

Board of Commissioners Meeting
April 15, 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

Lois Barry, 60688 Morgan Lake Road, read the attached statement regarding the Resolution on the agenda to the Commissioners during the public comment period.

Margaret Mead, 57744 Foothill Road, La Grande, came to the Commissioners to address the background check Resolution that will be considered today. She stated that she agrees with everything that Lois Barry presented. She would like more information on the final paragraph in the Resolution that the Union County Commissioners oppose any expansion of Oregon's failed background check system. She would like more explanation on why the County is saying it is a failed system. She asked if the Commissioners have information that shows that the qualified law abiding citizens are not getting their permits or being approved to purchase a firearm. Margaret quoted an article for the Oregonian by Jeff Mapes. "In the last year more than 270,000 background checks in Oregon were conducted for gun purchase". Margaret explains that the article does not state how many were approved or not but it seems like a lot of background checks done. A big concern is the use of the internet for people purchasing guns which can be done without having background checks. Another point in the article is that "under Federal law people are not allowed to purchase firearms over the internet without going through a licensed dealer who can conduct a background check". She wonders if this Resolution like a lot of things is more of a gut reaction. She asked the Commissioners to do more research on the subject to support passing a resolution.

Jail Camera System

Commissioner Davidson stated that the Sheriff's office brought forward at the last Commission meeting a request to purchase a closed circuit TV camera system for use in the Jail. The Sheriff's office has budgeted \$15,000 in the current fiscal year for the system upgrade.

Commissioner Howard explained that the Sheriff's office is still recommending awarding the bid to Moon Security. The warranty for the system provided by Moon Security may not be optimal but it is still acceptable because they provide some support on the system. **Commissioner Howard moved to approve the Moon Security Proposal as recommended. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

CAFFA Grant Application

Resolution 2015-08, In the Matter of a Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Assessment & Taxation Grant, was presented for consideration. Linda Hill,

Assessor/Tax Collector, explained that the CAFFA grant is done annually. She explained that the CAFFA grant covers about 23% of her budget. Linda then gave an overview of her budget to the Commissioners. She explained that they will be using a new credit card vendor and will accept credit cards at the front counter for property taxes. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Resolution 2015-08 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

The April 2, and 9 claims journals; and the April 1 and 8 Public Works claims journals; and the April 1 Board of Commissioners minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Resolution in Support of Elgin Health District

Resolution 2015-06, In the Matter of a Resolution Supporting the Creation of a New Elgin Health Clinic, was presented for consideration. Jared Rogers, 73001 Palmer Junction Road, Elgin, explained that in February they kicked off a campaign to try to get a larger clinic in Elgin. When the district was formed in 2008 they only had medical services. Their board was charged with helping with more of the health needs. They have been trying to figure out how to get a pharmacy back in Elgin. They have had a dentist for the last few years. They have had to utilize a lot of room from the medical functions for the dentistry. They are finding that they need to expand the clinic to accommodate the needs of the citizens. The District purchased an acre of land. They have hired a firm to help get the capital project approved. The firm knows the approach that needs to be taken. The District is looking for 50% of the funding from the State, 20% from local and in kind funds, and 30% from foundations and other grants. The State has supported the request from the District. The Resolution before the Commissioners today will help the District in their fundraising efforts to show that there is local support for the project. The proposed budget for the project is \$2.5 million.

Commissioner McClure thinks that the City of Elgin has stepped up and applauds the efforts that have been made. He stated that the County will support the City in their efforts. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Resolution 2015-06 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution Opposing Senate Bill 941 (Expanded Background Checks)

Resolution 2015-07, In the Matter of a Resolution in Opposition to the Expansion of Firearms Purchase Background Checks (SB 941), was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, read the Resolution into the record.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of Resolution 2015-07 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded.

Commissioner McClure asked Commissioner Davidson to explain what Senate Bill 941 does so everyone understands what the County is opposing. Commissioner Davidson explained that it expands the requirements for background checks to private party transactions excluding only immediate family. Commissioner McClure asked under the proposed Bill what the process is that he would need to follow if he was to sell a firearm to a person privately. Commissioner Davidson stated that it is his understanding that the

seller would have to go through a federal firearm licensed dealer and pay them to have a background check completed.

Commissioner McClure stated that this is in opposition to a Bill that is in the process of moving through both the Senate and the House. Commissioner Davidson explained that it originated in the Senate judiciary committee. There was some discussion in the newspapers and on the internet about how they put arbitrary limits on testimony and severely limited the testimony from anyone in opposition allowing only testimony from people in favor of the Bill. It has passed out of judiciary and has gone to the floor. It is in the process of passing on the floor and being forwarded to the House.

Commissioner Howard stated that there is currently a provision allowing family members to ask for background checks and SB941 attempts to make that process mandatory. He is opposed to SB941 passage but he wanted to offer some amendments to the Resolution.

Commissioner Davidson stated that the Resolution is an expression of concern at the rate that the Bill is moving. They are not listening to both sides of the issue and it is being forced through without impacts into people's rights.

Commissioner Howard moved to amend the 2nd paragraph to add "and Article 1 of the Oregon Constitution" after it reads "the United States Constitution". Amend the 4th paragraph to add "Federal and State" before "Constitutional rights". Commissioner McClure seconded the amendments as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Howard moved to strike the 5th paragraph in the Resolution. He explained that he feels it is a better position to take, policy wise, rather than criticizing the entire system. He has issues with some aspects with attempted controls. **He also moved to insert "unconstitutional" in the last paragraph after "Commissioners oppose any..."**

Commissioner McClure asked Commissioner Howard if he would share more about why he opposes SB941. Commissioner Howard feels that increasing particular types of gun registration runs into the face of the constitution. If people do not like the constitution than they need to say that the constitution needs to be changed. The 2nd amendment has been protected by millions of people. Having that amendment is a reality. He understands a lot of the philosophical debates that people make about comparing it to an automobile but, with all due respect, an automobile is not a constitutional right and owning guns is. Telling someone that they cannot, in a private transaction, tread on another right in the constitution which is the right for people to freely contract. He is concerned that the government does not have the right with existing constitutional authority to fringe on that right. He is above all things a constitutionalist. Commissioner McClure agreed with Commissioner Howard's opposition.

Commissioner McClure seconded the amendments as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution 2015-07 was carried unanimously.

Memorandum of Understanding with Eastern Oregon University (Continuing Education Coordinator)

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, brought a Memorandum of Understanding between Eastern Oregon University and Union County to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this MOU has to do with the funding that is included in the currently approved 2014-15 budget in the amount of \$25,000 for a Continuing Education Coordinator. This funding has been in the County's budget for the last few years to assist in this position. The Coordinator is responsible to coordinate the development, scheduling, marketing, implementation, delivery, and evaluation of EMS/Public Safety continuing education in Union County. This agreement explains how the funding would be used and allows for the transfer of the \$25,000 to Eastern Oregon University to continue the program. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Executive Session

An executive session was held under ORS 192.660(h).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Sr. Dept. Specialist II