

Board of Commissioners Meeting
March 20, 2013

Present: Commissioner Mark D. Davidson
Commissioner Steve McClure

Chairman Davidson opened the meeting with Commissioner Davidson and Commissioner McClure present. Commissioner Rosholt was in Salem testifying before the Legislature.

Public Comments

Solarize Union County

Dave Felley, 302 C Ave, La Grande, wanted to give the Commissioners an overview of what happened in 2012 with the program and what is planned in 2013. Last year they had about 100 people attend 10 different educational forums. There were 30 site assessments and 15 solar hot water systems were installed. This year they are planning on continuing the contract for solar hot water and would like to add solar electric systems. The Credit Union is on board to continue their financing program. The solar electric system is less expensive than the thermal hot water system. OTEC gives an incentive of \$500 on the electric system. He feels that there may be more people that participate since the electric system is more affordable.

Commissioner McClure stated that he feels this is a good program and it is exactly what they would like the money to go for.

Commissioner Davidson explained that the project has the support of the Commissioners.

Elkhorn Wind Farm Mitigation

Irene Gilbert, 2310 Adams Ave. La Grande, reiterated concerns about the wildlife mitigation on the Elkhorn Wind Farm. She went over a timeline having to do with the wildlife mitigation plan. She explained that the TAC will make recommendations to Union County as to what indirect mitigation is appropriate. Part of the wildlife issue was that they would do a minimal amount of mitigation based on the footprint of the facility and that the additional mitigation would be reviewed once the wildlife study was in. She previously asked the Commissioners to address the fact that there needed to be a formal recommendation from the TAC regarding the mitigation and there needed to be an opportunity for public response to that. The Commissioners indicated in a letter to Irene that they believed they had no responsibility for requiring Elkhorn to meet those requirements even though the County authorized the development. She stated that she asked the Commissioners to provide her with documentation that there had been a formal report and there had been opportunity for response. She explained that the Commissioners sent a letter to her refusing to document it and stated that it was a land use issue that needed to go to LCDC. She

explained that she would have gone through an appeal process if there was an issue when this was authorized and there was indication that the County would not require the facility to meet the agreement regarding the development of the facility. There was nothing to appeal LCDC at that point. It was indicated in all documents that it would be addressed once the study was completed in 2010. She is requesting one of two actions to resolve this issue. Either that the Commissioners obtain a formal recommendation from the TAC and provide the public an opportunity to respond as to whether or not the mitigation be expected because of the elk and deer displacement is reasonable. The second option is to give the public an opportunity for a local appeal based on the Commissioner's decision to not adhere to the plan that they approved and allow the developer to build a development that is zoned an area of multiple biological value and critical elk wildlife both in the State plan and the County plan. She is asking that there be a formal agenda item on the next Commissioners meeting and a notice sent to the local newspaper regarding the fact that this issue will be addressed at a Commissioners meeting. She provided the Commissioners with multiple documents supporting her findings and request.

Charging Station

Howard Butts, 69873 Summerville Rd. Summerville, came to the Commissioners to consider making a charging station on the County campus for the new electric cars. There is a charging station in the back parking lot that used to be used for the rescue vehicles. The stations are 110 volt and ready to be used for this purpose. He would like the Commissioners to consider using this area for a charging station. There is one County employee that has a vehicle that could be used at this station as well as the public. He also encouraged the Commissioners to purchase an electrical assist car. There is a limit of 50 to 75 miles on the fully electric cars. There are hybrids that can go 30 miles on pure electric.

Consent Agenda

The February 28 and March 7 claims journals; and the March 6 Public Works claims journals; were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

2nd Amendment Support Resolution

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Appointment to Union County Farm Advisory Board

Court Order 2013-17, In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Farm Advisory Board, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that this Court Order would reappoint Fred Hawkins and Ross Bingaman to the Farm Advisory Board. Gilbert Witherspoon has resigned and Richard Miller has applied to serve in his place and will be appointed with this Court Order. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2013-17 as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Roll**

Call: Commissioner Rosholt; absent, Commissioner McClure; yes, and Commissioner Davidson; yes. Motion carried.

Appointment to Vector Control District Budget Committee

Court Order 2013-15, In the Matter of Appointing Members to the Union County Vector Control District Budget Committee, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess explained that this Court Order would reappoint Chris Roberts and appoint Mary Koza to replace Robert Garnett who resigned from the Vector Control District Budget Committee. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2013-15 as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Roll Call: Commissioner Rosholt; absent, Commissioner McClure; yes, and Commissioner Davidson; yes. Motion carried.**

Appointment to Union County Fair Association Board of Directors

Court Order 2013-16, In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Fair Association Board of Directors, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess explained that this Court Order would appoint Alan Johnston and Diedra Pokorney to fill vacancies on the Fair Association Board of Directors. Shelley explained that there is still one vacancy on the Board. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2013-16 as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Roll Call: Commissioner Rosholt; absent, Commissioner McClure; yes, and Commissioner Davidson; yes. Motion carried.**

Appointment to the Union County Budget Committee

Court Order 2013-18, In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Budget Committee, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess explained that this Court Order would reappoint Dale Case, Lanny Hildebrandt, and Kyle McAndie to the Union County Budget Committee. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2013-18 as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Roll Call: Commissioner Rosholt; absent, Commissioner McClure; yes, and Commissioner Davidson; yes. Motion carried.**

Property Tax Exemption Request (Elgin Stampeders)

Shelley Burgess brought a Property Tax Exemption Request from the Elgin Stampeders to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this request has been forwarded to the Commissioners by the Assessor/Tax Collector. Under ORS 317.115 non-profit agencies are allowed to request this property tax exemption if they use the property for public parks or recreation purposes. They currently have an exemption that will be expiring so this request will renew their exemption. Part of their property is located within the City of Elgin but this covers the part of the property that is located in Union County. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Property Tax Exemption Request as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Roll Call:**

Commissioner Rosholt; absent, Commissioner McClure; yes, and Commissioner Davidson; yes. Motion carried.

Airport Advisory Committee

Resolution 2013-02, In the Matter of Re-Organization of the Union County Airport Advisory Committee, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess explained that Doug Wright, Public Works Director, has been working to put together both the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Airport Advisory Committee. This Resolution would rescind the previous Airport Advisory Committee that had been established and establish a new Committee. The Resolution identifies the purpose of the Committee, lists the representation that is designated for the Committee and once the Resolution is approved Doug will work on recruiting the members. The purpose of the Committee is to advise on matters involving the Union County Airport. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Resolution 2013-02 as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Roll Call: Commissioner Rosholt; absent, Commissioner McClure; yes, and Commissioner Davidson; yes. Motion carried.**

Appointment to Transportation Committee

This was tabled until the next meeting.

Fee Waiver Request (Planning)

Shelley Burgess brought a Fee Waiver Request to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this request is coming from the City of La Grande. They will be submitting an application for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Urban Growth Boundary Exchange/Re-zone which will have to go before the Planning Commission. The fee is \$300 and typically the County requests that their planning department waives any fees for the County and the County reciprocates. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Fee Waiver Request as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Roll Call: Commissioner Rosholt; absent, Commissioner McClure; yes, and Commissioner Davidson; yes. Motion carried.**

Amendment #3 to Connect Oregon III Grant

Shelley Burgess brought Amendment #3 to the Connect Oregon III Grant to the Commissioners for consideration. This grant is for the Rural Airport Fund and is the match on the project currently being done at the Airport. Shelley explained that she had to submit a request for an extension of the finish date for the project. It will be extended from August 30, 2012 to June 30, 2013. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Amendment #3 to the Connect Oregon III Grant as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Roll Call: Commissioner Rosholt; absent, Commissioner McClure; yes, and Commissioner Davidson; yes. Motion carried.**

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Executive Session

An executive session was held under ORS 192.660(e).

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm

Sr. Dept. Specialist II