

Board of Commissioners Meeting
September 5, 2012

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

Chairman Rosholt called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. All three Commission members were present.

Public Comments

Terry Edvalson, 700 H Ave. La Grande, came to the meeting to talk to the Commissioners about making the positions non-partisans. He explained that making the positions non-partisan it is expanding the voters that can vote for the local government positions. The majority of people that responded to their poll agreed that the Commissioners should be elected on a non-partisan basis. Telling voters to change their party registration to republican if they want to vote for Commissioners is insulting and arrogant. The result if voters do change their registration is they are disenfranchised from voting for statewide and national candidates from other parties. He urged the Commissioners to listen to the request and put the issue of the open election on the November 2012 ballot.

Commissioner Rosholt explained that he does not see that the system is broken. The person who is registered with a party that person shares most of the principles that party stands for and that benefits the voters. He sees people as citizens of Union County and not as their party affiliate. If the voters decided through a petition process that they want to see non-partisan races for Commissioner that is the choice and he will abide by that.

Commissioner Davidson stated that he agrees with Commissioner Rosholt that there is not a consistent pattern of a commission race being determined in the primary. He feels there is an opportunity for all people to file for candidacy for the office. The system has worked for a long time. If they are successful with a petition he has no problem with that but he feels the poll is admittedly unscientific and narrow in its scope. There were only 206 positive responses in support of the position. That is only 1.3% of the registered voters in Union County and that does not make the case of having overwhelming support for it.

Ray Randall, 765 S. 3rd, Union, stated that he would like the Commissioners to vote and put the non-partisan decision on the ballot. He feels it will improve democracy through increasing the voter participation. He explained that if the Commissioners want to be open minded than they should put the decision on the ballot.

Bonnie Dunn, 550 W. Lincoln, Union, explained that she would like to see the Commissioners to put the decision of making the Commissioner position as non-partisan on the ballot. She stated that she feels it will benefit everyone.

Irene Gilbert, 2310 Adams Ave., La Grande, explained that she believes that when it comes to the County Commissioner races she would like to be able to vote for the person that is the best candidate and it is not always with her party. She stated that most of the counties within Oregon are non-partisan. There are so many significant issues that the idea where people are excluded in the primary does not make productive decisions.

Vehicle Bid

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, brought vehicle bids to the Commissioners for consideration. The vehicle is an Ag. Tractor with a side mounted mower. He explained that he sent out a contract to local dealers. There were three bids received from TriCounty Equipment, Western States, and Metroquip from Meridian, Idaho. The apparent low bidder is Metroquip at \$107,600. The high bid was from TriCounty at \$114,500. Western States bid \$107,773. The Public Works mechanic also reviewed the bids to ensure that the specifications were met. He stated that the bids do meet the specifications with one question as to if Metroquip could be allowed into the bidding process because they are out of State. The County Attorney stated that because the bid is a low bid contract with terms and conditions it can be allowed into the bidding process.

Commissioner Davidson stated that within the specifications it states that the delivery must be within 15 days of the bid award. Metroquip states in their bid that they can deliver within 30 days. He asked if they are able to meet the 15 day requirement. The representative for Metroquip explained that he can meet that deadline.

There were two dealer representatives that had questions and concerns. Commissioner McClure suggested that the attorney review the low bid and see if it meets the criteria. Once it is reviewed by the attorney it can be approved.

Consent Agenda

The August 9 and 16 claims journals; the August 9, 16 and 23 claims journals FY 12-13; the August 8, 15 and 22 Public Works claims journals; the July 5 and July 18 Board of Commissioners Minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

City of Union Service Contracts

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, brought the City of Union Law Enforcement Services Contract to the Commissioners for consideration. This Contract is between Union County and the City of Union. This is a renewal of the arrangement to provide law enforcement services within the city limits. It was

negotiated with the City of Union and the City Council did approve the contract. The amount was included in the budget. It is a two year agreement that will end June 30, 2014. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the law enforcement contract as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Shelley Burgess brought a contract for animal control services for the City of Union to the Commissioners for consideration. The animal control services contract is a separate agreement between Union County and the City of Union. This was also negotiated and approved by the City Council in Union. The contract is included in the budget and calls for 10 hours of week of services within the City. It does enforce the County Ordinance and the State laws in regard to animal control. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the contract for animal control services as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Cancellation of Uncollectible Taxes

Court Order 2012-32, In the Matter of Cancellation of Uncollectable Personal Property Taxes, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess explained that this Court Order came to the Commissioners from the Assessor/Tax Collector office. It would cancel uncollectible personal property taxes pursuant to ORS 311.790. This has been reviewed and approved by the District Attorney. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2012-32 as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

UCLEA Agreement

Shelley Burgess bought the Law Enforcement Association Contract to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this agreement would be effective July 1, 2012 and runs through June 30, 2014. It covers the negotiations with the Law Enforcement Association. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the Law Enforcement Association contract as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

FY 2010-11 Audit Corrections Resolution

Resolution 2012-12, In the Matter of a Resolution Adopting Corrective Measures for FY 2010-11 Audit Comments, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess explained that this audit was presented to the Commissioners and reviewed by the auditing firm previously. She stated that there is a prevision in the ORS that requires the County to adopt a Resolution indicating to the Secretary of State's audit division how the County will address any items that were identified in the audit. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Resolution 2012-12 as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Domestic Violence Grant Award

Shelley Burgess brought the Domestic Violence Grant Award to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that they have received notification that the County has received a grant from the Department of Justice. The grant amount is \$768,206. It is a three year grant. The grant will begin October 1, 2012. There was a one year gap for the funding of the program. The grant was put in the budget in hopes that it would come through. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the Domestic Violence Grant Award as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Coordinated Plan Amendment

Frank Thomas, Community Connections Public Transit, 2204 East Penn Ave. La Grande, came to the Commissioners with amendments to the Coordinated Public Transit Human Service Transportation Plan. The STF statute states that the County must update the plan every three years. He explained that another reason to update the plan is because of moving ahead for progress in the 21st century legislation subtly changes the framework in the legislation and underwrites a lot of the funding that is used. Many of the programs were grandfathered for the first year and phased them in so no one provider is hindered the first year of legislation. The best reason to update is because there have been good provider performance over the last year. There are some projects that are now complete and need to move to the mission accomplished section and there are some projects that need to be revisited.

Frank explained that the resource sharing project is now done. The 14 passenger vehicle for Wallowa County was delivered in May. The two minivan purchases will be completed today. The veteran's access project is ready to move to mission accomplished as well as the automated ride share coordination. He explained that the automated ride share coordination appears under a new heading because there have been enough changes to the program that it needed a new program of projects entry. It is now called the Drive Less Connect Program.

New to the programs/Projects for this round is a bus purchase for Baker County, bus stop amenities, and a fixed route bus purchase for Union County. The Drive Less Connect Program is a program that will allow them to connect people who are doing things that they would normally do anyway. This is a cost effective safe way for people to connect online. The goal will be to have 200 people registered and at least 80 of those participants actively using the system.

Another project is park and ride development. It is a project that is important to Robin Phillips who is the Regional Coordinator for ODOT. This project may end up supplementing the existing 5311F projects.

Frank recommended taking the priority indicators off of the top portion of the pages of the projects.

Commissioner Davidson moved to adopt amendments to the Coordinated Public Transit Human Service Transportation Plan as presented.

Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Plan Zone Amendment – Public Hearing

Ordinance 2012-02, In the Matter of Amending the Union County Land Use Plan & Zoning Map and Expanding an Existing Surface Mining Zone by 51 Acres (Edmondson), was presented for consideration. Scott Hartell, Associate Planner, explained that this has gone through the Planning Commission and they have recommended approval to the Commissioners.

Commissioner McClure asked if the existing acreage is in a mining zone. Scott explained that it is in a mining zone. Commissioner Davidson asked if it is adding an additional 51 acres or making it 51 acres. Scott stated that it would add an additional 51 acres to the original 10 that is now on the property.

Commissioner Davidson stated that in reviewing the record ODFW didn't submit any comments. He asked if that was correct. Scott stated that is correct and explained that their concern was on the critical wildlife habitat overlay zone in the winter time months. But they did not submit any comments stating that.

Commissioner Rosholt opened the hearing to public comment.

Nick Seubert, Seubert Excavators in Cottonwood, ID, stated that the Planning Commission recommended that the Commissioners limit the mining activity to not mine from December 1st to April 1st. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife did not comment. He has an issue with that condition. They like to be able to operate during those months. They do not mine that site every year depending on the projects that are in the area.

Commissioner McClure asked if that condition was on the previous 10 acres. Nick stated that there were no conditions on the previous 10 acres.

There was no more public comment received. Commissioner Rosholt closed the hearing.

Commissioner McClure stated that this is a mining zone and the purpose of a mining zone is for mining. He doesn't understand why there were conditions put on the zone. If it was a conditional use application to do mining then he would understand both of the conditions but he does not understand it in the zone that it is currently in. He suggested removing the conditions and just approve it as a mining zone.

Commissioner Davidson explained that based on his experience December 1 through April 1 can be an important period of time for crushing and processing on site.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of Ordinance 2012-02 and removing the two conditions that were put on the operations by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Title II Funding Recommendation

Arlene Blumton, Forest Service, La Grande, brought the Title II Funding recommendations to the Commissioners for consideration. It was just reauthorized in June and they usually have more time to work on getting the projects put together so it has been a rush this time. She explained that she met with the Restoration Board and presented the projects that are recommended for funding to receive recommendation on prioritizing. She presented the recommendation from the Restoration Board to the Commissioners.

She explained that the first project is the thinning for release and fuel reduction. That has been well supported by Title II funds since 2006. They have typically done 100 to 200 acres of thinning on young stands. They are proposing to do 300 acres with matching funds. The second project is a recreation youth crew. This project has also been well supported by Title II funding. They use youth at risk in Union County and they assist with maintaining developed recreation sites and trail maintenance. The next project is for the Walla Walla Ranger District that has a portion that lies within Union County. They have a native seed program that works with private land growers within Union County to produce seed. They have volunteers that do some of the seeding in some of the areas. The last project is the Big Creek Watershed improvement project. They will be rehabilitating about 10 acres. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the 2013 Title II Project Funding recommendations as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Sr. Dept. Specialist II