

Board of Commissioners Meeting
June 3, 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.

Chip Seal Project – Public Comments

Shelley Burgess read the request for public comment for the Chip Seal Project as published. Commissioner Davidson opened the public hearing for testimony. He closed the hearing with no testimony received.

Public Comments

Fireworks Committee Request

Steve Combs, 505 Jefferson, La Grande, and Bruce Weimer, 605 Foley Street, La Grande came to the Commissioners with a request for support of the annual fireworks show. They explained that they are asking for \$2500 from the County this year which has been the request and donation by the County in years past. They stated that costs go up but they are able to maintain the \$12,000 budget for the show. Commissioner Howard asked how much the costs have risen. Steve stated that they have seen an increase of 5% in the cost of the fireworks. **Commissioner McClure moved to contribute \$2,500 towards the Union County fireworks show. Commissioner Howard seconded. Commissioner Howard moved to amend the motion to increase the award by 5% to \$2,625. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

The April 16, 17, 21 and 23 claims journals; and the April 16 and 23 Public Works claims journals; and the April 15 Board of Commissioners minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Oregon Department of Education Extension

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, brought an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Oregon Department of Education Early Learning Division and Union County. She explained that this is an extension of an agreement that is already in place. This would extend that agreement until September 2015. This is for the Healthy Start program and the services are contracted through Intermountain ESD. There is an increase in funding to cover the additional three months of service. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

2015 Wolf Depredation Grant

Shelley Burgess brought the grant agreement between Oregon Department of Agriculture and Union County to the Commissioners for consideration. Shelley explained that the County has received this grant funding the last two years. The County has a plan in place if there is wolf depredation in the area. Applications come through the advisory committee for consideration of funding. The County is awarded \$3,000 to be applied towards the applications. There was one application received to fund guard dogs that have been proving to be a deterrent against wolf predation. If there are more requests received and they exceed the amount available through the grant the requests can be funded with the next year of available funding. The funding is done as a reimbursement for depredation or for deterrent measures. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the 2015 grant Agreement with the Oregon Department of Agriculture Wolf Compensation and Financial Assistance Program. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Community Dispute Resolution

Shelley Burgess brought the 2015-2017 Community Dispute Resolution Grant to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that the Request for Proposals was advertised and there was one application received. The applicant was found to be qualified by the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution. The application received was from the Eastern Oregon Mediation Center who is now under the Sheriff's department. This grant is for \$50,000 for the duration of the biennium. **Commissioner Howard moved approval of the Community Dispute Resolution Grant as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Tourism Promotion Agreement

Shelley Burgess brought a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of La Grande, Union County Chamber of Commerce and Union County to the Commissioners for consideration. Shelley explained that this MOA had been signed at a previous Commission meeting but there have been a few changes made to the agreement approved. This revised version has been approved by the Union County Chamber Board and will be brought before the City of La Grande tonight. The changes that were made to the agreement include events that the Chamber offices will remain open for, dates for program presentations to participating parties, and the targeted funding amounts.

Commissioner McClure asked why the changes are coming after the MOA has been approved. Shelley explained that there are two other entities that enter into the MOA and there were other comments received after the County approved the agreement.

Commissioner Davidson stated that he feels the County should remain in the agreement and stay connected during committee meetings with all of the interested parties.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Tourism Promotion Agreement as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Commissioner Howard proposed an amendment to end the agreement in 2016. Commissioner McClure seconded the proposed amendment. Roll Call: Commissioner Howard; yes, Commissioner McClure; Yes, Commissioner Davidson; No. Motion carried to amend the agreement. Motion carried unanimously to approve amended agreement.

Resource Zone Ordinance – 1st 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 to the Commissioners for consideration. Hanley Jenkins II, Planning Director, gave a staff report to the Commissioners. He explained that the County last amended the resource zones in 1996 and they include the A-1 Exclusive Farm Use Zone and the A-2 Agriculture Grazing Zone. Both are Exclusive Farm Use Zones under state statute and are designed to conserve agricultural lands for continued agricultural production. He stated that the A-3 and A-4 Zones are both mixed farm forest zones. If someone wants to know what land use regulations apply to their property we do a predominance test. If the soils are predominantly agricultural soils the Oregon agricultural rules apply and if they are predominantly forest soils the forest rules apply. He stated that the uses listed within those zones reflect what is permitted in state statute and Oregon Administrative Rules. He said the proposed changes are designed to bring the four resource zones in compliance with existing state statutes and administrative rules. We have been assisted in this effort by the Department of Land Conservation and Development. He explained that he has made every effort to only implement administrative rules and state statutes and not be more restrictive than we currently are because the current law in Oregon would require the County to pay compensation if the County is more restrictive in any of the zones.

The public hearing was closed on the May 6th Commission meeting.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of Ordinance 2015-01 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The second reading will be at 11:00 a.m. on June 30th.

Sage Grouse

Hanley Jenkins gave an update to the Commissioners on Sage Grouse.

Public Comment

Doug Turnage, 2001 North Fir, La Grande, explained that he has been a friend of Leo and Jenny and they have helped him out in the past. He has watched Leo deal with dialysis. They told him about their foreclosure situation and he feels sorry about the whole situation. He understands the problems that they have at their house. He

understands the compound problems that the County will have when they take ownership of the property. His goal is to help them get on a good budget to make sure their money is allocated properly. He is trying to help make them whole. He would like to help them take items that are behind their house that needs to be sold and get them sold to apply that money to their taxes.

Executive Session

An executive session was held under ORS 192.660(d) (e) and (h)

Authorization to Sell Foreclosed Property

Shelley Burgess explained that ORS 275.180 allows the Commissioners to sell property back to the record owner if they choose. She explained that based on the discussion held in executive session there would need to be a motion to authorize the County to sell the two parcels that were foreclosed upon to the former owners of record. She stated that the first account is 8129 to the Wagoners in the amount of \$5,028. The second, is account 12564 to the Bryants in the amount of \$8,030. They would have 60 days to pay the fees in full. **Commissioner McClure moved to authorize the County to sell the foreclosed property back to the former owners as discussed. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Sr. Dept. Specialist II