

**Union County Board of Commissioners**  
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room  
Regular Commissioners Meeting  
Wednesday, April 15, 2020

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Present: Commissioner Paul Anderes, Chair  
Commissioner Donna Beverage  
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**

There were no public comments given at this time.

**Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments**

**Resolution 2020-06: Authorizing Participation in the Assessment and Taxation Grant**

Cody Vavra, Tax Assessor, presented Resolution 2020-06 to the Commissioners for their approval.

This is an annual grant applied for through the Oregon Department of Revenue. The State grant provides funding for counties to help come into compliance or remain in compliance with ORS 308.232, 308.234 and Chapters 309, 310, 311, 312 and other laws requiring equity and uniformity in the system of property taxation.

Union County agrees to appropriate the budgeted dollars based on 100 percent of the expenditures certified in the grant application in the amount of \$1,251,016, the total expenditure amount for consideration in the grant.

**Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-06. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Consent Agenda**

**Commissioner Scarfo moved approval of April 2, 2020 Claims Journals and meeting minutes from the April 1, 2020 Commissioners meeting as presented on the consent agenda. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **Administrative Matters**

### Resolution 2020-07: Appropriating Unanticipated Funds

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Resolution 2020-07 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Unanticipated grant funds from the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, Oregon Department of Justice, Office of Child Support Enforcement and Oregon Health Authority have become available after the adoption of the FY 2019-20 budget.

Union County desires to accept these funds and utilize them for a Union County Mental Health/Veterans Court, Child Support Enforcement Program and Public Health COVID-19 response.

The funds in the amount of \$189,875.00 to be appropriated and incorporated into the 2019-20 Union County Budget as provided by the resolution.

**Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-07 In the Matter of Appropriating Unanticipated Funds. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **Elected Official, Department Head and Employee Comments**

### Runway 16/34 Project Bid Award

Doug Wright, Union County Public Works Director, presented the Runway Project Bid Award to the Commissioners for their consideration.

The bid opening date was March 31, 2020 at 10 AM. The lowest bidder was High Desert Aggregate & Paving, Inc.

**Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the intent to award the bid to High Desert Aggregate & Paving, Inc. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

### Crushed Rock Bid Award

Doug Wright, Union County Public Works Director, presented the Crushed Rock Bid to the Commissioners for consideration.

The Public Works Department requested ¾ crushed rock quotes. The crushed rock will be used on various county roads. The approximate quantity is 10,000 tons on as needed bases. Five companies returned bid quotes: Harney Rock & Paving, Co. at \$5.85 per ton; Royal Rock at \$6.40 per ton; RD Mac at \$8.00 per ton; Hampton/Rogers Asphalt at \$ 10.00; and Mt. Emily at \$13.25 per ton.

Mr. Wright is recommending all of the quotes be accepted. Overall rock cost will be calculated based on transportation costs and purchases made at the lowest cost per project.

**Commissioner Beverage made a motion to accept the Crushed Rock Bids from all five companies based on location and discretion of Director Doug Wright. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Hot Mixed Asphalt Concrete Pavement (HMAC) Bid

Doug Wright, Union County Public Works Director, presented the HMAC Bid to the Commissioners for their consideration.

The Public Works Department requested quotes for HMAC. Two companies returned bids: High Desert Aggregate & Paving, Inc. Class C Mix at \$72.00 per ton and Class D Mix \$78.00 per ton; Hampton Rogers Asphalt Class C Mix at \$79.00 per ton and Class D Mix at \$89.20 per ton.

Mr. Wright recommends awarding the quoted contract price to High Desert Aggregate & Paving and Hampton/Rogers Asphalt. Purchase will be determined based on location and availability.

**Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to accept HMAC bid awards from High Desert and Hampton/Rogers. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Etnyre Chip Spreader

Doug Wright, Union County Public Works Director, presented the Etnyre Chip Spreader bid to the Commissioners for their consideration.

The Public Works Department requested bids for one new chip spreader. Three bids in all sent out to Glenn Dick Equipment, Boise Idaho; PacWest Machinery, Portland, Oregon; Metroquip of Meridian, Idaho.

Metroquip was the only company to return a bid for \$325,069.25.

Mr. Wright recommended Metroquip be awarded the bid. He explained the benefit to the Public Works Department in making this purchase explaining it would replace a 1979 piece of equipment which is inefficient and not the safest to operate. This will reduce the number of employees necessary to operate the spreader.

**Commissioner Beverage made a motion to accept the bid from Metroquip for the Etnyre Chip Spreader. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC HEARING: Ordinance 2020-02 Adopting City of La Grande Building Codes**

Staff Report

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, provided a brief summary regarding the ordinance process. She reported that the Commissioners had held a work session at which Building Official Joe Fisher had reviewed the proposed ordinance. The ordinance was then made available to the public on the County's website along with notice of the opportunity to comment.

This public hearing has been properly noticed and is the opportunity for the Commissioners to hear comments and potentially approve the first reading. A second reading and potential adoption would then be scheduled for the next Commissioners meeting.

Joe Fisher, City of La Grande Building Department, discussed the building codes that were revised. He reported that because of changes made by the state, the local provisions are now necessary.

Public Comment

There were no public comments given at this time.

Discussion/Action

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, read the ordinance title for the record.

**Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2020-02. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

The second reading of the ordinance is scheduled for May 6, 2020 at 10 AM.

Resolution 2020-08: Supporting the NEOHA Housing Project in La Grande

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Resolution 2020-08 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Union County lacks safe and decent housing for residents of the County with limited income. Northeast Oregon Housing Authority (NEOHA) has been providing housing that is affordable for residents for over 44 years and is proposing to develop 104 units of affordable housing in La Grande.

Commissioner Scarfo inquired if the City of La Grande was also supportive of the project as he did not want to speak on their behalf.

Shelley Burgess asked for a short recess to call City Manager, Robert Strobe to inquire about their support. The Chair called a recess at 9:36 am.

Shelley Burgess reported she had successfully reached La Grande City Manager Robert Strope who indicated that the city council was aware of the NEOHA project but had not taken a position on it. He explained they would not because a land use application would be needed through the city planning department and the city council would be the appellant body. He reported that he and City Planner Mike Boquist had participated in NEOHA meetings and were aware of the grant application.

Mr. Strope acknowledged there is a need for affordable housing and had no objection to the county supporting a grant application.

The Commissioners discussed amendments to the draft resolution removing references to a specific project and changing the reference to grant funding.

**Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-08 as amended. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Court Order 2020-15: Appointment to the Buffalo Peak Golf Course Advisory Committee

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Court Order 2020-15 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

There is a current vacancy on the Buffalo Peak Golf Course Advisory Committee. Advertisement was made seeking a volunteer to serve on the committee and Jody Plummer has applied to serve.

The term of Mr. Plummer would begin immediately and expire on December 31, 2022.

**Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve Court Order 2020-15 In the Matter of Appointment to the Buffalo Peak Golf Course Advisory Committee. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

ODA-Wolf Compensation Grant Agreement

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the ODA-Wolf Compensation Grant Agreement to the Commissioners for their consideration.

The agreement is between Union County and the Department of Agriculture. This agreement shall be effective no earlier than April 3, 2020 in the amount of \$9,330.00, and end on January 31, 2021.

**Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the Wolf Compensation Agreement. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Blue Mountain Translator District Funding Request

Alex McHaddad, Executive Director of the Blue Mountain Translator District, addressed the Commissioners with a couple of updates regarding the request for funding.

Commissioner Scarfo relayed that he is reluctant to fund the request, as it would open new doors for others to request funding during the Coronavirus outbreak and the county does not have the funding.

Mr. McHaddad recommended instead of funding their request, he asked the Commissioners to provide a letter of support towards a reimbursement request from FEMA.

The Commissioners agreed to provide a letter of support.

Public Information Letter

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the draft informational letter regarding COVID-19 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

**Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the letter as drafted. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Executive Session**

The meeting was recessed to conduct an Executive Session at 10:08 AM. pursuant to ORS 192.660 (d) & (h).

The meeting was called back to order at 10:28 AM.

**Good of the Order**

Commissioner Scarfo relayed that he conducted the Mayors Call In meeting on Monday; which ran smoothly with not many updates.

Commissioner Beverage relayed that she would be attending the Place Based Water Planning meeting this evening by Zoom.

Commissioner Anderes commented that we are in odd times, and appreciates everyone participating teleconferences and adjusting to the new normal. He also commented that AOC has a letter drafted to Governor Kate Brown to reconsider her thoughts on slowly opening the State of Oregon.

**Next Meeting and Location**

The next regular Commissioners meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2020 at 9 AM.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Anderes adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allison".

Allison Moore  
Senior Department Specialist