

**Union County Board of Commissioners**  
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room  
Regular Commissioners Meeting  
Wednesday, May 20 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**

Floodplain Map

Jadon Herron, Anderson Perry Project Engineer, 1901 N. Fir Street, La Grande, addressed the Commissioners with the Floodplain Map Revisions.

Mr. Herron explained that the City of La Grande is working to update floodplain mapping throughout the city. With that they are using a 2-dimensional hydraulic model to create the floodplain mapping, the boundaries have extended into the county towards I-84. The maps were reviewed which illustrated the current flood plain areas as well as newly identified areas.

Commissioner Beverage asked Mr. Herron if the floodplain will wrap around the livestock yard across from RD Mac. Mr. Herron relayed that it does wrap around that area. Commissioner Beverage is concerned it will affect the landowners and their insurance. Mr. Herron relayed that the livestock area is in the floodplain, and water does accumulate in that area. The owners are able to complete an elevation certification, and if there building is above the elevation area, they can submit a request to FEMA to get out of paying flood insurance.

Commissioner Anderes asked if the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is involved because in his view the plug in the system is I-84 which serves as an effective dam that keeps the water flowing through that area.

Brett Moore, Anderson Perry Board Member, relayed that ODOT is not involved at this time. The restrictions they are running into is flows are bounded by the highway and freeway and the culvert sizing does have an effect. They are not seeing significant backwater with the ODOT culverts with the specific modifications.

Commissioner Scarfo is concerned by reducing the flooding area and telling residents they are "high and dry", only to see 10 years later, they flood out. He doesn't want to see a lawsuit later down the road, whether they go to FEMA, the city or the county. Commissioner Scarfo asked who would get the liability in a situation like that.

Jadon Herron, Anderson Perry, relayed that the 100-year flood mapping with FEMA distinctly identifies areas of potential flooding. Its an insurance program, where

FEMA says in order to get disaster relief funds associated with flood damage, you have to buy flood insurance to be in the program. If you are outside the flood zone and have flood damage, disaster relief funds are still available depending on how the damage of the disaster happens. FEMA is trying to mitigate their risks by requiring flood insurance and controlling development in these areas.

Commissioner Scarfo asked if Anderson Perry would send notifications to residents in the area with a disclaimer that relays they are not "high and dry". Mr. Herron relayed that there is a process through the map revision with FEMA with public comment available.

Commissioner Beverage asked what the benefit would be to Union County. Mr. Moore replied that there are restrictions for developments and improvements in addition to the ongoing expense for having to pay flood insurance. There is a significant amount of land that is removed from the floodplain that will benefit from those reduced restrictions that are in place by FEMA as far as flood mitigation goes. As far as the county, what this allows is for all of the land in the Gekeler Slough that does have industrial zoning to be removed from floodplain restrictions.

The request from Anderson Perry is to include the county areas that are between I-84 and city limits in the map revision before it is submitted to FEMA.

Commissioner Anderes asked what the time limit was to submit because the Commissioners would like more time to review the revision before it is submitted to FEMA. Mike Boquist, City of La Grande, relayed that it would not delay him, and would be taking it to the City Council for guidance to Anderson Perry for submittal. Prior to meeting with city council, once COVID subsides, Mr. Boquist will do a widespread notice to all affected property owners to provide public comment. He indicated that would not occur before August.

Commissioner Beverage asked if it was brought to the city council already for review. Mr. Boquist relayed in November 2019, Anderson Perry made the same presentation to the council, where the council reviewed the map revisions and discussed moving forward with a process.

Commissioner Scarfo mentioned having a public comment period for citizens before any county decision would be made.

The Commissioners will take the time to review the revisions and consider a process to include public notice. The matter will be rescheduled when the Commissioners have had adequate time to digest the information. It may be scheduled for June 17 or a later date.

Scott Hartell, Planning Director, relayed if you are in a flood zone, you can apply for flood insurance through FEMA at a reduced rate.

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

There were no comments at this time.

**Consent Agenda**

**Commissioner Scarfo moved approval of May 5, 7 & 13, 2020 Claims Journals and meeting minutes from the May 1 & 6, 2020 Commissioners meeting as presented on the consent agenda. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Administrative Matters**

Court Order 2020-17: Appointment to the Hospital Facility Authority of Union County  
Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Court Order 2020-17 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Michael Jaeger has been an active member of the Union County Hospital Facility Authority. Mr. Jaeger is eligible to serve a second three-year term, has been recommended by the current hospital authority and has agreed to serve.

His term will begin immediately and expire on April 30, 2023.

**Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve Court Order 2020-17 appointing Michael Jaeger to the Hospital Facility Authority. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution 2020-09: Appropriating Unanticipated Funds

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Resolution 2020-09 to the Commissioners for their approval.

Unanticipated grant funds from the Oregon Health Authority – Public Health Division have become available for COVID-19 response after the adoption of the FY 2019-20 budget. Union County desires to accept these funds and utilize them for the purpose intended.

Total amount of funds available are \$55,217.

**Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-09 Appropriating Unanticipated Funds for \$55,217. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution 2020-10: Recognizing the Service of Tucker Billman

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Resolution 2020-10 to the Commissioners for their approval.

Tucker Billman has concluded his service as Field Representative for Congressman Greg Walden who will not seek re-election to the position of US Representative of the Second Congressional District.

Mr. Billman has served the citizens of the Second Congressional District as Congressman Walden's Field Representative since June of 2017 and will be greatly missed in this capacity.

The Union County Board of Commissioners offer sincere thanks and appreciation to Tucker Billman for his dedicated service to the citizens of Union County.

**Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-10 Recognizing the Service of Tucker Billman. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Scarfo relayed that he is well missed and wishes him luck in his future endeavors.

Commissioner Beverage relayed that she will also miss working with Tucker, he was well versed and appreciated his dedication.

Resolution 2020-11: Authorizing Signature Authority for COVID-19 Related Funding Documents

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Resolution 2020-11 to the Commissioners for their approval.

It is necessary for Union County to authorize an individual to sign COVID-19 related applications, related documents and certifications in order for Union County to be eligible to receive state and/or federal funding.

The recommendation is to authorize Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, to sign necessary documents and certifications related to COVID-19.

**Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-11 Authorizing Signature Authority for COVID-19 related funding documents to Shelley Burgess. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Beverage commented that she believes this is an important step during this difficult time.

Agreement Extension between Union County and UCLEA

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the agreement to the Commissioners for their approval.

There is currently an agreement with the Union County Law Enforcement Association, which expires on June 30, 2020. Due to current local, state, and national emergency resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the parties feel it is in the best interest of all to postpone negotiations for a new multiple year agreement.

The County and Association have agreed to extend the current agreement for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

**Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the agreement extension between Union County and Union County Law Enforcement Association. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 Emergency Leave Policy Revision

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the leave policy revision to the Commissioners for their approval.

Mrs. Burgess presented the Union County Novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 Emergency Leave Policy to the Commissioners on April 1, 2020. The temporary policy was effective April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 unless extended by requirement of state or federal law.

Since the adoption of the policy, additional guidance has been released by the US Department of Labor and the Bureau of Labor & Industries. The policy as adopted included the exclusion of "health care providers" or "emergency responders", as those categories had been identified by the US Department of Labor which included law enforcement personnel, emergency services personnel, emergency response public works support personnel, and community corrections.

Since the exclusion has been clarified as optional, Shelley recommended adoption of the revised policy which would allow the policy to apply equally to all Union County employees.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the revised Novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 Emergency Leave Policy as presented. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Grant Opportunities Discussion

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, addressed the Commissioners with questions regarding short notice grant opportunities available to Union County.

Mrs. Burgess asked what the Commissioners preference is regarding the last-minute grant opportunities and short deadlines.

Commissioner Scarfo commented that many of the grants are definitely needed in Union County, we apply and it takes over 2 months to arrive.

Commissioner Anderes commented that the amount of man power required for grants should be considered when making the determination on whether or not to apply.

#### **Good of the Order**

Commissioner Anderes congratulated Commissioner Beverage on her re-election as County Commissioner. He mentioned the recent communication offering a NACO leadership training opportunity and indicated it could be on the agenda for the next meeting. There was a consensus that participation would be fine with no need for further discussion.

Commissioner Beverage commented that it is a busy time, and is grateful that elections are over. She is very happy to serve Union County another 4 years.

Commissioner Scarfo commented that he is working with the Governor's office move into Phase 2 for local businesses and specifically on the use of partitions.

#### **Next Meeting and Location**

The next regular Commissioners meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2020 at 9 AM.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Anderes adjourned the meeting at 10:01a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Allison Moore  
Senior Department Specialist