

Board of Commissioners Meeting  
March 5, 2013

Present: Commissioner Mark D. Davidson  
Commissioner Steve McClure  
Commissioner William D. Rosholt

Chairman Davidson opened the meeting with all three Commissioners present.

Public Comments

Rob Lane, 60215 Peach Road, La Grande, came to the Commissioners to express his concern about the change in the spraying of weeds to now mowing the weeds. He thinks that it needs to be double checked on how it will effect the area since it is a seed producing area. There is more seed produced here than the neighboring counties. He feels that there are some places where mowing would be sufficient and other places where the spraying residual would be more effective. Nothing will be guaranteed for sure but he wanted to express his concern.

Commissioner McClure explained that Bob Kelly from the Public Works Department retired and Doug Wright, Public Works Director, is in the process of figuring out how the County will go forward with the weed issue. Part of the problem is that there is liability insurance but it is limited to \$50,000 for spraying. They have stepped back to try and protect the crops. Part of the problem is the uncertainty of Federal financing for the road department. The County is putting together a committee to look at the road system and look at the funding and figure out how to go forward and give the best service to the people in the County with the money.

Doug Wright explained that the whole issue around the mowing was they had to get out and mow because of drift issues. They are still looking at a combination of the mowing and keep the weeds at bay. They have to make sure they are following the State program. They want to work with the growers to keep on top of the weeds. He explained that he just paid \$37,000 worth of chemical for the year. That will not go very far in the valley but there is no money in the budget. Doug explained that he appreciates the phone calls about the roads because he doesn't have the resources to keep eyes on the whole system.

Fund Exchange Agreement

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, brought a Fund Exchange Agreement to the Commissioners for consideration. Doug explained that this is the 2013 fund exchange between Union County and the Oregon Department of Transportation. This is at a \$.94 rate. The funds will be used for chip sealing various county roads. **Commissioner Rosholt moved approval of the Fund Exchange Agreement as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Excavator Bid Award

Sean Chambers, Parks Coordinator, brought an Excavator Bid Award to the Commissioners for consideration. Sean explained that he recently went out to bid on a mini excavator for MERA and the County Parks. The funding is secured by two grants through Oregon Parks and Recreation Department which will fund 100% of the purchase. There were two bids received. Western States submitted a bid of \$49,100 and Pioneer West submitted a bid of \$48,194. Sean is recommending awarding the bid to Pioneer West who was the lowest bidder.

**Commissioner McClure moved approval of bid for the mini excavator and award the bid to Pioneer West for \$48,194 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

OSU Extension Agreement

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, brought the OSU Extension Agreement to the Commissioners for consideration. Shelley explained that this is coming to the Commissioners as the Board of Directors for the 4-H and Extension Service District. This is the Intergovernmental Agreement between Oregon State University and the Union County 4-H and Extension Service District. It is a renewal of an existing agreement which outlines the operation of the program.

**Commissioner McClure moved approval of the OSU Extension Agreement as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

**The February 14, 15 and 21 claims journals; and the February 13 and 20 Public Works claims journals; and the January 16 Board of Commissioners minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.**

La Grande Rural Fire District Annexation (Eagles Five, LLC)

Court Order 2013-14, In the Matter of Adopting an Amendment to the La Grande Rural Fire Protection District Boundary, was presented for consideration. Hanley Jenkins II, Planning Director, explained that an annexation request came to the Planning Department for Eagles Five RV Park to be included in the La Grande Rural Fire Protection District. Notice was sent and a letter was received from the District supporting the annexation of the property. There is a signed recognition form that goes to the Department of Revenue by the current owners of the RV Park.

Commissioner Davidson opened the hearing for public testimony. The public hearing was then closed with no testimony received.

**Commissioner Rosholt moved approval of Court Order 2013-14 as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm  
Sr. Dept. Sepcialist II