

Union County Board of Commissioners
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room
Regular Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Present: Commissioner Paul Anderes, Chair
Commissioner Donna Beverage

Teleconference: Commissioner R. Matthew Scarfo

Commissioner Anderes opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was given with all three Commissioners present.

Public Comment

Steve Vincent, Avista Utilities, F Street, Island City, Oregon, addressed the Commissioners regarding the Right of Way ordinance previously adopted.

Mr. Vincent provided copies of his testimony to the Commissioners regarding the \$500 permit fee for utilities to work on public roads. Per ORS 758.010 states that utilities are able to use public roads free of charge, except in cities where there are franchise agreements in place. Avista Utilities operates in five Oregon counties, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Union County where there are no permit fees in either of those jurisdictions.

Mr. Vincent respectfully asked that the Commissioners consider suspending the enforcement of the \$500 permit fee until a determination can be made.

Commissioner Anderes asked Mr. Vincent how many permits Avista applies for within a 12-month period. Mr. Vincent did not have that information available.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to suspend the enforcement fee until further notice. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beverage would like to be sure that the County is following the law.

Commissioner Scarfo asked Doug Wright, Union County Public Works Director to speak towards the suspension of the fee.

Doug Wright, Union County Public Works Director, addressed the Commissioners regarding the suspension of the fee. Mr. Wright stated that Mr. Vincent is correct regarding the Right of Way free of charge for utilities. He referred to ORS 374.309 which states that, the Union County Board of Commissioners shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations and may issue permits.

There was no further discussion.

Mike Palmer, Director of Operations for Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC), addressed the Commissioners regarding the Right of Way Permit ordinance as well.

Mr. Palmer stated that OTEC is in support of the County with the newly adopted ordinance, however, he would like clarity on the impact it makes towards their membership. OTEC applies for permits about 35 times a year, and would like clarification on the meaning of "work" in our area. OTEC staff are working in our area every day, a \$500 fee each time work is completed, would impact their membership immensely.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

There were no Elected Official, Department Head and Employee comments at this time.

Old Business

Tabled Motion to Provide Funding to the Eastern Oregon Film Festival (EOFF)
Commissioner Anderes discussed the tabled motion that was carried over from the last Commission meeting.

The motion was to support the EOFF in the amount of \$6,000. The next motion that was made and passed was to postpone the discussion until the January 8 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to postpone the matter after the next work session. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Beverage moved approval of the December 11, 12, 18, 19, 26 & 31 Claims Journals and meeting minutes from the December 18, 2019. Commissioners meeting as presented on the consent agenda. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Non-Discrimination Policy Statement

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Non-Discrimination Policy Statement to the Commissioner's for their consideration.

The County currently has a policy that indicates non-discrimination based on any protected class. The current grant for the Housing Rehabilitation Program through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program requires a specific policy statement from the Commission that identifies the individual who

would be the point of contact if someone feels they have been discriminated against. The previous policy statement included the previous Administrative Officer for the County. Mrs. Burgess revised the statement by including her name as the point of contact.

Commissioner Scarfo moved approval of the adoption of the Non-Discrimination Policy. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2020 Commissioner Primary Liaison Designations

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Primary Liaison Designation to the Commissioners for their approval.

During the December work session, the primary liaison designee list was approved. There were a couple of additions from the prior year that were not previously listed, and the Chairmanship changed from Commissioner Beverage to Commissioner Anderes. The Union County Chamber of Commerce Chair changed from Commissioner Beverage to Commissioner Scarfo, due to a policy held by the Chamber of Commerce for the length of time a Commission Chair can be held.

Commissioner Anderes received a call from the Union County Soil & Water Conservation District as the Primary Liaison. Commissioner Beverage stated that there has not been a liaison, she had only attended the meetings for informational reasons.

Commissioner Beverage volunteered to be the Primary Liaison and Commissioner Anderes as the Alternate.

Commissioner Scarfo moved approval of the 2020 Commissioner Primary Liaison Designations as amended. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Justice Court Agreement – City of North Powder

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Justice Court Agreement to the Commissioners for their approval.

The City of North Powder has requested that the Union County Justice Court accept citations for violations of city ordinances. Judge Rick Dall and the Justice Court Administrator Terri Spears have discussed the request and are willing to provide the requested services.

An intergovernmental agreement has been prepared and reviewed by our legal counsel and is recommended for approval. The agreement provides for the Justice Court to retain 50% of the fines to cover the cost of providing the service.

Commissioner Beverage moved approval of the City of North Powder Justice Court Agreement as presented. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Court Order 2020-01: Selection of an Official Newspaper

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Court Order 2020-01 to the Commissioners for approval.

The Court Order would designate The Observer as the official newspaper for Union County for the calendar year 2020. It is a requirement that the county designate a newspaper for citizens to know where notices for foreclosures are published.

Commissioner Beverage moved approval of Court Order 2020-01 Selection of an Official Newspaper. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Anderes stated that he is very pleased with The Observer.

Court Order 2020-02: Appointment of a Budget Officer

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Court Order 2020-02 to the Commissioners for their approval.

The appointment of a Budget Officer would be for the fiscal year 2020-21. The court order would appoint Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer as Budget Officer for the fiscal year. This is a requirement of the local budget process.

The court order would allow Mrs. Burgess to begin work on the upcoming budget.

Commissioner Scarfo moved approval of Court Order 2020-02. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beverage commended Mrs. Burgess on her tireless efforts each year putting the budget together.

Court Order 2020-03: Appointment to the 4-H & Extension District Advisory Committee

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Court 2020-03 to the Commissioners for their approval.

There are several members that are currently serving on the 4-H & Extension District Advisory Committee whose appointments are expired as of December 31, 2019. All five members have been active members, and have expressed interest in continuing to serve.

The court order would reappoint Patty Bingaman, John Cuthbert, Bob Messinger, Rey Moreno, Don Starr and Beth Upshaw with terms to expire on December 31, 2022.

Commissioner Scarfo moved approval of Court Order 2020-03. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Court Order 2020-04: Appointment to the 4-H & Extension District Budget Committee
Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Court Order 2020-04 to the Commissioners for their approval.

There are several members that are currently serving on the 4-H & Extension District Budget Committee that serve alongside of the Board of Commissioners that are due for renewal.

The court order would reappoint Kim Hilton, Bob Messinger and Don Sands with terms to expired on December 31, 2022.

Commissioner Beverage moved approval of Court Order 2020-04. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Court Order 2020-05: Appointment to the Union County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Court Order 2020-05 to the Commissioners for the approval.

This court order would replace Commissioner Beverage as the Commission Representative on the Board of Directors with Commissioner Scarfo. This would be the official action necessary to notify the Chamber that he has been appointed.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to appointment Commissioner Scarfo to Union County Chamber of Commerce, Court Order 2020-05. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Commissioners Meeting

The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

Adjournment

Commissioner Beverage adjourned the meeting at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Moore / Senior Department Specialist