

**Union County Board of Commissioners**  
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room  
Regular Commissioners Meeting  
Wednesday, May 6, 2020

---

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**

Joe Fisher, Union County Building Official, provided a brief presentation to the Commissioners for the FY 2020-21 proposed department budget.

Mr. Fischer reported that there were a few line items that were previously well padded not utilized, therefore were lowered this year. He adjusted the projected revenues more closely to what has been seen the last few years also.

The budget was approved by the Budget Committee with the City of La Grande on April 26, 2020.

The Commissioners did not have any concerns regarding the budget to bring forth to the governing body prior to final adoption.

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

2020 Noxious Weed List

Brian Clapp, Weed Supervisor, 10507 N. McAlister Road, La Grande, presented the 2020 Noxious Weed List to the Commissioners for their information.

The weed list was provided to the Commissioners before adding Dog Rose to the list under Class B Weeds. Mr. Clapp explained that he accidentally removed Musk thistle off the list last year, has since put it back on the list for 2020.

Commissioner Anderes asked Mr. Clapp if there were any unusual weeds this season. He relayed there were not.

Commissioner Beverage thanked the Weed Department for their continued work on controlling weeds in Union County.

**Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the 2020 Noxious Weed List. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Golf Course Update

Dana Londin, Buffalo Peak Golf Course General Manager, provided a brief golf course update to the Commissioners for their information.

In regards to the weather and COVID-19, Mr. Londin reported that the golf course is on a good path. He is seeing an increase in play time, and believes the golf course will be able to achieve budget numbers with the exception of tournaments. Golf shop sales have increased, due to the change of the logo. Mr. Londin created a new logo for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Buffalo Peak.

There was a review of the fairways and greens, where there have been issues over the last 15 years. The golf course has entered a program to strengthen the golf courses greens within the next 2 to 3 years.

Mr. Londin relayed his appreciation for being a part of Buffalo Peak.

Commissioner Beverage thanked Dana for everything he has done for the golf course during the crisis.

#### FAA Grant Acceptance/16-34 Runway Bid Award

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, presented the FAA Grant Acceptance for the Runway 16/34 & Taxiway D project to the Commissioners for their approval.

This is a follow up item from the previous Commission meeting, where the bid was preliminarily awarded to High Desert Aggregate & Paving as the lowest bidder for the runway project. Project bidding closed on March 31, 2020 at 10 am. All required documentation has been sent to Federal Aviation for their review, and the approval has been granted to move forward with the award to High Desert Aggregate in the amount of \$6,062,472.

**Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the FAA Grant for Runway 16/34 & Taxiway D Rehabilitation award to High Desert Aggregate & Paving in the amount of \$6,062,472.00. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Road Stabilization Material Bid

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, presented the Road Stabilization Material bid to the Commissioners for their approval.

Union County Public Works requested bids (per ton) for road stabilization material, otherwise known as dust abatement. Two suppliers sent in bids, one for Mag Chloride from Hek Jones at \$210/ton and the other for Earthbind from Ed Staub & Sons at \$1,077/ton.

After reviewing the bids, it is not clear how Ed Staub & Sons calculated their price using a concentration mixed with water.

Mr. Wright recommends awarding the bid to Hek Jones for a majority of Union County road, with a product sample of Earthbind from Ed Staub & Sons on a hill road as a test and compare the cost and effectiveness.

Commissioner Anderes commented on the success of Hek Jones, and also doing a demo with Ed Staub & Sons. He believes it would be in the benefit of Union County roads down the line.

**Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the bid from Hek Jones and a demo from Ed Staub & Sons for road stabilization. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Emulsion Bids

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, presented the Emulsion bids to the Commissioners for their approval.

Union County Public Works requested bids for Emulsion Oil also known as chip seal oil. The oil will be used for our chip seal projects throughout Union County. Three companies returned bids: Albina at \$440.00/ton; Western States Emulsion at \$485.00/ton and Idaho Asphalt at \$436.50/ton.

Mr. Wright recommends Idaho Asphalt be awarded the bid.

**Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the bid from Idaho Asphalt for Emulsion/Chip Seal oil in the amount of \$436.50 per ton. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### ATV Signage

Mr. Wright provided an update on progress of the ATV signs. Most of the signs have been put up in accordance with the ATV ordinance. The signs have an ATV with a red circle, black and white lettering with the ORS on the bottom to make it enforceable.

#### **Consent Agenda**

**Commissioner Scarfo moved approval of April 8, 9, 16, 22, 23 & 29, 2020 Claims Journals and meeting minutes from the April 15 & 20, 2020 Commissioners meeting as presented on the consent agenda. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Administrative Matters**

##### Letter of Support – Hot Lake Grant Project

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the draft letter of support for the Hot Lake Grant project to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Michael Rysavy recently took over ownership of the Hot Lake Hotel and is in the process of pursuing grants to improve the condition of the building. He is working with a local non-profit to coordinate the historic preservation aspects, and is asking the Commissioners to provide a letter of support for that endeavor.

Mrs. Burgess provided a general letter of support, and is subject to change for the type of grant.

Commissioner Scarfo relayed he is all for the project, however letters of support for certain types of projects down the line may cause controversy in Union County.

Commissioner Anderes commented on a conversation in the email from Mr. Rysavy regarding Commissioner Beverages recommendation to inquire about upcoming grant revisions. His concerns are that it is lottery money driven and has potential to be much less than it has been in the past. His suggestion is to suggest approving the draft letter as written.

**Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the draft letter for Grande Hot Springs. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Beverage believes it is important to work with businesses that bring economic development to Union County.

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

#### East Keltz Lane Dedication

Scott Hartell, Union County Planning Director, presented the East Keltz Lane dedication to the Commissioners for their approval.

East Keltz Lane is a roadway right of way that is within Island City jurisdiction. The road maintenance will be serviced by Island City. However, when a roadway is dedicated, the statutes require the County to sign off on the dedication. It was noted that the city of Island City has approved the dedication.

**Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the City of Island City East Keltz Lane dedication for right of way purposes. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

The chair called a recess at 9:38 am.

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

#### Staff Report

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, introduced the Public Hearing by reading the ordinance title. The Commissioners held the first reading of the ordinance on April 15, 2020 approving the first reading, announcing the second reading to be held, Wednesday, May 6, 2020 followed by a potential adoption.

Prior to the first reading, there was a work session held, when Joe Fisher, Building Official, discussed the building codes that were revised and the reason for adoption of the code.

#### Public Comment

There were no public comments given at this time.

#### Discussion/Action

**Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-02 Adopting City of La Grande Building Codes. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

The chair called a recess until 10:15 am.

**Tourism Promotion & Chamber of Commerce Presentation**

Suzannah Moore-Hemann, Executive Director, provided a written report and 2020-21 work plan for the Union County Tourism Promotion to the Commissioners for their information.

The Commissioners commented that the report was informative and expressed their support for the work being done.

Mrs. Moore-Hemann addressed the Commissioners with an update from the last year as Executive Director. The annual Farmer-Merchant banquet was one of the most successful banquets to date. The Chamber will also work closely with Eastern Oregon University, La Grande Main Street and local businesses to build on the newly developed EOU Week of Welcome activities including a scavenger hunt and block party. The Chamber also implemented a County-wide holiday decorating competition in December where nominees of businesses and residents were invited to participate.

**Good of the Order**

Commissioner Beverage commented on following the guidelines to open up Union County slowly and safely.

Commissioner Anderes relayed that he conducted the Monday Mayors meeting, where there were questions about reopening. He also wanted to publicly thank Tucker Billman for all of his work in Congressman Walden's office this last year. He would like a resolution prepared thanking him for his service to be considered at the next Commission meeting.

**Next Meeting and Location**

The next regular Commissioners meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2020 at 9 AM.

**Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Moore  
Senior Department Specialist