

Board of Commissioners Meeting
June 4, 2014

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

Chairman McClure opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with all three Commissioners present.

Public Comments

Teresa Brain, 1612 Oak St, La Grande, explained that she wanted to voice her concerns about the County's plan to demolish the Shelter from the Storm. If it were only an Administrative building she understands that it could be easily moved some place and the people that are typing forms can do it elsewhere. She stated that it is a building in which women go because they are wounded and because they are afraid. There are several features the building has so that when they come to the building they feel safe and they are safe. There are features such as high windows and things that allow for that building to go into lockdown. The women that go there are often pursued by men who are much stronger than they are and don't respect the law and will use physical violence in order to see their will be done. It is important that they can have the capability to have a lockdown. There has been five lockdowns in the past year. The building is designed so they can have those lockdowns. While she doesn't necessarily support the building she does support a building for the Shelter that provides safety features so that it can fulfill the function that it was built for 15 years ago. It was built with that purpose and with the County's blessings. It was a wonderful example of a joint effort where the women and everyone behind the Shelter is looking at what is in the best interest of all the residents of Union County and the Commissioners were also looking at what is in the best interest of everyone in Union County and to have a shelter that deals with abuse once it occurs but also that has programs to prevent abuse. It touches all segments of the society and isn't just for the women. The public schools are inundated with the results of domestic violence. The kids that go to school aren't ready to learn because the teachers first have to deal with the emotional scars and wounds. If that could be prevented the public school money could be spent on actually teaching kids. The same is true with the prisons. Every cell has an adult victim of child abuse or domestic abuse. If that issue could be solved it would affect the community in so many ways. Her biggest concern with demolishing the building is where will the money come from to remodel the building to serve the purpose that the Shelter now serves. Those services cannot be disrupted without affecting everyone in the County. She knows that a new courthouse is needed and she knows that everyone she has talked to would help find a place for the courthouse and will help make a new courthouse happen but they don't want to destroy the current services that the Shelter is providing in order to do that. It doesn't make economic, emotional or social sense in terms of what that shelter was designed to do. Counseling happens in that building, retraining orders are filled out there, there is a grant to put an exam room there so women who have been assaulted can be examined in a safe place that doesn't further traumatize them. There are lots of

things that the building does have and if there is another building that can have those things it would be tough to move the items but she doesn't think that it is the best situation. She has come to ask the Commissioners to please reconsider finding another site for the Courthouse. She knows that the Commissioners have the best interest of everyone in their hearts and knows that it is not a vindictive thing to tear down the Shelter. She wants the Commissioners to rethink the decision so they can have both a new courthouse and a shelter.

Kim Sorenson, 90 Cedar Street, La Grande, stated that Teresa was eloquent in her reasons on why she wants to keep the Shelter where it is and she wants to support what she has said. She along with many others are upset with the Commissioners decision to evict the Shelter from the Storm and tear down a building that was designed specifically to meet their needs. She is not disputing the need for a courthouse but she believes that they do not need to displace a much needed service and a perfectly good building doesn't need to be torn down. She would like to know why the director wasn't involved from the beginning in planning for this. She feels that the director could have helped come up with the viable solution that could have worked for both the County and the Shelter. She also would like to know why the Commissioners were considering tearing down a perfectly good building and is perfect for the Shelter's needs right now. It seems like there is a lot of things wrong with this building and it might be a viable alternative to at least tear down the annex building and use this sight for the courthouse. She knows it is a challenge because of the timeline but she asked the Commissioners to reconsider their decision and look for another location for the courthouse. The services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault cannot afford to be disrupted.

Sharon Evoy, 204 Spring Avenue, La Grande stated that she is part of the Save our Shelter active group. She has never worked for the Shelter or volunteered for the Shelter. She stated that she realizes it is a great challenge to the Commissioners to change plans at this point given the timeline pressure that they have. She is confident that the Commissioners can find another location for the courthouse. This would spare the community the great disruption or loss of the Shelter from the Storm services and it would eliminate the risk of losing the grant funds that pay for several County and City positions. In addition to destroying a building that was built with Federal tax dollars the County now faces a lawsuit. The lawsuit would go away and this would further save tax payers money. She has never used the police department and she has never had a break in but she wouldn't hesitate to say that there is a need for a police department and she doesn't mind paying for it because it is good for the community. She has never used the Shelter's services but she thinks it is a dire need in the community and shouldn't go away. When the building goes away it is putting the Shelter at too big a risk in addition to all the economic impacts. She explained that they would do whatever they can to help the County find another location or seek people to help the County. They have written the legislature but now their focus is to raise public awareness locally throughout the County. She is sure the Commissioners will hear a lot from the public on this issue.

Maxine Hines, 701 D Avenue, La Grande, explained that she helped work with the Shelter on transitional house. This has worked very well and she still supports the Shelter. She understands what the Commissioners are up against regarding the courthouse but it seems like it has happened really fast. It also seems like getting the \$2 million contract to build a courthouse is part of the issue but it seems like there was not much public notice until the decisions were almost made. That just seems like a funny process and feels that everyone would have settled in better if there would have been more community participation in that process. It is a great building and does work for their purposes. It is heartbreaking to see people go through the process and have to go to a hospital and police department instead of feeling safe. It is her belief that if a community takes care of the people that can't take care of themselves that makes it a better community. The County Commissioners sponsored Sol West Fair. She gave the Commissioners brochures from the Sol West Fair and thanked the Commissioners for their contribution.

Robin Studfeld, 485 Modelaire Drive, La Grande, explained that she has been working as a mediator where she receives court referrals for people with custody and parenting time disputes. She wanted to speak because she sees many of her clients have domestic violence issues of some sort. A lot of people have used the Shelter to work through those. She relies on the Shelter in her work. If the Shelter wasn't there and they didn't know what they were doing the work would be impossible. The Shelter is helping the people she has seen. The Court relies on the Shelter every day and law enforcement relies on the Shelter as well. It is a key function in the community. All of the agencies and people providing services need the Shelter. They rely on the Shelter to bring the expertise and bring the knowledge on how to work with the issues to the community. She asked the County to rely on the Shelter to explain what the needs are. She believes the needs are for a building that is safe, close to the courthouse and has particular configurations. She feels that the County should bring the director into the decision and process to resolve the issue in a way that is a win-win for everyone. It seems to her that it is clear the courthouse needs a new space and it is clear that the Shelter needs a safe spot near the courthouse and the director should have a voice in a solution that meets all those needs. All of it is needed in the community. She would like to see that there is a process where everyone can get to the table and figure this out. She wants to see that everyone is involved in a process that is going to make everything work.

Dick McDaniel, 63316 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, explained that he was surprised when he read in the newspaper that the Shelter building would be torn down and put the courthouse there. He came in and talked to Hanley about the space needs. The State's timeline makes it a very difficult decision for the Commissioners and he has been around and trying to work with the public buildings as far as the schools so he knows how difficult it is to get these things done. It looks to him like one of the things that needs to be done is as much community involvement in the decision making process as possible. He asked what the building can be used for when there are not courts in the

facility. It is similar to the school buildings which are only used about 9 months out of the year and then sit vacant for three months. He has been in Baker a number of times recently and it seems to him that there must have been some thought about what could be done with the buildings when they are not being used specifically for a school. The Tree West program that goes on at the school in Baker is wonderful and he wonders if the same thing can't be done with some of the buildings in Union County. He knows that the County has a problem with where the courthouse is now. The hospital wasn't made for a courthouse and it is a mess. He has been in the courthouse a number of times because he said that he is biased but it looks to him like the County needs more open discussion and planning about why this is being done. He understands that the County received \$2 million from the State and there is a timeline. The State can change the timeline and he thinks the County should insist that they change the timeline to give the County time. He feels that \$2 million for a building is not much money. He doesn't want to see another flat roof building around here that has leaking issues. He would hope that it can be done better than that.

Bill Whitiker, 1108 G Avenue, La Grande, stated that many of the things that he was ready to say have already been stated by others. He wanted to say that he is an optimist and believes that it is possible to find a solution that meets the needs of the County for a court facility and also preserves the existing facility for the Shelter. The Shelter program is needed. It serves and does a good job of serving the needs of people in the region. A new court facility is also needed. He wants to request that the intelligence and the good will that exists within the Commission be combined with the intelligence and good will of people throughout the community to work together to meet those two goals. He is optimistic that a solution can be found that doesn't mean tearing down a new facility which is designed to meet the needs that it is currently meeting. He thinks that perhaps the timeline for the use of the \$2 million could be extended and the community would certainly work with the County to make that possible. Also, he thinks that the County needs to keep the eye on the money that comes in to the community through the Shelter that pays for salaries and personnel that are serving important community needs. He asks that everything possible be done to extend the timeline and find a solution that meets the needs that everyone is concerned about.

Teresa Crouser, Shelter from the Storm Executive Director, 111 5th Street, La Grande, explained that she hasn't spoken to the Commissioners since the Shelter from the Storm filed the lawsuit but she wanted to take the opportunity to explain that it is not their intent to be antagonistic. They have a duty and an obligation to look out for the best interest of the population they serve and that is what they are attempting to do. They would love nothing more than to be an ally for the courthouse project and support writing grants if that is needed to help fund a bigger project. She has offered that many times and recently has received cold calls from funders asking if there was anything they could do to support a bigger project like a family justice center. She wanted the Commissioners to know and understand that they would like nothing more than to be an ally to not only maintain the services that they have but to support a new courthouse.

Commissioner Rosholt explained that he came aboard this project after a blue ribbon committee was put together to determine how to develop and have a new court facility. That process went through for about 18 months with Commissioner Hibbert with help with Judge Russ West and former Judge Warner Wasley. That group came to a conclusion that the best place to site the facility would be on the County campus. If possible the best place would be on the current law enforcement building. He then became involved. They spent almost \$19,000 to see if it was possible to build on top of that building. It was determined that it can be done but cost would be about \$6 million. The County did not have \$6 million and there was no way of coming up with that much money. They decided at that time to look for other alternatives. That is about the same time the County looked to the State to help with some funding. Through the State there was the ability after meeting with the legislature to receive the \$2 million. It was decided by the State not only because Union County needed it but because it was determined that the best way to use the money the State had was to go at one project at a time. The Association of Oregon Counties got a committee together to determine which areas in the State were looking for money and which needed it worse. Union County was identified by the Association of Oregon Counties to have the best use of the funds. The other counties in the State agreed that they would back off of the funding requests and that if there was money available Union County should have it first. The County started looking at locations for the court facility on campus and the area between the law enforcement building and the Shelter was identified. His last time in front of the legislature he took a concept drawing of a two-story building that would fit between that area. It wasn't until the County talked to the Department of Justice and the local court staff that it was determined that "best practices" would show that a one-story building would be much better off as far as operations are concerned. When the County started looking at the cost of a two-story building one of the things that became a deterrent was elevators. Elevators are expensive not only to install but in ongoing maintenance of the elevators. The other reasons that the County is looking at the areas they are is that they needed a space that is close enough to the Jail to eliminate two things that the Justice Department is requiring be put in the project which is a sally port for law enforcement vehicles when they bring inmates in for trials and another holding cell for inmates when they have a trial and it is in adjournment or delay of a trial so they have a location to house those inmates. By moving the court facility on the Shelter footprint they are now able to move the inmates in and out of the jail and eliminate the sally port and the extra holding cell. There can now be a breezeway connecting the two buildings where the inmates can go back and forth. There is not a lot of money so it is not going to be an extravagant project. It will be a basic building with the needs of the court facility and make it so it can utilize it properly. It is a situation where the County doesn't want the services of the Shelter to go away. The County sees them as important to the community as the people present do and that is why he went to the director and staff on January 15th and suggested that this was an option. The County wants to work with the Shelter on ways to get this to work. He identified areas where they can be housed temporarily from the time the building had to be torn down to the time to move them someplace else. He also suggested to the Shelter that the County would come up with funding to help the project. There was not an amount of funding identified because the

County doesn't know what is needed. They cannot identify that they have a certain amount of funding not knowing what is needed. It is not that the Commissioners have anything at all against the Shelter. They see the need for their services and the need for the community to have the Shelter in this community. The community also has a need for a court facility. Everyone has identified that. The legislature gave the County the money and they have a certain length of time to get this project done. The County can go back and try to get an extension but they can also lose the \$2 million. \$2 million in the Federal government is not a lot of money but to Union County is a lot of money and for the County to be able to have that money and work on this project is important to everyone. The County must go forward.

Commissioner Davidson stated that he feels that Commissioner Rosholt did a good job explaining the situation. Reading the letters to the editor and the comments online there are some misconceptions. He has heard the comment that the Commissioners want new offices. There are no county offices planned for the new building. No one is moving except the State courts and their support staff. It is entirely housing State employees. The District Attorney, Parole and Probation and the Juvenile departments will all remain in the Joseph building in their current space, which is one of the reasons why it is important that this facility be built on the County campus in the proximity to those departments for efficient operations. The County doesn't have enough money to build a building big enough to house all of those departments in another location. If they are not directly adjacent the County loses all operational efficiency not only for the courts but for the County departments. One of the greatest challenges the Commissioners have is parking. The County has considered six distinct options on the County campus. There is only three of those that meet the criteria. One would be on top of the existing law enforcement center, second, adjacent to it in a two-story building and the third would be the option that was chosen adjacent to the law enforcement center in a single story building. The reasoning of going with the one story was an expression of the presiding judge and the local staff that they derived a great deal of operational efficiency by having their staff and court facilities all on a single floor. They feel that they can operate with fewer employees and provide better service to the public in that configuration. There was also an issue of the cost of elevators. The County ran a spreadsheet to project the cost based on the expenses that are incurred annually for maintaining the three elevators that the County currently maintains. Including construction and the maintenance contracts for two additional elevators over a 50 year lifespan which he considers the minimum they want to maintain out of the facility the costs exceed \$1.2 million. When the Commissioners take into the account the criteria they are trying to meet, the standards with parking they have to meet and the expenses of the County in general and the impact that additional expense of maintaining a two story building when they would have space available that has already been bought and paid for and will be maintained along with the other services that are within the Joseph building it is clear to them by looking at the needs of the entire community and the County budget that the single story building was the correct decision. The County has extended numerous offers to work together with Teresa and her staff and up until now the response has been "we cannot move". That is not a statement that lends itself to moving into a

collaborative process to find a solution to meet everyone's needs. The Commissioner's door is still open and hand is still extended. They want the Shelter to continue to operate and want it to continue to be a contributing positive force in the community. But when the Commissioners are charged with looking at the needs of the entire community and all of the expenses they have to make the best utilization that they can of the space available. The offer still stands for the space in the Joseph building or assistance moving somewhere else, sponsoring grants or whatever is on the table. When the response is "we cannot move" and it is followed up by a lawsuit it puts the County in a very difficult position. When the lawsuit is over he hopes that it can be set aside and they can get down to the serious business of finding a solution for this problem.

Teresa Brain asked if the Commissioners are willing to look at moving and being flexible to look at another site for the courthouse. Commissioner Davidson stated that he tried to just explain the criteria of how they ended up with the law enforcement building block of being the location that the task force had selected. Commissioner McClure explained that part of what the County has to do is have a signed agreement with the State of Oregon and the State has to approve whatever the County gives them before they will give the County the \$2 million. The Commissioners have to negotiate with the State and the judges are going to have a great deal to say about where the facility is located. The County has to have a signed agreement to the State by October 1st for them to release the \$2 million to the County. To come and say that the County has the authority to change where the building will be located, the Commissioners have to do it in concert with the State who is the funding source that they agree to what the County proposes. They have to meet their funding requirements which the State i.e. courts have signed off on it. When the County went to the legislature Commissioner Rosholt showed the drawing of a two-story building that would have fit in the space. The Commissioners were amazed that Senator Hansell was able to talk the Legislature into giving Union County the \$2 million. The County was given timelines that have to be met. They have been through a process with Commissioner Hibbert with a committee that talked about a courthouse facility and where to locate it. There were discussions about putting a third floor on the law enforcement building. The problem with the third floor is that the building has been there for thirty years or longer and the mechanical parts of the building don't support what is currently in the building. The mechanical systems would all need upgraded to add that story which would be a large amount of the funds.

Commissioner McClure explained that he was around when the Shelter was built. The second week after he became a Commissioner they condemned the second story of the old courthouse. Part of the roof fell on the court administrator's computer and the City condemned the building. The history of that courthouse is interesting and goes back to the turn of the last century. The first ten years of Union County the County seat was in La Grande, then it was moved to Union for thirty years. Then the railroad went through La Grande so La Grande wanted it back. The City fathers built that courthouse as a City Hall. They offered it to the County as a courthouse for 15 years for \$1 to move the courthouse back from Union. At the same time they went to Salem and gave Halfway and Richland to Baker County. That building was never built adequately. In 1929 the

roof burnt off of the courthouse and almost burnt to the ground. The building used to have a clock tower out front. The building sat empty for five years, because of the depression; the County couldn't take care of it. When the County did take care of it they never repaired it but covered up the damage. At that time the Shelter had received space from the County in the old public health department that the County was giving them for nothing. When the County decided to remove the courthouse the County sponsored a grant application for a CDBG grant. The County hired NEOEDD to write the grant to build the Shelter facility. It was funded. That was the funding source for that building. They are now in this position where the County has \$2 million and they have a timeline. This was proscribed in this legislative session. If it goes away the County has to go back to the legislature in the next session and ask them to re-enact the Bill. He is not sure how that will work. It is no guarantee that the legislature would give that funding again. He would hate to walk away from the money. Dick is correct that it is not a lot of money. The County is putting in \$750,000 in funds plus the land into the facility as well. It is going to be a minimalistic facility but he thinks that it will be adequate. As far as the Shelter, he feels that the Shelter is very important to this community and the County would continue to support them. The County needs to figure out how to do that and meet everyone's needs. The County has not been able to get there. To him it is the program that is important and what the Shelter does for this community is what is important and not the building. He has always believed in the program. It does have to be housed somewhere and the Commissioners understand that. They will work with the Shelter to address that issue. His position is that the County might not meet the deadlines but he doesn't want it to be because Union County hasn't done their part. He wants to have a plan that the State can accept. He will not accept the fact that the County has not done their obligation, in good faith, to try and accommodate this. The problem is that once a lawsuit is filed conversations stop.

Teresa Brain stated that her question was if Union County is willing to reconsider where they are siting the courthouse. If the County is looking at compromise and negotiation and mediation it seems that both parties need to bring an open mind to the table. Commissioner McClure stated that the point he was trying to make is simply that it is not Union County's decision on the site. The County has to come up with a site that the State approves. Commissioner Rosholt explained that because of the things that he mentioned earlier if it is not located at the site selected than they lose the opportunity not to have to have the sally port and the additional holding cell in the court facility which means that they have less room for the court facility staff and court rooms because more money would have to be spent on those items. The three Commissioners feel that it is the best place to house the new court facility. Commissioner McClure explained that when building a facility they should try and save on capital costs and not pass it on to operational costs because operational costs go on forever. It is better to spend the capital money to build the building as efficient as possible so the operational fees are as inexpensive as it can be. In order to do that they need to build it as close to the jail so the jail facilities can be used instead of building new facilities inside the courthouse. They have given it some practical considerations. Teresa stated that there are some very good reasons of why the courthouse, if it is the only building being

considered, needs to be where the Shelter is but she is saying that the County should come to the table with the needs of both buildings. Look at where else the courthouse can be and if another place cannot be found than look at the cost of moving the Shelter so it is not the Shelter against the Courthouse but it is together.

MaryEllen Leberge, 2311 East L, La Grande, asked if the State approved the funding based on the location being between the Shelter and the law enforcement center. Commissioner Rosholt stated that he brought the two-story plan because that is what was looked at at the time. MaryEllen asked if Senator Hansell was surprised to see that now it is a one story building and taking out the Shelter building. The function that goes on within that building is what is an issue. She looks at the needs of this space. They have brought over clients from the police department into the space and then to the courthouse. They have to take their sexual assault clients to a different building so that when the sexual assault response team is called they go to a different building. They have a grant written to house a space in their current building. She cannot imagine bringing a person that has been sexually assaulted into the courthouse space. It is mind boggling to think about it. That is the kind of thought process that needs to come. She is listening to closed minds maybe on both sides. The County is saying that the Shelter is not listening but the County brought them no alternative and just said this is it. No one is working together here. A solution needs to happen and maybe \$2 million isn't enough. Maybe that money has to go away so they can work on a bigger vision for La Grande and not a courthouse that will fall down in fifteen years just because there is \$2 million that has to be spent now.

Commissioner Rosholt explained that the County had five general contractors submit a request to be considered to build the building that said they can build it for the amount of money available. MaryEllen stated that maybe if all the minds are put together they can come up with a plan that is more than \$2 million to do something better and bigger for the community. Commissioner Rosholt explained that he suggested to the Shelter in their Board meeting that would be something the County would look to in the future for a phase two of the project. The County has \$2 million from the State that has never been given to any County in the State of Oregon before for this purpose. The County has to accept the money and get the project done. Union County was considered the worst court facility in the State of Oregon. MaryEllen wonders if in 20 years the \$2 million would build a building that is enough. Commissioner Rosholt stated that in twenty years he hopes that another phase of the project has been completed. MaryEllen stated that the County needs to come to the table with open minds. Commissioner Rosholt stated that the County minds have been open and they have been willing to work with Teresa Crouser on this project. The County doesn't even have a dollar amount of what it would cost to remodel the Joseph building to make it work for the Shelter. Commissioner Rosholt explained that Union County is not a rich county or they would be spending more money on the court facility but the Commissioners are willing to sit down and talk about options.

MaryEllen asked if the County has looked into the cost of moving the actual Shelter building to a different location. Commissioner Davidson stated that the building is built on a slab which that type of design doesn't lend itself to moving efficiently. He doesn't think it would be cost effective.

Teresa Brain stated that she is concerned about moving the Shelter twice. If it has to move she doesn't think it is economically viable to destroy a building and build another but that needs to be figured out. She is concerned on moving the Shelter twice. Right now there are women in the community that know when it gets bad enough and they get brave enough they know exactly where to go. It is important that the Shelter be at that location. It is a combined deal and when it is looked at what is done for the courthouse in the same breath it should be asked what will be done for the Shelter. Look at the cost as a global issue and only move the Shelter if it has to be moved once.

Dick McDaniel explained that he has been in the Commissioners shoes on the school board. They have sat around begging for money to do something that the schools felt was necessary. The beg didn't work and they wouldn't get the money. It was interesting listening to the school board chairman and the superintendent talk about their thoughts and plans of a levy for doing work on schools. One of the things they did was brought people in and went around and looked at the various school facilities. It was amazing to him that they came up with the idea to tear down Central School and build a new school on that sight when there are other older facilities. What they said about the older facilities is that they look like schools. Central looks like a prison like the old dorms at the college. Everyone that has been in the Joseph building wants to get out of there. CHD couldn't wait to get out of that building. How much will be spent to move the Shelter into that building. It will cost a lot and then who pays for the maintenance. It sounded to him that the Shelter could have the facility for free. The Shelter would still have to pay the utilities and maintenance so it is not free. Commissioner Rosholt explained that the County offered to pay the utilities and maintenance.

Sharon Evoy stated that she would like the Commissioners to consider the economic impact. There are resource impacts on the services but it seems to her that they are destroying a building that costs \$500,000 that was paid with Federal taxpayer's money. It is putting at great risk the \$20,000 per month in County positions and \$10,000 per month in City positions. The County is also facing a lawsuit. She wonders how can the \$2 million from the State for a courthouse will cost with the loss of all the other costs. There are a lot of tax payers who are questioning this. She asked the Commissioners to find a way to make another building work. She knows the County has done studies and had construction experts come but she thinks there can still be another way to honor both the need for a courthouse and the Shelter from the Storm. It is so wasteful to tear down a building and a program.

Robin Stedfeld asked what has to happen by the October 1, 2014 deadline. Commissioner Rosholt explained that a contract has to be signed with a contractor by October 1, 2014 to be approved by the State of Oregon. She is suggesting to the

Commissioners that everyone sit down at the table and look at the full budget of the courthouse and a shelter building that meets the needs of the Shelter to address all those costs to come up with different budgets to see what can be done. She knows that was done to some extent initially but things changed since then. No one is sitting down all together and explaining what each entity has to have. Everyone wants to do this in a way that saves costs but the question is what is included in those costs. She explained that the Commissioners are hearing that transforming the Joseph building into something else is not going to meet the Shelter's needs.

Maxine Hines asked who all was on the blue ribbon committee that the Commissioners mentioned. Commissioner Rosholt explained there were about twenty members on that committee. Maxine asked if the Shelter was invited to that committee. Commissioner McClure explained that the process was open and at one time an entire new public safety facility was looked at. The Committee came up with the conclusion that the justice facility could not be completed within this community and that was when the project was limited and decided that it needed to be housed on the County campus. Commissioner Davidson explained that the Committee started in 2008 as an outgrowth of a study that was done by the State of Oregon on the condition of court facilities throughout the State. Maxine asked if it would be helpful for community members who are concerned about this project to contact the State to try and get a reprieve on the October 1st deadline. Commissioner McClure stated that was up to them if they wanted to do that. She asked who to contact. Commissioner Davidson stated that it would have to be a change done through the legislature. Maxine asked if they contact the local legislators. The Commissioners stated yes.

Teresa Crouser wanted to reiterate what she said to Commissioner Rosholt after January 15th that the County should leave the Shelter intact, put the courthouse on the Joseph Annex footprint and make that phase one of a bigger project which would include demolition of the remainder of the Joseph building after the courthouse is complete. Then they should rebuild a structure there for the District Attorney's office and Parole and Probation. Then move over to the other side including law enforcement and the Jail in the bigger total project. If the Shelter moves it will harm them. It will harm the services that they provide as well as harm them fiscally. Their ability to be successful in the collaborative grants that they have has a lot to do with the stability that they have had in that building. They have been able to grow and expand. They have the services to allow for the big grants. Moving would not only harm services but financially it would harm them as well. Her estimate on what the potential move would cost them is far more than \$2 million. Moving would harm them. They would not be the resource that they are now. She asked the Commissioners to leave them intact and let them help fund a bigger project.

Hangar Lease

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, brought an Airport Hangar lease to the Commissioners for consideration. He explained that Russ Kilpatrick vacated Hangar #5 which opened up a space. They had Alex and Mary Porter of Morgan Lake Road

requesting to lease that Hangar. It is the same terms and conditions as the other Hangar leases. Rent is \$100 per month which will start July 1st. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Hangar Lease as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

The May 22, 23 and 29 claims journals; and the May 21 and 28 Public Works claims journals; were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Blue Mountain Early Learning Resolution

Resolution 2014-05, In the Matter of Support for Formation of Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that Union County agreed to participate in an Early Learning HUB with Umatilla, Morrow and Union counties. In 2012 the Intermountain ESD and Umatilla-Morrow Headstart put in an application to be designated as one of the first Early Learning HUBs. That designation was not awarded so they are submitting a second request to be included in the next round of Early Learning HUBs. This Resolution restates Union County's desire to participate in that HUB and supports the application. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Resolution 2014-05 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

HR 4272 Resolution

Resolution 2014-04, In the Matter of a Resolution Supporting the Forest Access in Rural Communities Act, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess explained that this Resolution shows the County's support of the Forest Access in Rural Communities Act. Commissioner Davidson explained that the Bill was introduced by Congressman Walden. It is in response to the Travel Management planning rule that they have tried to implement on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. This Bill would give the counties a voice in the planning process. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval Resolution 2014-04 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Intergovernmental Agreement Amendment

Shelley Burgess brought an Intergovernmental Agreement Amendment to Contract #3024 between Union County and the Oregon Department of Revenue to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this agreement provides for the maintenance services that the Department of Revenue does for the Assessor's office. In the initial agreement they estimated staffing hours at 390 hours and there was a not-to-exceed amount of \$19,500. They need to amend the agreement to allow for 490 hours at a maximum cost of \$24,500. The Assessor did budget for the \$24,500 so this does not have any impact on the budget. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval on the Intergovernmental Agreement Amendment as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Local Workforce Investment Area Designation

Shelley explained that there have been a lot of changes to the Worksource Oregon and Workforce Oregon programs because of Federal actions that have dealt with the funding. She is looking for a motion to participate in a request for a designation for Union County. Commissioner Rosholt explained that this is just the County's approval to move forward with the process. **Commissioner Davidson moved to approve the request for a geographic designation for the Local Workforce Investment area. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Executive Session

An executive session was held under ORS 192.660(h) for pending litigation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Sr. Dept. Specialist II