

Union County Board of Commissioners
June 6, 2018

Present: Commissioner Steve McClure
Commissioner Jack Howard
Commissioner Donna Beverage

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

Public Comments

Commissioner Beverage indicated that a proposal from the Fireworks Committee was expected and may be presented later in the meeting.

No public comments were offered.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

Rappel Base Agreement #31636 Amendment

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, presented an amendment to the ConnectOregon VI grant agreement for the Rappel Base to allow for a longer timeline in completing the project. Expected completion date is July 1, 2019 but he hopes to have it completed sooner. The amendment shows a completion date of April 4, 2019; a change order will be needed if it extends 90 days past that date.

Commissioner McClure asked if the County would still receive the \$1million grant; Mr. Wright stated that it would.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Rappel Base Agreement #31636, Amendment 01. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner McClure asked if the County had received funds from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Mrs. Burgess indicated that the USFS had paid half of its obligation and is expected to pay the remaining funds next fiscal year.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Howard moved approval of the Consent Agenda, which included Claims Journals from May 10, 16, 24, and 31; Meeting Minutes from March 21 and April 4. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, stated that the Commissioners would act in their capacity as Board of Directors for the 4-H & Extension Service District. The prior IGA expired June 30, 2017; the County has not made payments to OSU since that time as it awaited a new agreement. A proposed five-year IGA was received and Commissioner McClure took the lead in expressing concerns about the level of communication between campus, Board of Directors, and the advisory committee.

Commissioner McClure stated that the new IGA includes language stating that OSU will consult with the Commission when making personnel and program changes in Union County.

Commissioner Howard appreciated the additional language in the IGA.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with OSU. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Development Block Grant Agreement

Mrs. Burgess stated that an award of \$400,000 was offered through the Community Development Block Grant Program for the Regional Housing Rehabilitation Project operated by Community Connection. Mrs. Burgess stated that the agreement was reviewed by County Counsel and that Community Connection is prepared to meet all program requirements. There is a policy of no excessive force required. The Commission previously acknowledged through resolution and it is in place.

Commissioner McClure stated that individual communities had received these grants in the past, but now they cooperate and take turns applying for the grant; this is Union County's year to apply. It is a good program to improve conditions of substandard housing. The program requires a great deal of administration and the County found that it was better for Community Connection to administer it.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Community Development Block Grant Agreement for the Regional Housing Rehabilitation Grant Program. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2018-2020 Transportation Options Agreement #32514

Mrs. Burgess presented the 2018-2020 Transportation Options Agreement #32514 for consideration. New transportation funding is available for the Rideshare program operated by Community Connection. The County will receive the funds and pass them through to Community Connection, which will provide the required local match.

Commissioner McClure asked if this funding was a result of the new transportation bill. Mrs. Burgess stated that it was and added that the County will develop a plan and submit other projects for funding.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of Transportation Options Agreement #32514. Commissioner Howard seconded.

Commissioner Howard asked for the amount of required match funds. Mrs. Burgess stated that \$1,632 match funds are required for each fiscal year for a total of \$4,896.

Roll call on approval of Transportation Options Agreement #32514: Commissioner Howard, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Commissioner Beverage, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beverage recessed the meeting until 10:00 a.m.

Public Comment – Fireworks Committee

Bruce Weimer, Fireworks Committee member, stated that Union County had been a great supporter of the Community Fireworks over the years. There was a delay in fundraising this year due to a change in venue. Fireworks were previously held at the university, but construction of new buildings changed the distance from the launch pad making that location unsafe for fireworks. This year's fireworks display will be held at the sports complex in Union. He requested that the same funding award from the previous year be granted for 2018.

Mrs. Burgess stated that \$2,900 was given to the Fireworks Committee the previous year and added that Commissioner Howard requested a 5% increase each year after.

Commissioner Howard stated that he would like to consider a 5% increase over the previous year, equaling \$3,045. Commissioner Beverage and Commissioner McClure concurred.

Commissioner McClure made a motion to award \$3,045 to the Fireworks Committee. Commissioner Howard asked Commissioner McClure to consider amending his motion to award up to \$3,045; Commissioner McClure amended his motion as suggested. Commissioner Howard seconded.

Commissioner Howard expressed concerns about traffic, safety, staging, and planning of fireworks in Union. He was grateful that the event was moving forward and would be available this year in Union County.

Commissioner Beverage stated that she was in discussions with Public Transit to potentially provide transportation from La Grande to Union. She thanked Mr. Weimer for his efforts to continue the event.

Roll call to award \$3,045 to the Fireworks Committee: Commissioner Howard, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Commissioner Beverage, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: Annexation to the La Grande Rural Fire Protection District, Court Order 2018-17

Commissioner Beverage opened the public hearing.

Scott Hartell, Planning Director, presented Court Order 2018-17 for the Commissioners' consideration. Leroy and Beverly Bushman submitted an application to annex their property into the La Grande Rural Fire Protection District. Mr. Hartell read Court Order 2018-17 in its entirety.

Commissioner Howard asked if notices were published in a timely matter and if property owners were notified; Mr. Hartell stated that they were. Commissioner Howard requested that the record state how notification was provided. Mr. Hartell stated that notice was published in the Observer on May 21 and June 1 and property owners were identified through County Assessor records.

Commissioner Howard asked Mr. Hartell for a staff recommendation. Mr. Hartell stated that the Planning Department does not make recommendations on fire district annexations, but he could provide a verbal recommendation if requested. Mr. Hartell stated that the application meets all standards, necessary forms were complete, and it was run through the Department of Revenue. Commissioner Howard stated that in the future he would like a written recommendation from the

Planning Department. He added that a verbal recommendation was satisfactory for the annexation petition from Leroy and Beverly Bushman.

Fire Annexation Public Comment

Raymond Meyer, 62235 Starr Lane, stated that he owned property in Perry and asked if the annexation petition would impact him. He stated that he began the process to annex his property into the district, but was unsure of its status.

Commissioner Beverage suggested that Mr. Meyer talk with the Planning Department for more information on his property. The action under consideration did not include his property.

Fire Annexation Public Comment

Christy Miller, Cove Oregon, stated that Leroy and Beverly Bushman were her grandparents. Their property has fire hazards due to nearby trains and being outside of the fire district has prevented them from getting insurance.

Commissioner Beverage closed the public hearing.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2018-17. Commissioner Howard seconded.

Commissioner McClure stated that it is important to be inside a fire district for insurance and protection purposes and all property owners should consider being annexed.

Commissioner Howard asked if there were any address changes associated with the public notices. Mr. Hartell stated that there was not.

Roll Call on approving Court Order 2018-17: Commissioner Howard, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Commissioner Beverage, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Commissioner Beverage recessed the meeting for executive sessions under ORS 192.660(2)(e) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) and then called it back to order.

Next Meeting and Location

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled to take place at the Joseph Annex Building on June 27, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Commissioner Beverage adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorcinda Johnston
Sr. Dept. Specialist II