

Board of Commissioners Meeting
March 4, 2015

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

Chairman Davidson opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with all three Commissioners present. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Public Comments

Bill Lindsley, Mayor of Union, explained that at the last Commission meeting there were discussions about Senate Bill 258 by a citizen that was concerned. He contacted Senator Hansell's office about the Bill. He stated that if it were to be put into place it would destroy any local zoning. It is his understanding that the Commissioners are aware of SB 258. When the City of Union had negotiations with the County under the Horizon wind farm the City felt that the County knew if there was anything that came up on green energy and the energy department that the City would want to be notified about it. He stated that the City is against it. Senator Hansell felt that it would be hung up in committee but it takes away any local rights even if they are already in place. The Mayor gave the Commissioners a letter regarding his concerns about SB 258. Commissioner Howard stated that SB 258 is an ambiguous Bill. There is some argument on what to do with the Bill it is in Committee and has not come out. The fact that it is not out of Committee, to him, means that there is not a consensus to move forward. He does have a slight disagreement with some of the language in the Mayor's letter. The County has been involved and has been a part of the discussion in a public forum. The County will continue to follow it recognizing how important the issue is.

Mayor Lindsley also brought a letter requesting an update to Goal 5. They would like the County to look at Goal 5 and put the committee back together when it was originally done. Commissioner Davidson asked if the City of Union is a member of the League of Oregon Cities. The Mayor stated that they are a member. Commissioner Davidson asked if they are engaged in their policy processes. The Mayor stated that they have not received anything on it. He did go down five years ago to ask the League to look into some green energy things for the City and they haven't heard anything from them. Commissioner Davidson asked if the League of Oregon Cities tracking SB258. The Mayor explained that he cannot say for sure. He explained that he is talking to the County because the City of Union sat down with the County five years ago and at that time the County knew how important this was to the City of Union. He is requesting that the County stay in contact with the City over it and anything that comes up on it to be sent to the City of Union. Now that he knows that there is a Bill out there and where it has been going he will be staying on top of it. Commissioner Howard stated that there is a lot of legislation that is introduced at the start of every session so not every piece of legislation can be followed extensively.

Dick McDaniel, 63316 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, asked if the enterprise zone has been accepted. The City of La Grande has asked for an increase in their Urban Growth Boundary out to B & K Auto. Commissioner Davidson explained that these are two different issues. The first issue is the Urban Growth Boundary expansion which already occurred in 2013. Now the City of La Grande has asked for an amendment to the Enterprise Zone that would add 560 acres which is a zone that allows tax abatements as a business incentive. That is the issue that is under consideration right now. Dick asked where that decision will be made and who makes that decision. Commissioner Davidson explained that to approve an amendment to an Enterprise Zone every sponsoring entity has to pass a Resolution agreeing with it. The sponsoring entities are the cities of Union, Elgin, Island City, La Grande, North Powder and Union County. Dick asked if it includes the school districts as sponsoring agencies. Commissioner Davidson stated that the school districts are not sponsoring agencies but they were notified of the meeting to discuss the pending amendment. Dick stated that there was no representative in attendance. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, stated that all of the districts were notified. Commissioner Davidson explained that the tax abatement only applies to new investment and is limited to a period of three years. It isn't going to reduce the revenue that they are receiving currently. It is used as an incentive to encourage people to make new investment that in the long run will create jobs and increase the taxable value of the districts. Dick explained that he understands what Commissioner Davidson is saying and he sees both sides of the situation. If a new business comes in with an additional 20 employees that could be good because there will be more kids within the school district but the school districts are already at the limit, as far as the budget is concerned, adding people will increase the need. He was surprised to see the Urban Growth Boundary leaving what seemed to be closer ground to the City of La Grande out of the UGB. Commissioner Davidson explained that if Dick were to go back and look at the Ordinance that expanded the UGB he will find that Commissioner Davidson shares Dick's concerns and voted against that Ordinance because he didn't feel that the ground should have been skipped over. That decision is in the past and the County has to move forward with the land that is in the UGB. Commissioner Davidson feels that there needs to be just as many incentives as possible to try and recruit new businesses into the community. Commissioner Davidson explained the process that the City of La Grande went through for the UGB expansion and offered to explain it in more detail with Dick if he wanted to meet with Commissioner Davidson and discuss it more.

Alert Sense Service Agreement

JB Brock, Emergency Services Manager, brought a Service Agreement between Union County and Alert Sense to the Commissioners for consideration. He explained that he presented this system as a potential opportunity to develop an emergency notification system. The Commission approved the decision to select Alert Sense as the vendor and approved JB to move into contract negotiations with them. This agreement is a result of those negotiations. He stated that the primary Section to highlight is 6.2. Under this section the County may cancel the contract at any point with 30 days notice, if the Commission determines it is in the public's best interest. This section mitigates much of

the County's potential exposure. In section 9.1, referencing Client Content. In summary under the contract, all content created by the County would remain the property of the County. This would include not only alerts but employee and individual contract information. This is a multi-year contract at \$7,000 a year. He believes that the annual fee will decrease because others within the regional will enter into contracts as well. As additional area jurisdictions commit, the contract will be amended to reflect the new price. He is proposing to fund the first year within the existing budget, predominately through the project development line item. Moving forward the project would be submitted as a standalone budgeted line item with the Emergency Services budget. He is recommending that the Commissioners approve the Alert Sense contract which will allow Emergency Services to begin to implement the system. They do have a draft implementation plan and it focuses mainly on training.

Commissioner McClure asked JB to explain the concept of partners within the system. He asked if a partner would pick up some of the cost for the system. JB explained that the system is permissions based. Union County would allow an entity located within the County to issue notification within their confines. Based on the permissions the entity would be allowed to initiate any notifications. The entity that is requesting the permissions would be limited in their reach to participants. JB explained that it is up the Commissioners on whether they would want to charge for the use of the services. He believed from previous discussions that in the short term the County would pay for the system but if the Commissioners would like to develop a financial partnership with some of the entities he can do that. Commissioner McClure stated that the County has a successful model with the antenna and has worked well to have the users put in a fee that will maintain the system in the future. JB stated that is a good model to follow to help maintain the system.

Lois Barry, 60688 Morgan Lake Road, La Grande, stated that there is about 32 families that live on Morgan Lake Road. She asked who would alert those residents if there were a fire on the other side of the lake. JB explained that the alert would come through the County. There would probably be Forest Service personnel out on the ground warning residents. He stated that according the Emergency Operations Plan the Sheriff's office is actually in charge of evacuations but all of that is coordinated through the County and through the County's Emergency Operations Center. One of the methods they would use to alert residents would be the Alert Sense system but they would also be on loud speakers and going door to door assuming time allowed for that.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Service Agreement with Alert Sense as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Cooperative Improvement Agreement Amendment 1

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, brought Amendment 1 to the Cooperative Improvement Agreement between Union County and Oregon Department of Transportation to the Commissioners for consideration. Doug explained that this

amendment is coming before the Commissioners because ODOT had not passed the agreement by the Department of Justice before signing the Agreement. There were a few minor changes by the DOJ so the Amendment is necessary to execute the changes made to the Agreement. Once the project is completed the Public Works Department will do drainage improvements. Doug explained that he will not request the payment until the work is completed. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Cooperative Improvement Agreement Amendment 1 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Vehicle Bid Award

Captain Craig Ward, Sheriff's Office, brought a vehicle bid award from the Sheriff's office to the Commissioners for consideration. He explained that they are trying to move the fleet into four wheel drive vehicles. The Hubbard Chevrolet bid was the least expensive bid. None of the vehicles meet the entirety of the bid specifications because none of them are pre-wired for the law enforcement package. They specified that there needed to be an in-bed storage feature. There was only one bid has the built-in storage compartments on the sides of the pickup. He spoke with the deputy that prepared the bid specifications to see why a tool box could not be used instead of the side boxes. He pointed out because of the way the vehicles are run. They are run at high speed so it is difficult to keep the aftermarket boxes sealed. Some of the equipment that they carry is sensitive to the elements and cannot sustain that environment. At this point only the Dodge vehicle meets this specification. Commissioner Davidson stated that the difference between the Dodge bid and the lowest local bid is in excess of \$1400.

Commissioner Davidson asked if there are other Dodge pickups in the fleet that have the bedside boxes. Captain Ward explained that there are no other vehicles in the fleet with that feature but they do have vehicles from all of the major US manufacturers.

Commissioner Howard asked if this will replace a vehicle already in the fleet. Captain Ward explained that they have a rotation schedule that they follow and this vehicle will replace an existing vehicle in the fleet. Commissioner Howard asked what the Sheriff's office will do with the vehicle being replaced. Captain Ward said that they typically use those vehicles for the Sheriff's Reserves until they are then not usable and they either use them towards a trade-in for a vehicle purchase.

Commissioner McClure moved to award the bid to Legacy Dodge for \$34,098 as recommended. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

The February 17 and 19 claims journals; and the December 10 and February 11 and 18 Public Works claims journals; and February 18 Board of Commissioners minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

ODOT Grant Agreement Amendment 2

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, brought Grant Amendment 2 to ODOT Grant Agreement 29533 to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this Agreement is between the State of Oregon Department of Transportation Public Transit and Union County. It covers the funding received for transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities. This amendment is for the biennium ending on June 30, 2015. This amendment includes an addition of funds of \$11,594. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Amendment 2 on ODOT grant 29533 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Intergovernmental Agreement with Oregon DHS

Shelley Burgess brought an Intergovernmental Agreement between the State of Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare Division and Union County. This agreement is for the upcoming biennium. This covers services that are provided by the District Attorney's office in representing the State in juvenile dependency proceedings. **Commissioner Howard moved approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with DHS as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appointment to STF Advisory Committee

Court Order 2015-13, In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Special Transportation Fund (STF) Advisory Committee, was presented for consideration. This Court Order would appoint Nora Croucher to the STF Advisory Committee to serve immediately with a term to expire June 30, 2019. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2015-13 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Memorandum of Understanding

Shelley Burgess brought a Memorandum of Understanding between Union County Board of Commissioners, Union County Sheriff, Union County District Attorney, Union County Victim Assistance Program, Union County Community Corrections and Shelter from the Storm. This is for the Violence Against Women Grant. This MOU would be a piece of the grant application. The grant period would be for October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2018. If the funding is awarded the Commissioners will be presented with a grant agreement to consider at a later date. The total grant amount requested is \$870,642. This is a continuation of a program that has been in place that involves the partners included in the MOU to continue the services for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. Union County is the lead agency and the grant applicant.

Commissioner Davidson stated that it is clearly a valuable program and is important to continue it. The service is desperately needed within the community. Commissioner McClure and Howard agreed with Commissioner Davidson.

Union County Board of Commissioners Meeting
March 4, 2015
Page 6 of 6

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Sr. Dept. Specialist II