

Board of Commissioners Meeting
April 19, 2017

Present: Commissioner Steve McClure
Commissioner Jack Howard
Commissioner Donna Beverage

Commissioner McClure opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and the pledge of allegiance was given with all three commissioners present.

Public Comments and Concerns

No public comments were offered.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employees Comments

Arts & Culture District / Funding Options

Commissioner Howard stated that he had been working with Ken Bruce on a proposal for a county-wide Arts and Culture District to potentially be referred to the voters as a taxing district. The reason this conversation is taking place a little prematurely is because of the recent sideways steps funding the Liberty Theatre. He and Mr. Bruce are very supportive of the Liberty Theatre. This is one more avenue to show that the Board of Commissioners is invested in Arts and Culture. He would like to see whether or not voters are interested in supporting the concept. He and Mr. Bruce have also related it to the library district. He will develop the idea more for the next agenda. He thinks that for it to take root citizens will need to showing interest in pushing it forward. If that happens then he will work to form a committee to develop specific steps.

Transportation Funding Support Resolution

Commissioner McClure stated that the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) and several Legislators want to know if Union County Commissioners would support a resolution to increase road funding. The Federal government no longer funds SRS so the \$550,000 previously received was reduced to less than \$60,000 this year for Union County.

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, stated that many counties on the west side of the state don't get the snow and precipitation that we do on the east side. The Oregon Association of County Engineers & Surveyors (OACES) and AOC requested Mr. Wright to make a presentation about how Union County manages roads during the winter.

Mr. Wright stated that blizzards in the valley this last winter affected his ability to take care of the system. Wind gusts over 60mph occurred on three days, including 80mph wind gusts at the airport. Visibility of less than a mile occurred on 15 days. Temperatures below 32 degrees occurred on 24 days. They only have one snow blower mounted onto a front end loader; it is effective but slow. It takes some time to open roads and there were times when all the work done drifted back in. Excavators were used to help clear snow and there were times that V plows got stuck and needed a grader to pull out. There are no shoulders on the road, but the Public Works crew does the best they can to stay on the road. At the beginning of winter, his crew worked 44-49 days straight; someone was taking care of snow removal every day somewhere in the county. Approximately \$538,000 was spent to keep the system open. SRS funding was \$580,582 in the previous year, but has been reduced to \$58,000. If the county experiences another winter like this one and roads are

maintained in the same way without SRS funding, then the beginning fund balance will be much lower. The county will have to make decisions about how it will fund snow removal and how it will maintain the system to ensure that kids get to school, people get to work, and emergency services can be accessed. The number one priority for Public Works is for emergencies and snow removal.

Mr. Wright stated that he secured an Oregon Transportation Infrastructure Bank (OTIB) loan for the Palmer Junction Road project, which is Federal Highway funded and requires a 10% match. He pays cash for preliminary engineering but in-kind work is part of the match, such as shoulder rock, striping, signage, and chip seal. The loan is a backup to the fund exchange, which is Federal gas tax dollars. If he can avoid taking the loan and just use the fund exchange, his department would be in pretty good shape. If he needs to use the OTIB loan, then he will have to start making payments on it. The fund exchange is project driven and cannot be used for operations.

Commissioner Howard stated that his understanding was that project funding would be frozen due to the transportation funding bill being hung up.

Mr. Wright agreed that was a possibility and added that he received his allotment in January. He exchanges federal highway gas tax dollars for state dollars at six cents on the dollar, removing the Federal strings so funds can be used as needed. Commissioner Howard stated that his concern was if the transportation bill does not come through then that money would be delayed and underfunded.

Commissioner McClure stated that Congress not renewing SRS affects the budget. The county will now get 25% of receipts generated by the U.S. Forest Service. Over 600,000 acres of Federal land is not generating revenue and will have an impact on the county. The county needs to ask if it will support the Transportation Funding Support Resolution or take the risk that it will not be able to provide the services in the future.

Commissioner Howard asked if there was a more serious environment this year than last year.

Commissioner McClure thought there was and added that it has been affected by the winter in Portland and efforts around seismic retrofits needed on the coast. Union County still needs to have enough money to run a system and keep the county operating. If that funding is lost, then the county will do the best it can, but it would be difficult to keep all the roads open and the county may have to cut employees. The Public Works crew is running at bare bones now.

Mr. Wright agreed that Public Works is at bare bones right now and cutting labor costs would not be easy. If he has to lay off employees, he would not have enough crew to take care of the system. It would create a safety problem because trucks and graders are paired up in case one gets stuck. He also would not have enough employees to operate equipment needed to chip seal. Where do you make up \$500,000 in the Public Works budget? He just doesn't see it.

Mr. Wright stated that AOC and OACES would like the support of county commissioners to support the gas tax. Total new revenue would be \$2.7 million; it would only sustain the current system, but not provide enough money for capital improvements.

Commissioner Howard stated that he is a firm believer of climate change and asked if it has created consequences with a hotter and longer summer season. Mr. Wright stated that hotter, longer seasons affect asphalt so they seal it to preserve it. The other affect is that he doesn't have to spend as much money plowing snow and it can be spent on road maintenance.

Commissioner McClure stated that Union County's winters vary; some years there is barely enough snow to start up the equipment, but it still has to be available for when it is needed. This was not the worst winter he has seen.

Mr. Wright stated that this was a boiler plate resolution and the commissioners could add to it if they had specifics that would help support the county's needs.

Commissioner Howard made a motion to adopt Resolution 2017-08. Commissioner Beverage seconded.

Commissioner Howard stated that he liked that the template was a revisited version of OACES's statement from last year with a better emphasis on Emergency Services.

Commissioner McClure stated that if Union County has another winter like last year and does not get funding relief it would be really tough.

Commissioner Beverage appreciated that Mr. Wright was planning ahead.

Mr. Wright thanked ODOT, Union County Emergency Services, Union County Dispatch, and Union County Sheriff's Office for their help this last winter; it takes everyone to make it successful.

Commissioner Howard made a motion to amend Resolution 2017-08 to modify the wording of "support to our Legislative..." and to add the statement "the Board of Commissioners will take appropriate steps to support..." Commissioner Beverage seconded the amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call on Resolution 2017-08 as amended: Commissioner Beverage, yes. Commissioner Howard, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motor Carrier Agreement

Mr. Wright stated that this agreement allows permitted vehicles to use designated county roads without requesting county approval. A contact list is also made available to those drivers. This is a continuation of a current agreement.

Commissioner Howard moved approval of Intergovernmental Agreement 31551 replacing previous agreement 18537. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Hot Mixed Asphalt Bids

Mr. Wright stated that the bid was advertised and one of two companies returned bid quotes. He recommended the bid be awarded to High Desert Aggregate & Paving at \$65.50 per ton.

Commissioner Howard moved approval. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

¾ - 0 Crushed Rock Bids

Mr. Wright stated that the bid was advertised and three of five companies returned opened quotes as follows:

Harney Rock & Paving	\$5.70 per ton
RD Mac, Inc.	\$9.00 per ton
Royal Rock	\$6.25 per ton

Mr. Wright recommended all quotes be accepted based on project location.

Commissioner Beverage asked why the county would pay more to RD Mac than Royal Rock when they are located closely to each other. Mr. Wright stated that the decision is based on the location of the project to secure the lowest pricing. Commissioner McClure added that transportation of the rock is a large part of the cost.

Commissioner Howard moved approval. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Emulsion Bids

Mr. Wright stated that three bids were returned, with Idaho Asphalt coming in as the lowest bid. He recommended Idaho Asphalt be awarded the bid for the 2017 chip seal project.

Commissioner Howard moved approval. Commissioner Beverage seconded.

Mr. Wright added that this bid is for the Palmer Junction Road project; he will also chip seal Valley View Road, lower Palmer, and for the City of Summerville since his crew will be working in that area.

Roll Call on emulsion bid award to Idaho Asphalt as presented: Commissioner Beverage, yes. Commissioner Howard, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Howard moved approval of the Consent Agenda, which includes Claims Journals from March 23, 29, 30, and April 6. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

La Grande Mavericks Request

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, stated that the La Grande Mavericks submitted a property tax exemption request under ORS 307-115 by the April 1, 2017 deadline. The commissioners were provided the ORS rules for guidance in review of this application. This request was also made in 2014. She stated that in the Union County Tax Assessor's review of the application he found no change in the La Grande Mavericks bylaws from the previous submission, which was the problem that the previous Assessor had found in 2014. The Tax Assessor's opinion was that the same circumstances apply as the previous application.

Commissioner McClure stated that to be eligible for the tax exemption, public use must be allowed. Mrs. Burgess agreed and added that it must be free and unrestricted. Commissioner McClure stated that the Mavericks charge for the use of the facility.

Mrs. Burgess stated that the Oregon Administrative Rules' definition of public use is that the property is open and available to all the people for lawful common uses without discrimination, limitation, or restrictions other than those imposed by law or ordinance; it further defines that use of the property is not considered public use when:

- a) access is limited to persons paying a fee,
- b) access is refused to persons who are unable to pay a fee,
- c) access is restricted to events or activities determined by the owner,
- d) access is limited due to the owner's activities,
- e) entry is by invitation only from the owner,
- f) entry is controlled by the desires of the owner, or
- g) entry contributes to the owner's financial interest.

Mrs. Burgess stated that the ORS defines what does not constitute public use and recreation as

- a) when the owner is sponsoring special events for public attendance
- b) a mere byproduct of the owner's activities
- c) advertising public attendance to underwrite the costs of producing the owner's events or
- d) an activity which may financially benefit the owner.

Commissioner Beverage asked if an example would be a park that is open to public and has free access.

Commissioner Howard stated that if the use is restrictive with no adequate access to free use by general members of the public, then it is an easy decision because it would not be a public purpose. He thought there was allowance in the language that if the public is allowed some openness to access the facilities and uses and events and not precluded, then there could be an argument that there is a substantial and effective public use. He would like to see the Tax Assessor's opinion in writing.

Mrs. Burgess stated that a decision would need to be made at the commission meeting on May 3. Commissioner Beverage would also like to see the written opinion.

Commissioner Howard stated that the Maverick's bylaws control what they say they are going to do, such as in section C: "to foster and encourage social gatherings of organization members."

La Grande Mavericks Public Comment

Annette Williams, La Grande Mavericks Secretary, 3114 N. Fourth Street, La Grande, stated that there are other similar organizations that are property tax exempt. The La Grande Mavericks are a 501(c)4. She was unsure of the bylaws' wording, but knows that they are available to the public and they look for events and activities that will absorb the cost of fuel and tractor expenses. Users sign a liability waiver at a cost of \$5. People do not have to join the organization and be a member to do that. They are hosting the 4-H Equine and Horse Show and will donate the cost of the facility and the use of their tractor; their organization's volunteers will also work the event. They are also

coordinating with the Union County Fair to keep their gates open during the fair. They also work with the Back Country Horsemen; they make an annual donation to the Mavericks and in return are not charged for the use of the clubhouse for annual meetings. Minimal charges are assessed for janitorial, operating, and maintenance expenses. Stable rentals are available to anyone who wants to participate and they try to keep those fees affordable; waivers and parental permission are required. The annual income has been below \$50,000 for many years. They have looked at other organizations like the Elgin Stampeders, Eastern Oregon Livestock Show, and Anthony Lakes Corporation; she is not sure if their bylaws separate them from those organizations that are property tax exempt. They try to be available to the public; they are the only facility in this region that maintains an arena in the way that they do. It is also used for their own members, but some of the hosted events also bring people who spend money throughout the community while they are here. The La Grande Mavericks is contributing to the community.

Commissioner McClure appreciated her testimony and agreed that they need to be fair and may need to look at the bylaws to see what precludes them from being tax exempt. He would like to have county counsel review it as well as hear a presentation from the Tax Assessor and the President from the La Grande Mavericks. If the county is doing something wrong, then they need to know that. Commissioner Beverage concurred.

Commissioner Howard stated that the burden is on the La Grande Mavericks; the bylaws are crucial, but the function is just as important. The county is interested in urging economic development and the Mavericks have a strong case for that. He doesn't think the county should make a checklist for them; the commissioners should hear from them how they qualify for the tax exemption. He hopes that they will bring a plan addressing their intentions with their bylaws, how they reach out to people with low income, the number of days open per year, and how fees are collected and waived for liability purposes only. They could make a strong case for themselves by asking other organizations like the Elgin Stampeders what they are doing and make changes to emulate that. Everyone would love to see them get this benefit as an economic development tool.

Commissioner McClure clarified that he did not think the county would fix everything for the Mavericks, but it should seek a legal opinion so the county knows whether or not they can deny the request.

Commissioner Howard stated that the Mavericks' bylaws clearly do not allow the tax exemption.

Administrative Matters

STF Grant Agreement 32022

Mrs. Burgess stated that the commissioners approved the application for this grant after it was reviewed by the STF committee. The agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel.

Commissioner Howard moved approval of STF Grant Agreement 32022. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Natural Resources Committee

Mrs. Burgess stated that four applications for this committee had been received and additional applications would continue to be solicited.

Commissioner Beverage stated that a suggestion was made to add an environmental representative to the committee; she asked what kind of background would constitute those qualifications. She explained that a representative for water issues is already representing environmental interests.

Commissioner Howard thought the committee needed a representative from an environmentalist organization and would like to designate that position as an environmentalist.

Commissioner Beverage agreed and would like to establish terms that would qualify someone as an environmentalist.

Buffalo Peak Golf Course Advisory Committee

Mrs. Burgess stated that this committee was established in July 2005; the appointments have expired and the committee has been inactive. Court Order 2017-19 would appoint new members to the committee with staggered terms.

Commissioner Howard stated that applications were slow to come in. He would like to have a conversation about the function of the committee at the next work session and defer the conversation until more applicants are involved.

Commissioner McClure agreed that the commission needs to define the committee's purpose and the commission's expectations.

Commissioner Beverage stated that the original agreement called for the purpose of the committee: "the agreement between Union County and the City of Union regarding Buffalo Peak Golf Course calls for the county to utilize a six-person golf advisory committee for input into operational and maintenance activities of the course." She asked if the commissioners intended to add language to that agreement.

Commissioner McClure agreed with the original agreement and asked if the commissioners wanted to broaden the purpose of the committee. The golf course is now being considered as a community amenity and there are a series of questions beyond operations and maintenance.

Commissioner Howard stated that how people were nominated will actually match up to those discussions and will need to be tailored. He thought this conversation could take a couple of hours.

Commissioner Beverage asked the other commissioners if they felt there were an insufficient number of applicants to appoint to the committee.

Commissioner Howard stated that there would be real implications in terms of policies and what the committee will do. If the commission appoints people who are all pro golfers, it would be great for the design of the course, but it may not be great in terms of how to manage the policy of budgeting or long term economic feasibility.

Commissioner McClure suggested a work session to continue the discussion before the May meeting. Commissioner Howard agreed that a work session was needed but did not think they

could accomplish that before May. Commissioner Beverage would like it to be scheduled soon because there are a lot of things to address. Commissioner Howard stated that this committee would be pivotal and he did not want to rush it.

Transient Room Tax Funding Requests

Union County Economic Development Corporation (UCEDC)

Dan Stark, UCEDC Executive Director, 406 Allium, La Grande, stated that he had been involved in economic development for 43 years and regardless of the end result, everyone will have to work together and have a collaborative program. He presented UCEDC's goals and strategies for the next year. The economic strategic plan was created in 2009 and the desired outcomes need to be readdressed. There are a variety of perspectives from UCEDC, the Chamber of Commerce, small cities, the City of La Grande and Union County.

Commissioner Howard stated that was he not compelled by the UCEDC proposal because it did not reflect metrics or measures. Losing UCEDC would be an enormous mistake, but he didn't feel he could move forward feeling confident with UCEDC. He thought part of the solution would be to give UCEDC more money to fix what had not been done in the past and provide the tools needed so that accurate reports could be presented in two years. He stated that he intended to support UCEDC, but was not at all be happy about being in the position of supporting the funding at the same level because it is all that is available and UCEDC is all the county has. The county trusts UCEDC to get this done. He stated that he was really disappointed that the county was in this position. He wished the county could do more to provide better support and funding. He stated that he intends to support UCEDC but he is not happy about it.

Mr. Stark stated that he represents UCEDC as the Executive Director and has a responsibility to the nonprofit. He was personally not satisfied with how it was moving; more input and dialog is needed on a consistent basis.

Commissioner Howard asked Mr. Stark to come back to the commission with metrics he believed in; Mr. Stark stated that he would.

Commissioner McClure stated that part of his frustration was that the county had made an investment in the Baum Industrial Park but there wasn't much activity there. The tools are there, but they don't seem to be working. Umatilla County changed some zoning and has attracted Amazon server farms, impacting their property tax revenues. Union County is not getting that response, which may be attributed to location, but the problem needs to be identified and corrected. He asked Mr. Stark what Union County is not doing to progress like Umatilla, Wasco, and Sherman Counties. Mr. Stark stated that UCEDC is responding and out there pushing. Commissioner McClure asked Mr. Stark if what he was saying was that people just don't want to come to Union County.

Mr. Stark stated that there are some things to address and it should be recognized that Union County has some things to work around and deal with. Power is a major element in server farms and the perception is that Union County doesn't have the power availability. Union County is located too far from commercial airports. The focus needs to be assets that are available and the

type of businesses and industry that can match those; then it can be marketed in a more aggressive and proactive way.

Commissioner Howard stated that he wanted to hear that Mr. Stark is approaching economic development in the way the Commissioner McClure described. He is tired of hearing excuses and if power is a challenge, then address it.

Commissioner Beverage stated that the activities listed in the agreement have not been accomplished. When asked, cities do not have positive responses about UCEDC. An assessment of existing lands in Union County has not happened. The website has very old information and has not been updated. The promises on the contract are not being fulfilled. She felt that they were throwing money at something with no results.

Commissioner McClure concurred with Commissioner Howard in that it needs to be more aggressive. It should be done cooperatively, but there was no clear understanding of what the City of La Grande wanted after the joint work session. Oregon is supposed to be in recovery right now but Eastern Oregon isn't improving. Mr. Stark stated that it will not get easier; the State is giving funding to the Ontario area and the Federal Land ordinance facility will be allocated to Umatilla County with a large chunk going to industrial zoning. Commissioner McClure added that the tribes have 500 acres and are putting in sewer, water, and roads.

Commissioner Howard stated that the specifics that Commissioner McClure brought up are what he would like to hear from Mr. Stark. He is in favor of engineering land swaps with tribes. He wants to hear more specifics when Mr. Stark makes the next presentation. Commissioner Howard stated that Mr. Stark had his support for the concept of UCEDC, but he doesn't want it pushed over the edge by hearing about why things won't work in Union County.

Mr. Stark stated that he would take the message back to the UCEDC Board.

Commissioner McClure stated that he understood that Mr. Stark works for the UCEDC Board, but the county provides a chunk of funding and feels that the county has a stake in it. He acknowledged Commissioner Beverage's frustrations; he also would like to see activity. Years ago the county rezoned large lot industrial and made efforts to help with some of the problems, but it doesn't seem to have changed anything.

Union County Chamber of Commerce / Tourism / Blue Mountain Conference Center

Bob Kavanaugh, Chamber Executive Director, 304 Main Avenue, La Grande made a presentation regarding plans and activities over the next year. The three metrics that will be used to measure the success of the Chamber, Tourism and the Conference Center are:

1. Does it benefit out local economy and make sense?
2. Statistical Data (Return on Investment)
3. Peer/Member/Board/Governing Authorities Accountability

Mr. Kavanaugh stated that he has spent time listening to others about what was done well and not well at the Chamber. Member benefits were previously unclear or misunderstood so a list of benefits was generated. The Chamber is about promoting commerce; the banquet is not a fundraiser but an opportunity to recognize the business community and individuals who are

excellent in their fields. They have taken a new approach to ribbon cutting that focuses on businesses and owners, not the Chamber. The identity of Union County had been discussed with the realization that there are many faces of Union County, including the college, hospital, local business, manufacturing, agriculture, and outdoor activities. They are asking people to take “the pledge”, which is more than buying local or shopping small. It is a conscious effort to purchase items in Union County or asking a local business to order what they want before shopping online or outside of the county. They are also asking retailers to be sensitive to customers’ needs and provide for them. They have formed a membership services group to support local businesses; they found that businesses want representation with the city and county, to meet more often as a larger group, HR/personnel help, financial resources, customer service feedback, and a centralized community calendar. The Chamber terminated its relationship with the soon-to-be past web host holder for inadequate and incompetent work. They are now working with a local web developer; it will be more user friendly and also highlight the three components that the Chamber oversees, manages, and leads.

Mr. Kavanaugh stated that the approach to advertising is changing after finding that 70% of past advertising was not effective for the Chamber. The tourism plan will highlight local people and target a specific audience. Local business photos will now be used instead of stock photos, including those from the Minam and rafting companies. Ads that say “Union County” are not effective because no one knows where Union County is, but they know where Northeast Oregon is. He questions if the momentum around the Elgin Opera House is being captured; it could be marketed to Tri-Cities and Walla Walla to enhance local economy. They have plans to post a commercial on social media with drone footage highlighting local sites, people and the Union County identity; he estimated potential views of 700,000 when shared with friends on Facebook.

Commissioner Howard asked if there was a potential to work with the Fairgrounds to turn the Meadow billboard into a modern attractive billboard with imagery since one of the reasons people don’t stop in Union County is because they don’t see a digital billboard. Mr. Kavanaugh stated that he was aware of the billboard but had not looked into digital options. Commissioner Howard felt it would make enormous impact. Mr. Kavanaugh stated that he would look into it and felt it would be received nicely.

Commissioner Beverage asked if Chamber membership had increased after having gone down. Mr. Kavanaugh stated that the Chamber is in the process of clarifying what it does and then will mail invoices; it is important to send the message that they are listening and they have had great response to that.

Mr. Kavanaugh stated that they recognized that the process at the Blue Mt Community Conference Center was not working and have been in discussions with the military to form a new contract. They are putting together a marketing strategy, retooling communication and pricing, and plan to increase profitability by thirty percent. He expects the new draft contract will be completed by mid-May and will lead to a two year extension.

Commissioner Howard asked about revenue targets for the Conference Center. Mr. Kavanaugh stated that quarterly payments to the military are \$2,500. He acknowledged that other counties pay more, but this center has not been managed effectively and operating costs will need to change.

Livestock District

Commissioner McClure stated that at the last meeting Commissioner Howard indicated that he wanted to complete some research before making a decision about the annexation petition from Joel Rice.

Commissioner Howard stated that he sent a question to Union County Planning Director Scott Hartell but had not read the response yet. He also stated that he had not yet made it to the archives in Salem to get the history of the Legislative intent on the word "shall."

Commissioner Howard asked Mr. Hartell if the annexation was part of the land use planning process; Mr. Hartell stated that it is not.

Commissioner McClure stated that it is run by the Department of Agriculture and not a part of Land Conservation and Development Commission. He thought that it should be; being in a timber grazing zone should be the controlling factor. It is becoming a conflict in that area. He stated that he participated in the process with the first application for annexation; the rules are still the same because it is not a new district.

Commissioner Howard stated that he was making sure out of his due diligences that he was satisfied. He still needed to get to the archives before he would vote for it. He wants to look at the Legislative history in print of the determination of the word "shall."

Commissioner Beverage stated that she had already received answers to her questions about land use and was ready to vote.

Commissioner Beverage moved approval of Court Order 2017-16, accepting the annexation petition into Livestock District #1 from Joel Rice. Commissioner McClure seconded.

Commissioner McClure stated that he was not happy with having to approve the annexation petition in this way and was not happy when they had to do it in the past. He has to follow the statutes as they are defined. He stated that he would vote for it not because he wanted to, but because he did not have a choice. Commissioner Beverage concurred.

Roll Call Court Order 2017-16, accepting the annexation petition into Livestock District #1 from Joel Rice: Commissioner Beverage, yes. Commissioner Howard, no. Commissioner McClure, yes.

Commissioner McClure recessed the meeting for an executive session under ORS 192.600(2)(d), ORS 192.660 (2)(f), and ORS 192.660 (2)(b).

Commissioner McClure called the meeting back to order.

Rappel Base Bids

Mr. Wright, Public Works Director, stated that the county went out to bid for the rappel base and bids came in over budget. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) reviewed the plans and decided that in order to fit budget, the scope and size of the building would need to be decreased. This is a major change to the overall plans. He recommended rejecting bids and redesigning the building to reduce

the size and scope of the building based on the USFS needs. Commissioner McClure asked if there was language in the bid documents that would allow the county to do that. Mr. Wright stated that there was.

Mrs. Burgess stated that subsection 3.04 of section 00113 states that the county “may reject any bid not in compliance with all prescribed bidding procedures and requirements and may reject all bids if in the judgment of the owner it is in the public interest to do so.” Commissioner McClure stated that the USFS’s desire to make a major change in the project is the basis for rejecting the bids.

Commissioner Howard moved to reject the Rappel Base bids pursuant to subsection 3.04 section 00113. Commissioner Beverage seconded.

Commissioner McClure stated that there would be more work but it would be worth doing.

Roll Call: Commissioner Beverage, yes. Commissioner Howard, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting and Location

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at the Joseph Annex Building.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorcinda Johnston
Sr. Dept. Specialist II