

Board of Commissioners Meeting  
March 18, 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.

Blue Mountain Translator District

Beverly Beach, 502 Washington Avenue, and Tim Wallendar, 65302 Airport Lane, La Grande, came to the Commissioners to discuss their budget and a fiber optic project that they would like to site at the Union County Airport. Beverly explained that this connection would allow them to broadcast more channels in Baker and Union County.

Commissioner Davidson asked if they have a business plan on how they are going to capitalize on the additional channels to secure a greater number of paying members or finding other sources of revenue. Beverly stated that they are talking to legislators to change their Statutes but it will take a few years. In the meantime they are working hard on public awareness. They will be sending a mass mailing to all residents within both Baker and Union counties to let them know the District needs their support to continue broadcasting. They have also done public service announcements. Commissioner Davidson asked what they are specifically looking for the legislation to provide. Beverly stated that what they would like to see is a \$10 service fee on every household in both counties. She feels that would be sufficient enough to support the district. She doesn't know if that can or will happen.

Commissioner Howard stated that he likes the public service aspect of what the Blue Mountain Translator District is doing. He doesn't see the legislation change as a suitable and sustainable fix. He feels that they need to intersect the public service aspect with the public themselves. The business model needs to be at that point of intersection. He supports what the District does but he wonders how they will get to that point. Beverly feels that the Statutes need changed but she is still struggling with the best way to change those Statutes.

Commissioner McClure asked Beverly if she sends a notice every year to everyone within the district even if they have sent in a notice to waive last year. Beverly explained that they have to send in a waiver of services every year.

Commissioner Davidson asked if they are on the Baker County Commission agenda. Beverly explained that they are not on an agenda for Baker County. She has invited the Baker County Chairman to the District's next board meeting. Commissioner Davidson stated he would like to see a number that the District is willing or able to invest towards the project as well. He explained that the County is beginning the budget process. He encouraged the District to bring a request for the project to the Budget Committee.

### Building Department Biennial Review

Brian Don, City of La Grande/Union County Building Official, 1000 Adams Avenue, La Grande, brought permit and fee information to the Commissioners in the form of an update. He explained that the City and County permit numbers were nearly equal this year. There have been some big jobs within the County such as the apartment complex by Walmart which have increased the inspections and the valuation of the projects. Since the La Grande School District passed the bonds there will be a lot of activity within the City of La Grande for the next few years. The Courthouse and grocery store projects are also going to be starting soon which will keep the building department busy as well. Grande Ronde Hospital has also been doing additions and remodels. There are other several large projects that will put a high demand on the Building Department who is already short staffed. He is looking to increase the staff in the next fiscal year and continue some education to help cover some of the inspections. Brian stated that they have been having some enforcement issues. In the last six months they have had about 10-12 issues that they have been dealing with as far as enforcement. He had a meeting with some of the realtors in the County and explained some of the building code rules. They are finding agricultural buildings that have been changed to residential buildings without permits. The owners are trying to sell them as home dwellings. They cannot get the certificate of occupancy that is now required for the single family dwellings. He explained that for some reason they are having a lot of unresponsive citizens when a letter is sent to them that they need to get a permit for the structure that they are building. There have been concerns from the City of Elgin and the City of Cove. Since there are only two inspectors they have to operate on a complaint basis at this time. Brian explained that the building inspectors used to be able to give citations. He suggested that the City and the County look into creating an Ordinance on how to enforce the building codes. He would also like the City and the County to re-enact the Building Commission to deal with the citations and enforcement.

### Public Comments

Margaret Mead, 57744 Foothill Road, La Grande, requested that there be more information provided on the Board of Commissioners agendas that are published. She stated that she would like more information on the STF Advisory Committee and the Grande Ronde Enterprise Zone.

### Consent Agenda

**The February 23 and 26 and March 5 and 12 claims journals; and the February 25 and March 4 and 11 Public Works claims journals; and March 4 Board of Commissioners minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.**

### STF Committee Funding Recommendation

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee funding recommendations to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that the STF Advisory Committee met on March 11<sup>th</sup> and reviewed funding

requests for the ODOT Public Transit 5310 grant program and the STF grant program. The STF Advisory Committee is recommending that the County award the funds available in the 5310 grant program to Community Connections of Northeast Oregon Inc. The STF Advisory Committee is recommending that the County fund the Center for Human Development Inc. \$32,226 and fund Community Connections of Northeast Oregon, Inc. \$129,628 in the STF grant program. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the STF funding recommendations as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Operating Agreement between Union County and Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church  
Hanley Jenkins II, Planning Director, brought an Operating Agreement between Union County and the Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church to the Commissioners for consideration. He explained that if the vacation of 5<sup>th</sup> Street is approved by the City of La Grande this agreement would assign fifteen dedicated parking spaces to the church on the West side of 5<sup>th</sup> street. It also specifies maintenance on the road and would create a deed restriction on the vacated portion of 5<sup>th</sup> street to be used for parking lot use only. He explained that the Catholic Church has already signed the agreement and is now coming before the Commissioners for approval. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Operating Agreement as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Roll Call: Commissioner Howard: No, Commissioner McClure: Yes, Commissioner Davidson: Yes. Motion carried.**

Appointment to Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization Community Advisory Committee  
Court Order 2015-14, In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Community Advisory Council for the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization, was presented for consideration. This Court Order would appoint Josh Brownell to the EOCCO CAC. **Commissioner Howard moved approval of Court Order 2015-14 as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Grande Ronde Enterprise Zone Amendment Resolution  
Resolution 2015-04, In the Matter of a Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Grande Ronde Enterprise Zone, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess explained that there was an amendment proposed to the current enterprise zone. Each of the co-sponsors will have to pass a Resolution approving the amendment in order for the amendment to take place. The co-sponsors in the Grande Ronde Enterprise Zone are Union County and the cities of La Grande, Island City, Union, North Powder and Elgin. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Resolution 2015-04 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appointment to Northeast Oregon Housing Authority  
Court Order 2015-15, In the Matter of Appointment to the Northeast Oregon Housing Authority Board of Directors, was presented for consideration. Commissioner Howard tabled the Court Order.

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Executive Session

An executive session was held under ORS 192.660(e) to discuss real property transaction.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm  
Sr. Dept. Specialist II