

Union County Board of Commissioners
October 6, 2010

Present: Chairman Mark D. Davidson
Commissioner Steve McClure
Commissioner R. Nellie Hibbert

Call to Order

Chairman Davidson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all three members present.

City of La Grande Building Department Update

David Kloss, Building Inspector, was present to update the Commissioners on the progress of the City of La Grande Building Department. For 2010 the Building Department has completed 1,936 inspections. They are averaging approximately 12 inspections per day. David will be meeting tomorrow with Reed Speer, representative of the Insurance Service Organization which rates building departments on their effectiveness. Currently La Grande does not have a rating. Commissioner McClure asked what the revenue to date is compared to what was anticipated. David stated they are down approximately 15% but that some in process projects should bring them to what was projected. Commissioner Hibbert asked for a copy of the rating when received and their goals to improve the rating.

David also updated the Commissioners on a new procedure that was implemented which tracks the Building Department's turn around time on permit applications. They began tracking this in May and are averaging 2.8 days per application.

The City is still advertising for a Level A Inspector. Currently they are using inspectors from Baker City and Hermiston but are hoping to hire someone with these qualifications in the near future.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

CCF Self-Assessment

Vicky Brogoitti, CCF Director, presented the 2010 CCF Self-Assessment, which is completed on an annual basis as per the intergovernmental agreement between Union County and the State of Oregon. This year CCF has worked diligently at updating the County's comprehensive plan, reducing youth substance abuse, implementing the Walk to School program, increasing farm to school effort, continuing the Mobile Fun Unit, implementing the Runaway Homeless program in outlying schools, and improving the community calendar. CCF Commission members are also performing site visits with contractors.

Consent Agenda

The August 25, September 1, September 8 and September 15 public works claims journals; August 26, September 2, September 9, September 16 and September 23 claims journals; May 25 4-H & Extension Service District Budget Meeting Minutes; and March 18, August 4 and August 18 commission meeting minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Administrative Matters

Postponement of ODF&W "Greater Sage-Grouse Assessment & Strategy"

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Resolution 2010-14, In the Matter of Requesting Postponement of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissions Approval of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2010 Draft Version of the "Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon." The Association of Oregon Counties has taken a position requesting this postponement and is asking member counties to adopt resolutions in support of the postponement.

Dennis Wilkinson, Cove, stated he read the last analysis by West ECO and they did not find any active Lech on Ramo Flatt. They are proposing a lot of setbacks around the area of active Lech. He questioned the Commissioners on the process they would be taking to hold additional public meetings. Chairman Davidson explained that the process would be Fish and Wildlife's, but AOC is asking that ODF&W meet with stakeholders and do more research on this subject because of the social and economic impacts it will have on Eastern Oregon. Commissioner Davidson encouraged Mr. Wilkinson to send letters to the organization asking they postpone their decision until they have conducted more research. Commissioner Hibbert also urged everyone to attend the AOC meeting on November 9th in Bend that will address the Sage-Grouse issue. This provides an opportunity for concerned citizens to get more information and give feedback on this proposed strategy. Mr. Wilkinson expressed interest in this meeting and asked that information concerning it be sent to him.

Charlie Gillis, La Grande, asked for clarification on whether Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife has reached conclusions regarding the best way to handle Sage-Grouse habitats and if the counties had input in this. Chairman Davidson replied ODF&W has prepared a draft Assessment and Strategy, which can be viewed online. ODF&W's research is completed but the counties are now asking them to receive more input prior to finalizing their assessment.

Commissioner Hibbert feels that we need to use caution and perform a thorough review while updating this strategy so it doesn't have an erroneous effect. Commissioner McClure concurs. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Resolution 2010-14, In the Matter of Requesting Postponement of the**

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissions Approval of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2010 Draft Version of the "Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon." Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Establishing a Reserve Account for the Charter Communications Appeal
Court Order 2010-35, In the Matter of an Order Establishing a Reserve Account for the Charter Communications Holding Company LLC Tax Court Appeal (ORS 311.814), was presented for consideration. Charter Communications Holding Company filed an appeal of their 2009-10 tax year assessed value. This resolution will allow the treasurer to set aside \$84,984.88, which is the value of the portion of taxes paid by the petitioner, in an interest bearing reserve account, until the final outcome of the appeal. Shelley informed the Commissioners that a letter regarding this proposal was sent to all the districts that will be affected. Commissioner McClure verified that if we do not set the monies aside and the tax court votes in favor of Charter it would be more difficult to pay these funds back along with interest. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2010-35 as presented. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

CDBG Microenterprise Assistance Program Grant Contract
Community Development Block Grant Contract for project number M100014, in the amount of \$37,500 for the Microenterprise Assistance Program was presented to the Commissioners for approval. This grant was the result of an application that was approved by the Commissioners, submitted by Lisa Dawson. Attached to the contract is an Approval of Determination Exemption that indicates that Union County will not be purchasing any equipment for this program. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the CDBG Contract M100014 for the Micro-Enterprise Grant Program as presented and the Determination of Exemption for this contract. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Union County Law Enforcement Association Agreement
Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Commissioners with the Union County Law Enforcement Association Agreement. This agreement will be retroactive to July 1, 2010 and will continue until June 12, 2012. The contract language remains unchanged but adjustments were made to the cost of living and insurance. The union voted and approved this contract. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of the UCLEA Contract as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Title III Project Awards
Seven applications for Title III funds were received and presented to the Commissioners. The funding requests totaled \$47,125 and the amount of available funds is \$54,600 with a carryover amount of \$11,000 from last fiscal year. All the applications received met the criteria for Category 2. Shelley

explained that because some of the applications from Search and Rescue (SAR) request funding for equipment that may be used on private land searches, she required Search and Rescue to provide a match for the Title III funds.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Title III projects as presented. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment to Board of Property Tax Appeals

Court Order 2010-36, In the Matter of Appointment to the 2010 Board of Property Tax Appeals, was presented for consideration. The order appoints Steve McClure, Russ Smith, and Gary Howland to serve for tax year 2010-11.

Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Court Order 2010-36. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Connect Oregon III Grant

Connect Oregon III grant agreement #26986 between Union County and the State of Oregon Department of Transportation through the multi-module transportation program 2010 was presented for consideration and signature. This grant will fund \$636,623 of the estimated \$12,732,426 Safety Improvement Project. The remaining portion of the funds will come from Federal Aviation Administration grants. Funding from Connect Oregon III grant is available until June 2011 contingent on being awarded additional grant monies from the FAA.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Connect Oregon III Grant Agreement #26986 between Union County and the State of Oregon. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Surplus Property Declaration

Resolution 2010-15, In the Matter of a Resolution Declaring Property Surplus, which is referencing two small parcels of property that used to be railroad right-of-way, that the county came into ownership of when the co-op claimed bankruptcy and the bank quitclaimed these parcels to the county. There has been interest expressed in purchasing these parcels, one which is .07 acres and the other .02 acres, located in Island City. The parcels are neither connected nor adjacent and have no significant value or use. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Resolution 2010-15 as presented. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Court Order to Sell Surplus County Property

Shelley presented Court Order 2010-37, In the Matter of an Order Directing the Union County Sheriff to Sell Surplus County Property, Establishing Terms of Sale and Minimum Price for consideration. This court order is in regards to the property listed in resolution 2010-15. Research has been done but determining a price for these parcels has been unsuccessful. Shelley did inform the Commissioners that if these parcels are not sold at auction they may take bids for not less than 10% of the price set at the auction. Commissioner Davidson pointed out that one parcel is 2.5 times larger than the other so he proposes to set the minimum price of the parcel that is .02 acres at \$100.00 and the parcel

that is .07 acres at \$250.00. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2010-37 as presented and setting the sale amount of parcel 1 which is .02 acres at \$100.00 and parcel 2 which is .07 acres at \$250.00. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Shelter From the Storm Operating Agreement

An agreement extension for the operation of the Shelter from the Storm Advocacy Center was presented for consideration. Representatives from the Shelter have been working with Administrative Officer, Shelley Burgess to amend the current operating agreement. Until the amended agreement has been signed an extension until August 2011 of the current agreement is requested.

Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of the Agreement Extension Operation of the Shelter from the Storm Advocacy Center. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Department of Justice Grant

Shelley presented the Commissioners with a grant award from the Department of Justice for the Drug Court Program. This is a continuation of an existing grant. Funds from this grant will pay a portion of our drug court staff and client services through 2012. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of the Drug Court Grant for years 2010-11 and 2011-12 in the amount of \$91,077. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

McNeil Road Tour

Commissioner McClure has made arrangements for a tour of McNeil Road on Thursday at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kylee J. Ingerson
Department Receptionist