

Union County Board of Commissioners
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room
Regular Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, August 19, 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

Partition Plat

Jeff Hsu, Bagett, Griffith and Blackman, 2006 Adams Avenue, La Grande, addressed the Commissioners with the partition plat for their consideration.

Mr. Hsu explained the location of the partition plat is located on Gildcrest Drive in La Grande which requires Commissioner approval. The partition is within city limits.

Commissioner Scarfo asked Mr. Hsu if the partition has been approved through the City of La Grande. Mr. Hsu relayed that all signatures have been collected, except the Assessor. The taxes still need to be paid on the plat.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the Partition Plat on Gildcrest Drive. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Karen Antell, Eastern Oregon University, Professor of Biology, addressed the Commissioners with her concerns regarding the public process prior to the decision of the MERA Harvest Plan. Ms. Antell would like to see transparency and involvement of the public prior to planning.

Bart Barlow, 64301 Mt. Glenn Road, La Grande, is in favor of timber harvest on MERA if it stays consistent. Mr. Barlow would like to see the Commission allow the Motorized/Non-Motorized MERA Advisory Committee involved in the harvest plan.

Kathy Pfister-Minogue, 64328 Mt. Emily Road, La Grande, addressed the Commissioners with her concerns regarding the MERA harvest plan. Ms. Pfister-Minogue would like to see involvement from the MERA Advisory Committee.

Irene Isley, La Grande, Oregon, addressed the Commissioners with her concerns regarding not involving the public in the MERA harvest plan.

Elijah Romer, 1709 Lilly Loop Road, La Grande, had no comments at this time.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

Used Compactor Purchase

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, presented the Compactor Purchase request to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Union County Public Works is requesting approval to purchase one used PS-150 Pneumatic Tired Compactor. The purchase is \$38,670.00 and is comparable to other used compactors. Western States will take our Raygo Rascal compactor on trade for \$3,000. New purchase price range for this same model is \$90,000-\$110,000.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the purchase request of the 2011 PS-150 Caterpillar Compactor. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Scarfo moved approval of the consent agenda including the July 15, 2020 and August 5 meeting minutes and July 29 & 30 and August 5 & 6, 2020 claims journals as presented. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters

ODOT – Public Transportation Grant Agreement – No. 34383

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented ODOT Agreement No. 34383 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

The agreement is between the State of Oregon Department of Transportation, Rail and Public Transit Division and Union County. The agreement shall become effective on July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The grant would provide transportation services for Union County Veterans for healthcare services in Oregon, Idaho and Washington.

The total grant amount is \$50,000 over the 12-month period.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve ODOT Agreement Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Grant No. 34383. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EOCA Intergovernmental Agreement

Commissioner Anderes, presented the Eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA) Intergovernmental Agreement to the Commissioners for their consideration.

The agreement was reviewed by legal counsel from multiple counties, and will be renewed every two years.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the EOCA Intergovernmental Agreement. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Engagement Letter – Hutchinson Case

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Hutchinson Case engagement letter to the Commissioners for their information.

The Commissioners held an executive session at the last Commissioners meeting to discuss the lawsuit that has been filed against all 36 counties. The lawsuit is in regards to foreclosure proceedings and the process. Wyatt Baum, Legal Counsel provided an update that the County counsels have been working together to identify one firm to represent all 36 counties. The representing firm is Susmann Shank.

Each of the 36 counties will pay a portion of the fee in accordance with a 3-tier system developed based on county population.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the Hutchinson Case engagement letter. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ballot Tally Machine Purchase Authorization

Robin Church, County Clerk, addressed the Commissioners regarding the authorization for the purchase of a ballot tally machine. She had reported the current machine went down during the primary election requiring use of the old backup. She would like the new machine in place prior to the November election.

Shelley Burgess reported the \$56,225.89 purchase was not included in the approved FY 2020-21 budget. If the Commissioners wish to authorize the purchase, funding would need to come from contingency.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the ballot tally machine purchase under the Contingency line item. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Good of the Order

Commissioner Beverage would like to relay compliments that have been relayed regarding Buffalo Peak Golf Course. New management has taken his role very seriously.

Next Commissioners Meeting

The next scheduled work session will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 9 AM.

The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 9 AM.

Executive Session

The Chair called an Executive Session at 9:40 am pursuant to ORS 192.660(s)e.

Adjournment

Commissioner Anderes adjourned the meeting following the executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Allison Moore
Senior Department Specialist