

Union County Budget Meeting
May 29, 2013

Present: William D. Rosholt, Chairman
Steve McClure, Commissioner
Mark D. Davidson, Commissioner
Lanny Hildebrandt, Budget Committee Member
Kyle McAndie, Budget Committee Member
Dale Case, Budget Committee Member

Call to Order

Commissioner Rosholt called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with all budget committee members and commissioners present.

Election of Chair

Dale Case was elected Budget Committee Chair by a motion made by Lanny Hildebrandt. The vote was unanimous.

Budget Message

Budget Officer Shelley Burgess reviewed the written budget message included in the budget packet materials. Shelley explained that all funds are balanced.

District Attorney

Tim Thompson, District Attorney, and Valerie Schlichting, Office Manager, came to the budget committee and thanked them for funding a large project for their office last year. They were able to purchase software for case management. Tim explained that the rest of their budget is the same as last year.

Dale Case asked Tim how the new software system is working. Tim explained that they are nearly paperless. They are scanning all of their cases into an electronic system where it can be accessed. They are hoping that the records can be accessed in the courtrooms which would save a large amount of resources. The infrastructure had to be upgraded to accommodate that in the courtrooms and the offices. Valerie Schlichting explained that the Computer Service Manager stated that the wiring in the building needs to be upgraded to help support the system. That is in the process of being fixed.

Commissioner Rosholt asked Tim what is happening with the regional medical examiner. Tim explained that there was a Bill to try and regionalize the position but the State does not have the funds to support it. There is some resistance within the counties in terms of whether the position should be regionalized or not. The regionalization would help Union County a great deal.

Drug Free Communities Grant

Robin Wortman, Safe Communities Coalition staff, explained that they have received a Drug Free Communities Grant in the amount of \$125,000 from the Federal Government.

She explained that they are required by the grant to provide dollar for dollar match. In the last year they have had the Commission on Children and Families overseeing the grant and have provided a large amount of in-kind to the grant in terms of personnel and supplies. They will be able to meet their match requirement through this fiscal year but in year three they may have some difficulty meeting the match requirement due to the Commission on Children and Families going away.

Commissioner Rosholt asked what their match will be this year as far as volunteers. Robin explained that they should be very close to the \$125,000. Robin stated that the community has been very supportive.

Commissioner Davidson asked what the monetary match is for the volunteer hours. Robin explained that they can currently count the hours at \$18.85 an hour.

Patty McClure, 708 French St. Cove, explained that the Coalition is asking for \$10,000 to help pay for the support staff. She is on the budget committee and they have chosen to cut back on the amount of youth that attend the mid-year conference that they attend in July every year. If the funds are received from the County they would be able to send more youth to the conference.

Shelley Burgess explained that when the Drug Free Communities Grant was originally established it was a five year grant that was awarded. The budget has to be submitted each year and requirements have to be met for renewal each year. When the grant was applied for Union County was the sponsor through the Commission on Children and Families program. The Director and some staff time within that department were the in-kind match for the grant originally. She explained that as of July 1st the Commission on Children and Families will no longer be funded by the State. So the positions that they were using for the match will not be available any longer. The County will remain the sponsor of the grant.

Commissioner Davidson explained that his concern is that the County has made a decision to set a policy of not using the County revenues to backfill positions that were funded by State or Federal funding that is cut.

Commissioner Rosholt feels that it is not a backfill because the Commission on Children and Families is going away and this is just a small portion of what that department did.

Commissioner McClure stated that the original discussion was that if the Commission on Children and Families went away the grant would be transferred to CHD. The grant transfer wasn't as simple as first thought. In order to transfer the grant they would have to reapply for the grant so the grant was not guaranteed to continue.

Jan Harris, co-chairman of Safe Communities Coalition, explained that she understands where the County is with funding and appreciates that the County is not like the Federal

Government and living beyond their means and making promises that cannot be kept. However, she hopes that the County realizes the loss to the County of the Commission on Children and Families and the ripple effect that it will have. Any support that will be given is greatly appreciated because it is going to be a difficult process with the loss of Commission on Children and Families. She has been involved in drug prevention within the community for close to 20 years and she feels like this group is doing some things involving youth that make a difference and involving different facets within the community that are really working.

Gage Little, Union County Safe Communities Youth Council, explained that they have been a part in doing reward and reminder which is younger age kids go into businesses and ask to purchase tobacco and if the business sells the product they give them a card that reminds them to check the customers for i.d. If the businesses check i.d. they receive a certificate. All the businesses that participated did receive the certificate. They handed out table tents to restaurants in Elgin and plan on going to a large meeting in Austin, TX to learn about drug free communities.

Community Corrections

Travis Miller, Community Corrections Director, explained that their budget is similar to last year's budget. He explained that they hope to receive an increase in funds from last year. He would like to hire a full time Probation Officer with this increase. He explained that they have been down a Probation Officer position since he took the Director position and would like to have more coverage on the ever growing case numbers. The Violence against Women Rural Grant has been re-newed and will increase to pay for half of a probation officer position. Travis has increased the supplies line item to pay for updating their computers and software as well as outfitting the new P.O. if they are able to hire. He has also budgeted \$21,000 in their budget for a new vehicle for their fleet. They would be replacing a 1997 Ford Taurus with 140,000 miles on it. He explained that if the increase of funds does not happen they will not fill the probation officer position or purchase the new vehicle. He explained that half of the Probation Service Specialist position will be included in a drug court grant this year. That position is valuable to the Drug Court program as well as the probation department. The position helps the offenders find employment, set up budgets with offenders, take the offenders to appointments and other help. The other half of the position is from funds that will be included within the State funds. If the grant is not funded the position will at least be covered at half time.

Lanny Hildebrandt asked what the impact will be if a new probation officer is not added. Travis explained that they started a case bank system with a risk assessment tool that was put into effect last year. When someone comes on supervision they run a risk assessment. If they come back at a low risk assessment they kick them to case bank to just check in once a month and are on their own to do their referrals because they are at low risk of recidivism. That caseload is monitored by the Probation Service Specialist so if he sees issues come up and they aren't making appointments he refers them to a

P.O. and they are pulled off of that caseload and put them on a higher supervision caseload.

Commissioner Rosholt asked what the caseload is for each P.O. Travis explained that they have anywhere between 65-70 individuals per caseload. The sex offender probation officer has about 75 on his caseload. Those individuals are anywhere from weekly check-ins, every other week and others are once a month.

Dale Case asked if the probation officers have to track the people down that do not show for their check-ins. Travis explained that they do spend a lot of time in the field looking for the offenders with warrants for not complying with their probation. They check the last known address, work place or other places they have been known to be at and if they are not found they then put out a warrant.

Travis explained that his budget is all State or grant funded.

MERA

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, and Sean Chambers, Parks Coordinator, brought the Mt. Emily Recreation Area (MERA) budget to the committee. Sean explained that MERA was purchased in 2008 through a combination of grants. Since that time Union County has been successful in receiving operations and maintenance grants through Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The County has been upgraded to a two year grant cycle. He stated that the goals for this year are to implement a successful grazing season, complete trailhead construction, maintain the existing trail system, improve signage, develop a map, develop new trails and administer new grants and seek other grant opportunities.

Commissioner Davidson asked what the \$30,000 in the capital line item was for. Sean explained that he is looking at purchasing a mini excavator. It would be a 3 ½ ft. wide track that will be intended for motorcycle trails.

Parks

Doug Wright explained that the County has three parks which are Thief Valley, Wolf Creek and Pilcher Creek. The projects for the park for the next fiscal year are that dust abatement be applied, widen and lengthen the RV spaces at Pilcher Creek and maintain a high standard of restroom cleanliness. They have one part-time seasonal employee who removes garbage, cleans restrooms and maintains the grounds.

Commissioner Rosholt asked if there is a way to monitor how many people are staying at the parks. Sean explained that the seasonal employee keeps a good log so there are some numbers but he is not sure how official they would be.

Airport

Doug Wright explained that the Airport budget is being presented balanced. They are still in the process of tearing down the old white hangar but have to go out to bid to remove the asbestos on the building.

Public Works

Doug Wright explained that there are 650 miles of County roads, 70 bridges and about 2,000 signs within the County system. They are going to chip seal 16 miles of County roads. The beginning fund balance is up this year due to reimbursed road projects. The City of Cove is requesting a new bridge and the City of Cove will reimburse Public Works for the material.

Sheriff and Corrections

Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen explained that the City of Elgin contract is fully functional now and it was prorated at the first of the year. There are some changes to the personnel line item because there have been a few deputies that have been promoted to sergeants. He explained that their SWAT team conducts operations and trains frequently so there needs to be adequate funds to train the team.

Commissioner Rosholt asked why the overtime line item has increased. Cathie Falck, Sheriff Administrative Assistant, explained that she took the line items out of the Elgin and Union Contracts and added them into the Sheriff budget. Overtime was one of those line items.

Commissioner Rosholt stated that he understands that Revenues do need to be projected conservatively but when he sees the gun permit and finger printing revenues year to date is \$47,400. He is proposing \$34,000 for next year. He is wondering if they could budget the year to date for this year as the revenue for next year. They are requesting funds to add additional help in the front office and that additional revenue would almost cover that line item.

Shelley Burgess explained that if the proposed revenue is increased the personnel line item can be increased by the same amount without any impact to the budget.

Commissioner Davidson asked if the gun permit and finger printing fees are set by statute. Cathie explained that they are.

Cathie explained that the real property sales are a concern for her because they have a lot of labor and time involved in the process. They continue to get more. The fees on them are set by statute but it will increase the civil revenue. There have been 22 filed in the local courts since the first of January.

Commissioner McClure asked what happened to cause the increase in property sales. Cathie explained that there was a court case and it is an expensive process if it goes

through the Sheriff's office. They require a \$600 bond up front. They used to do trustee notice of sale. The notice would be served on the property and they would wait a certain amount of time and then it would get auctioned off. There was a tort claim stating it was a violation of the Oregon Constitution. The courts have upheld that the process now has to go through the court filings through the Sheriff's office. There were a lot of trustee notice of sales but they just had to go out and serve the property and it was done.

Lanny Hildebrandt asked if the Sheriff's office is experiencing a shortage in ammunition that is being talked about all over the news recently. Boyd explained that it is more difficult and is being ordered a ways out but there is a decrease in accessibility of ammunition now. They have enough in stock but it is taking six to eight months to receive their orders.

Commissioner Rosholt asked if the shortage of beds in the Jail is getting better and not having to matrix as many people out of the Jail. Boyd explained that they kept the line item the same. They do need more beds. They do have a matrix score and do release some early. They are able to keep the outsourcing line item within the budget at this point. The ones that matrix out are not a large threat to the community. Anyone that is repeat offenders or high risk to the community, offenders are not allowed to matrix.

Center for Human Development

Rico Weber, Fiscal Manager for CHD, explained that they are asking for the same amount of funding as last year which is \$228,499. He stated that the funding is critical for CHD and will meet the needs of the community and continue the services they provide.

Byron Whipple, Veterans Service Officer, explained that there are 71 individuals that are now drawing V.A. compensation. On average the retro check they receive is \$10,000 when the claim is won and they received \$883 on average a month that they can spend within the County. He had 725 office visits last year. There are about 2500 veterans within Union County. He also enrolled 60 additional Veterans in V.A. health care. He put 15 new individuals in HUD/Voucher homes. They had a homeless veteran stand down in January that was effective and they were able to count their homeless veterans. He also felt that the moving wall was a success last year.

Carrie Brogoitti, Public Health Director, explained that the County funds go towards adult and child health maintenance, school-based health centers, and health network for rural schools. She explained that the funds don't just support CHD and their clients but they allow them to do a lot of work that supports other efforts within the community.

Dwight Dill, Mental Health Director, gave a brief history of the County's relationship with CHD.

Clerk

Shelley explained that the changes in the Clerks budget include \$50,000 to microfilm and archive the County maps to help preserve the records. The maps and road documents are in the worst condition so they will be done in the first stage and other documents will be microfilmed at a later date in a second stage. They received a quote from a vendor indicating they can do the first stage for \$42,000.

Transportation Funding Request

Frank Thomas, 2204 Penn Ave La Grande, stated that he is grateful to the County Commissioners because if there is a transit project that requires leadership and vision it always seems to be the Commissioners that are the first public backers. He explained that Community Connections was approached by the Special Transportation Fund Committee to develop a project that would reinstate Saturday service in La Grande. The new Region 5 coordinator at ODOT mentioned at that same time there was a funding possibility available because someone else in the region was not able to spend the money that was allocated to them. He made an application for that pot of money under a purchase services grant which means that the County has sponsored and submitted the application on the community's behalf. The Saturday service is something that has been studied and works with what is already being done. He explained that there is a lot of unmet need in Elgin and Union. Meaningful response to those communities is hard because there is not good data to demonstrate that the demand will use the service. There are things in Union that bring people out there regularly such as the Clinic and the Golf Course. They have started a database to help them effectively measure requests for trips that are unfulfilled because they either fall out of their scope of service, hours of service, or their schedule. He put in for an intercity funding grant and it was partially funded. The Elgin route was funded and Union was not. The grant requirement is 50% match. There are a lot of unanswered questions which probably won't get answered until later. There are some good transit opportunities in the bedroom communities that have not been addressed because there was not funds to do them. The purchase services grant is pending with ODOT for \$148,290 which will fund the Saturday service for the entire biennium. They do not know if that grant has been approved or not. The local match for that grant is \$16,972 for the biennium. The City of Island City has pledged up to \$1500 in local mobility match upon satisfactory deployment of the project. The City of La Grande has pledged \$4,472 in local match on the same basis. He is requested that the County pledge \$11,000 over the biennium. If ODOT partially funds the grant they will adjust the match pledges on a prorated basis back to each provider and adjust their hours of service accordingly to make the most they can out of every dollar they receive. If they are unable to fully match any award that ODOT grants they would ask for a grant amendment that would allow them to utilize every local dollar they can generate and adjust the hours of service back to make sure there is a viable project. If it is fully funded they plan to run from 10 am-7 pm on all Saturdays. He would have to get the funding sources in line before the services can start running. If the project is fully funded they estimate that they can provide almost 24,000 additional rides over the course of the project.

Commissioner Davidson asked Frank for just the numbers of what he is asking the Budget Committee to fund and what the other funding partners are bringing to the table. Frank explained that the total grant project is \$148,290. It is a two year project beginning July 1, 2013. The local match requirement is \$16,972. City of Island City has pledged \$1,500, the City of La Grande has pledged \$4,472 and he is asking the Commissioners for \$11,000. This is just for the Saturday La Grande proposal.

Frank explained that the intercity proposal doesn't have enough rides per hour and there are too many miles per ride. With the amount of money that is available both projects will not be funded and the Saturday service has more research backing it making it a much stronger project. The fixed route runs between EOU and Walmart.

City of Cove

Regina Kruse, City of Cove Councilor and Doug Kruse, City of Cove Councilor, brought a request to the Budget Committee from the City of Cove. Regina explained that the City of Cove is being hit hard this year with three major projects that have to be done. They are coming to the County for any and all help they can have with the projects. The City of Cove is going to be implementing a waste water improvement project. They have already spent \$175,000 towards this project. The estimated project cost is \$1.6 million. It is estimated that the project will be completed this Fall. Four years ago the monthly sewer costs for the citizens of Cove was \$16.00 and it is now \$35.00 and it is estimated to end up at \$41.00 a month. They have approval through Oregon Rural Development for a loan for the project. They are hoping to put as much resource towards the project to reduce the cost of the loan to keep the rates within reason for the citizens. They are asking the budget committee to consider a \$25,000 grant towards the overall cost of the project.

They are also being forced to continue improvements on their hydro plant. The City of Cove owns their own hydro electric plant. The plant has been a significant source of revenue for the City and it has supplemented the overall cost of running the City by about 40%. They recently renegotiated the contract for the sale of power with Idaho Power and unfortunately they were not able to negotiate as significant a rate as they had been receiving so their revenues have dropped considerably. It is important for them to keep the power plant running to help subsidize the income. They recently spent \$820,000 towards the cost of upgrading the main pipeline to the diversion dam and that represents about 50% of the waterflow. They need to take a look at the other source of water and they are in the process of evaluating the status of the pipeline. They are asking the County to assist them by covering the cost of the inspection which is \$8,500.

The last project that they will be implementing is replacement of the Rose Bridge. Union County Public Works has worked with their City employees to determine that due to the considerable rot to the bridge a replacement is advised over repair. They have received a bid from the County for \$30,000 for labor and materials to build the bridge. In looking at the amount of expenditures that the City of Cove has had to spend over the last

several years it has come to their attention that they have been spending a lot of money repairing streets that service the majority of the County but because they fall within the City they have had to pay for the repairs to those streets. Those repairs have used the majority of their street repair funds. This project came as a surprise and they don't have the revenues to complete the project. They are asking the County to pay for half of the bridge project which is \$15,000. The City of Cove only receives a little over \$12,000 in revenues from the assessed tax for their City. It is extremely low and they realize they are stuck between a rock and a hard place but the citizens also pay county taxes they see very little direct result from. They figure that the County is a resource that they can possibly tap into to ask for help. They don't get the benefit of transportation support.

Commissioner Davidson asked where the bridge was that she was discussing. Regina explained that it is on Rose Street and crosses Mill Creek. There is no other alternate way in or out of that part of the City where several citizens live.

Lanny Hildebrandt asked what the recourse would be if the County is not able to fund the \$25,000 on the sewer treatment. Regina explained that they have funding approved through rural development so the recourse would be to take out the maximum amount on the loan. At the maximum amount of the loan the increased rate would be approximately \$42.00. They have been increasing rates the last two years to make the impact less extreme. They have a large elderly population on a fixed income. This increase will greatly impact them.

Commissioner McClure asked when the City of Cove last received a small city grant allotment from ODOT. Regina stated that she was not sure. Commissioner McClure explained that they need to take a look at that grant process because they give up to \$50,000 small city grant allotments to do things such as the bridge project. He encouraged them to speak with ODOT and if the City has not had one for a few years they should be eligible.

City of Union

Bill Lindsley, Mayor of Union, explained that the City of Union is requesting 25% of the taxes paid by the citizens of Union back for five years. The citizens of Union pay about \$236,000 in taxes each year so they are requesting between \$55,000 to \$60,000 for infrastructure. They have been implementing a lot of plans in their town to try and replace all of their water lines with user fees. They are in the process of purchasing another fire engine. They would like the County to invest in their town because their citizens spend a fair amount of money in La Grande. The City of La Grande and the County have a lot of working agreements to benefit both. The only agreement with the County that the City of Union has is the law enforcement contract.

Lanny asked if the City of Union had identified any specific projects by year. Bill explained that they are looking at streets and need to replace a lot of water lines. They

also need equipment for their fire department. They have a user fee that helps with some of the expenses.

Dale Case stated that Bill indicated in his summary that the City of La Grande and the City of Island City have benefited from Union County. Dale asked for an example. Bill stated that there is a sewer system to the Baum Industrial Park which has enabled Island City to hook up to that line rather than build their own sewer treatment facility. The City of La Grande is the hub. The City of La Grande and the County Sheriff share a building. The County also contracts with the City of La Grande for 911 service. Also, the County contract with the City of La Grande Building Department for the building permits within the County.

USDA Wildlife Services

Patrick Smith, District Supervisor, and Curt Matteson, Wildlife Specialist, stated that this last year was the first time there was full time funding. It was done with a combination of State, Federal, County and private funds. There are enough people that know about the program and enough issues that the staff is working close to full time only in Union County. The requested funds from the County is lower than it was last year due to increases from the Federal and State agencies. The County has provided a base funding of \$20,000 in the past. He would like to ask the private contributors for \$13,000 and for the County to match those contributions dollar for dollar as well as the \$20,000 of base funding that the County has given in the past.

Buffalo Peak Golf Course

Commissioner Rosholt explained that years ago there was an event tent donated to Buffalo Peak. The event tent has been through a lot of weather and wind storms and has deteriorated to the point that it is no longer able to be fixed. The source of the donation is no longer available and no one else has been willing to make a donation for a tent either. They need to do something to have a place where events can take place at the Golf Course. They have looked at extending the cart barn where the golf carts are housed. They have budgeted some funds in the next fiscal year to build that addition and have a nice place for events. They are struggling at keeping the cart paths in good shape. They did spend money last year on the paths but they need to continue to do maintenance. He feels that the Golf Course needs to start putting money away for capital expenditures because there are several pieces of equipment and other capital items that will need to be replaced. He feels that they have cut all of the expenses on that facility that they can and still have a nice Golf Course.

Commissioner Davidson asked if the addition would be a pole barn structure. Commissioner Rosholt explained that it would be a fully enclosed pole barn with a concrete floor. It would be about 1000 square feet.

Lanny asked what is left on the debt service for the Golf Course. Shelley explained that they are making the annual payments towards the debt service and the current balance is \$1.4 million. It started at \$2 million.

Facilities

Commissioner Rosholt explained that the boiler in the law enforcement facility needs to be replaced. It was repaired but the repair is not holding. So, that expense is in the facility budget.

Public Input – Special Transportation

Hannah Voetberg, Special Transportation Fund Committee, stated that she is a user of the public transit. She explained that paratransit services do go out to the rest of the County. She uses the paratransit system because the fixed route isn't always in the best location and there is long walk involved. She is in support of adding on the Saturday service. If you have a disability it is a big deal to not have services because they either have to find rides or walk. Saturday service makes it possible for people to get out and visit businesses. It makes it possible to go places that people may not go otherwise.

Discussion

Shelley explained that she made few changes to the department requests in developing the proposed budget. She created a summary sheet of the significant changes made to the budget. She split the Clerk Microfilm Project into a two year project. In the Juvenile Department a few years ago they had a probation monitor position. It was a position that was used to check on youth that were on probation. Because of reductions in State funding that position had been removed. The new Juvenile Director was hoping to add that position back but their revenues are still down so she removed that. She had removed the additional help from the Sheriff's budget also.

Dale Case explained that if the fee revenues are changed as discussed that would cover the cost of the extra help. Shelley explained that they had put in \$14,000 for a half time position and they had also increased the personnel benefits. That would be a Union represented position so if it were at 20 hours they would be obligated to pay benefits. They informed Shelley that they felt that the work load would still be able to be completed by a position less than half time. She explained for about \$10,000 they would be able to have a 16 hour a week position. That amount could be covered by the revenue discussed previously without affecting the rest of the budget.

Commissioner Davidson agreed with the changes that Shelley is suggesting. He would support increasing the revenue line item from \$30,000 to \$40,000 which would cover the extra help in the front office.

Shelley explained that the other adjustment to the Sheriff's budget was a reduction in the SWAT line item. The line item had traditionally been at \$1,000 and the budget request came in at \$8,000. Shelley reduced it back to \$1,000. She didn't feel the

narrative provided justification for the increase. The Corrections budget line item for extra help was increased but not to the originally requested amount. She explained that those were the corrections that she made to the general fund.

The other requests that were heard by the Budget Committee for additional funds were not included in the budget and the funds would have to be found to cover the costs. The extra requests are from City of Cove, City of Union, Safe Communities Coalition, and the requests from Frank Thomas on transportation.

Lanny asked if there was any wiggle room in the general fund. Shelley explained that there is contingency of \$300,000 so it can be used but it would mean less contingency.

Commissioner Davidson stated that he wished he would have asked how imminent the bridge project is at this point. It sounded like it was a safety and emergency response concern. He explained that the County has helped other small cities with infrastructure projects. There were funds given to Imbler for their sidewalk project, to City of Union for a bridge, and more. He wouldn't have a hard time justifying some help to the City of Cove for the bridge. To move on to the City of Union, he doesn't feel that Mayor Lindsley made a compelling case for their request. He has chosen to forget everything that the County has done for Union in the recent and not so recent past. The bridge project last year is a good example. Commissioner McClure worked with Grande Ronde Model Watershed to secure the funding for the materials and the Union County Public Works Department replaced it. The City of Union did some utility replacements and in-kind work but it amounted to less than 20% of the project. The new bridge eliminated their chronic Spring time flooding problem on Little Creek.

Commissioner McClure stated that he tried to explain to the small cities that there are services that the County provides that are not provided any place else. If you are a City you are generally provide services to citizens such as streets, sewer and water. At the County level they provide the Clerk who keeps track of property records and elections, Tax Assessment, a Jail and other services that are for everyone within the County and not just certain cities. To say that the County doesn't provide services for Union or Cove or other small cities is less than honest. The relationships with the City of La Grande are lease relationships. The County provides them with space under a lease and they provide the County with services under a contract.

Commissioner Davidson explained that he cannot support the City of Union's funding request with no specific project tied to the funding. He cannot remember anything in recent history that the County has helped the City of Cove with. Commissioner McClure stated that the County has done some chip sealing on some of their roads.

Dale Case stated that he agrees that the City of Union does not have validation for any support on their request. There is no project specified and he doesn't understand how they figure they are entitled to 25% of the property taxes. He doesn't feel that it is a fair

concept. If the money is given back to Union the others will either have to pay more or have fewer services.

Commissioner Davidson asked Shelley if she feels the Coalition can achieve everything they need to achieve without the County's financial support. Shelley explained that she hasn't been a participant in the Coalition meetings. She explained that the County is going to continue to provide in-kind match through her time overseeing the grant, the office space that is used, and office equipment. The in-kind match will not be at the same level that it had been but there will still be match given. When the Coalition made the decision not to move the grant to CHD they knew what the County was offering at that time and they felt within the Coalition that they could come up with a way to still meet the match. She heard that if they are not given the \$10,000 requested that they would have to reduce the number of youth that they send to the youth training.

Commissioner Davidson asked how the Committee feels about the transportation request. Commissioner McClure stated that it sounded as if the intercity service didn't have much of a chance to get funded. Shelley explained that Frank is looking for a partial match to the grant for Saturday service. He received support from other partners as well. She explained that the full project is \$148,290. The grant comes from ODOT Public Transit and they will approve the maximum grant amount but if you can't match it you only get what you can match.

Dale asked if it is approved it would be committed next year as well. Shelley stated that is what the request is for.

Commissioner McClure asked if this project is approved by ODOT yet. Shelley explained that it is not yet but Frank thinks it will most likely be approved.

Kyle McAndie asked if the County should be giving less than the City of La Grande because the City is the one benefiting the most from the service. Commissioner Davidson agreed and pointed out that the City of Island City is giving \$1500 and City of La Grande is giving \$4400 and they are asking the County for \$11,000. He explained that he asked Frank if the money that La Grande was giving was out of Urban Renewal dollars but forgot it had to be used for capital. The County is losing close to \$2 million in general fund money to support that program for the life of the district.

Lanny asked if there was a consensus that it is a worthwhile project. The Committee agreed.

Commissioner Rosholt moved to fund the bridge replacement in Cove for \$15,000 and the Saturday transit project for \$5500 for a total of \$20,500. Kyle McAndie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rosholt moved approval of the budget as amended for publication. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Sr. Dept. Specialist II