

Union County Board of Commissioners
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room
Regular Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 15, 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 Comments

There were no public comments given at this time.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

COVID-19 Update

JB Brock, Emergency Services Manager and Carrie Brogoitti, Public Health Administrator addressed the Commissioners with an update regarding the emergency response to COVID-19.

One of the biggest challenges is getting test results back in a timely manner. In many cases, by the time the results have come in, the quarantine days have been completed.

Maintaining hospital capacity remains a primary objective.

Carrie Brogoitti addressed the Commissioners with the plan to address another outbreak, should there be another in Union County. Mrs. Brogoitti recommended that any one person that is feeling symptomatic should stay home, which will help flatten the curve.

The Incident Management Team (IMT) has distributed the appropriate PPE to the vulnerable population in Union County.

The IMT is recommending that the Commissioners consider returning to the Phase 2 reopening guidelines in Union County. The recommendation for a voluntary Phase 1 was made due to the significant outbreak of COVID-19 in Union County and as a mitigation factor to protect the community, flatten the curve and maintain hospital capacity.

Commissioner Anderes read the resolution out loud prior to approval.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-16 Recommended Return to Phase 2 Reopening Guidelines in Union County. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Beverage moved approval of the consent agenda, including the June 24, 2020 meeting minutes and July 2 & 9, 2020 claims journals as amended. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Court Order 2020-20: Appointment to the Union County Fair Association Board of Directors

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Court Order 2020-20 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Lewis Wallenmeyer has resigned from the Union County Fair Association Board of Directors leaving an unexpired term. The position opening has been advertised and an application was received from Melinda Becker-Bisenius expressing interest in serving.

Her term will expire on December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve Court Order 2020-20 Appointment to the Union County Fair Association Board of Directors. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Northern Blues Forest Collaborative Operation Principles

Commissioner Anderes addressed the Commissioners with the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative operating principles.

The Northern Blues Collaborative a fairly new within the last year where the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla national forests combined and formed the Northern Blues Collaborative. The facilitator is Jeff Castillo from Wallowa Resources out of Enterprise. Since Commissioner Anderes took office, he has been attending the meetings and assisting with the operations agreement.

Commissioner Scarfo relayed that he fully supports the collaborative. However, he is concerned to sign the agreement as it states the signer becomes a voting member. He would feel more comfortable with Commissioner Anderes the only signer as a voting member.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative agreement with Commissioner Anderes as the Union County Representative. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Tourism Promotion MOA

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Memorandum of Agreement to the Commissioners for their consideration.

The Tourism Promotion Program is jointly funded by the City of La Grande and Union County utilizing Transient Room Tax funds. The three-year agreement has been negotiated by the Chamber Executive Director and the Joint Tourism Advisory Committee on which Commissioner Beverage serves.

The MOA has been approved by the La Grande City Council at the recommendation of City Manager Robert Strobe.

Commissioner Beverage asked Mrs. Burgess if there were any significant changes made from the last approved MOA. Mrs. Burgess relayed that there were not, only a couple of things that were added to Section 2 – Duties and Responsibilities, requested by the Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Beverage inquired about the hours of business on the second page of the agreement. The Chamber of Commerce used to be open on Saturdays, however due to the reduction in staff, Mrs. Burgess relayed those hours have changed. Suzannah Hemann-Moore also relayed that the Tourism Committee discussed the change of hours after realizing their busiest hours were earlier in the morning.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the Tourism Promotion Memorandum of Agreement with the City of La Grande. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

The Chair called an Executive Session at 9:48 am. pursuant to ORS 192.660(i)(h). Following Executive Session the regular meeting was called back to order.

Good of the Order

Next Commissioners Meeting

The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 9 AM.

Adjournment

Commissioner Anderes adjourned the meeting at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Moore
Senior Department Specialist