 4-H and Extension Service District and the State of Oregon Water Resources Department to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this is for office space in the ag services building. They currently have a lease and this amendment will extend the lease and increase the rental amount. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the lease amendment as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Transfer of Appropriated Funds Court Order

Court Order 2015-22, In the Matter of Transferring Appropriated Funds, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess explained that these transfers are necessary to close the fiscal year with appropriations that will cover the expenditures. She explained that

these are not cash impacts but are appropriation impacts to the budget. She went over the appropriation of funds and where the funding sources have come from for the transactions on the Court Order. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2015-22 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Animal Shelter Interim Operating Agreement

Shelley Burgess brought an Interim Operating Agreement to the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner McClure stated that this Interim agreement is for a six month extension with the understanding that the County and Shelter will continue their negotiations to get an updated Agreement in place.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Animal Shelter Interim Operating Agreement as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Senior Center Operating Agreement

Shelley Burgess brought an Operating Agreement between the Senior Center and Union County to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this is an extension of the lease agreement for one month until a full agreement can be put together for approval. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Senior Center Operating Agreement as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley Wilhelm

Sr. Dept. Specialist II

To: Union County Commissioners FGRV
Date: 6/27/15

From: Friends of the Grande Ronde Valley
Irene Gilbert, Legal Research Analyst

CONCERNS:

--Wind and solar developers site their developments along high voltage transmission lines to cut their costs. Putting this line through Union County will encourage more proposals like Antelope Ridge.

--The Energy Facility Siting Counsel puts the wishes of the developers above the needs of wildlife, natural resources and people.

--The citizens lose their rights to a local hearing and appeal when developments go through the Department of Energy and the state has a long track record of supporting developers in their contested case process. This makes it critically important that all potential issues are documented in the input provided and that citizens are given every opportunity to have their issues heard and recorded by the County.

--The Eastern Oregon Water Association and the Oregon Farm Bureau are concerned regarding the choice of the current route as it seriously impacts a great amount of high value farm land which should be a concern to everyone. These groups have been trying to get the line moved to another route with less impacts to farmland, but are not being listened to by the developer.

--County Commissioners need to make a serious effort to obtain input from the community at large in order to have credibility regarding their role representing the citizens of Union County.

--This project will significantly impact the wildlife and viewsapes in Union County which directly impacts the local economy.

ACTION ITEM:

The Friends of the Grande Ronde Valley request that a citizen advisory group be formed for the following purposes:

- A. Inform citizens of the progress and opportunities for input into the project.
- B. Solicit input from the citizens of the county on their concerns to be forwarded to the County Commissioners for inclusion in their input documents.
- C. Provide the County Commissioners an outline of issues identified and recommendations.
- D. Review comments of adjoining counties to identify areas of mutual concern.
- E. Other tasks identified as of value to a thorough airing of issues surrounding the Boardman to Hemingway project impacts on Union County resources.

*Received 6/30/15
Irene Gilbert*