

**Union County Board of Commissioners  
November 3, 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.

Public Comments & Concerns

Court Facility Task Force Update

Warner Wasley, Chairman of the Union County Court Facility Task Force, expressed some concerns he has regarding the proposed court facility. During the summer of 2008 the State of Oregon performed a study of all the State Courthouses and ranked them 1 through 48. Union County ranked 48 out of 48 due to safety concerns, inadequacy, and functionality, which resulted in the formation of the Court Facility Task Force. The primary duties of the Task Force were to look at the needs of the court, review potential locations, and search for financial opportunities. A study was performed that looked at the needs and location for a new courthouse which was paid for by a grant from the State Court Institute in Virginia for \$30,000 and a \$3,000 contribution by the Union County Judicial Department. During this process the task force has downsized the needs of the new court facility to what they believe could realistically be funded. A recommendation has been made for the new facility to be built upon the existing jail. The financial option they believed would be the most feasible was a \$2.6 million dollar recovery zone bond. Upon gaining eligibility for the bond two local contractors, W.C. Construction and Becker Construction, reviewed the plans for the new court facility and gave estimates on how much this project would cost. The task force was advised that because of the short time frame the county decided to not proceed with the bond or the courthouse project.

Judge West thanked Commissioner Hibbert for all the time and effort she has put into this project. He urged the county to not let this project die. Mr. Wasley also thanked Shelley Burgess for her assistance.

Commissioner Davidson stated he would like to clear up some misconceptions. The Commissioners decision to not use the recovery zone bonds does not mean that a new courthouse is not a priority. He did not feel they were sufficiently prepared in going out and issuing bonds which could put a severe strain on the county's budget for the next thirty years. Prior to committing to any financial obligations he wants to make sure that the seismic review comes back positive, and get updated plans that meet the needs of the court instead of the current plans which are thirty years old. He believes they need to start with a seismic

review, update their plans, get an estimate by an engineer who will look at the entire picture, and then go out and figure out how to finance it. Commissioner Davidson suggested looking for other funding mechanisms such as grants or discretionary funds. Because the seismic study would be the first step towards building a new court facility, Commissioner Davidson has suggested that funds be allocated in next years budget to complete this.

Commissioner McClure agreed that revenue streams at this time are shaky and they need to find other financial options for the new courthouse instead of the bonds. Commissioner Hibbert expressed her pleasure at hearing that this project is a priority to the other Commissioners and that funding for the seismic project will potentially be allocated in next years budget.

### Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

#### Bridge Materials Bid Award

Joe Valek, Public Works Department, presented a recommendation for bridge materials to be used on the High Valley Road Bridge and Nice Road Bridge. Two bids were received, one from Eagle Cap Steel for \$38,684.06 and another from Big R Bridge for \$44,600.00. The Public Works Department recommends the quote be awarded to Eagle Cap Steel for the amount of \$38,684.06. Commissioner McClure asked when construction would begin. Mr. Valek explained that if it's a light winter work will begin on the Nice Road Bridge this winter and the bridge on High Valley Road will begin this summer.

**Commissioner McClure moved to award the bid to Eagle Cap Steel in the amount of \$38,684.06. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### ODOT Flex Fund Grant

Hanley Jenkins, Planning Director, would like to pursue an ODOT Flex Fund grant for the bicycle and pedestrian path along the Grande Ronde River stretching from Riverside Park to the proposed Island City Day Use Park. Phase 1 of this project is to complete the planning process on the remaining portion of the anticipated greenway trail and phase 2 is the construction of various segments of the greenway trail and improving the fencing. Hanley is asking permission from the Commissioners to complete the ODOT Flex Fund grant application. Commissioner Hibbert recused herself because this will be constructed in her neighborhood. Commissioner Davidson and Commissioner McClure gave Hanley their approval to submit the grant application.

#### Consent Agenda

**The October 25 claims journal; and September 15 and October 6 commissioner minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.**

Legalization of Portion of Igo Lane

Hanley Jenkins explained that a portion of Igo Lane from Lester Road west to the Mt. Emily Recreation Area gate can not be accurately located due to a defective survey of the road and does not conform to the location of the road described in the county records. Oregon Statutes regarding legalization of a road have been followed and a survey has been prepared by Anderson & Perry. Lloyd Mason submitted a letter that was read into the record. A court order was not presented because the survey performed by Anderson and Perry has not been monumented.

Commissioner Davidson opened the hearing to public testimony.

Lloyd Mason, Igo Lane, La Grande, asked if once the road is legalized that will do away with the existing right-of-way through his property. Hanley explained that in conjunction with moving the right-of-way they will vacate the existing one.

With no other testimony presented, Commissioner Davidson closed the hearing to public testimony.

**Commissioner McClure moved tentative approval of legalization of Igo Lane as presented. Commissioner Hibbert seconded.** Hanley explained they have also been working with Julia Samples, the Westenskows and the Zubricks to acquire easements so a parking lot for MERA can be developed on Igo Lane. **Motion carried unanimously.** A final order will be presented once the survey is monumented.

Imbler RFD Annexation Public Hearing

Court Order 2010-38, In the Matter of Adopting an Amendment to the Imbler Rural Fire Protection District Boundary was presented. Jerry and Janice Hudson have submitted a request to be annexed into the Imbler fire district. This would add a 10 acre parcel on the west side of Dial Road to the fire district, which is adjacent to Imbler's east side boundary. A letter from the Imbler Rural Fire Protection District agreeing to the annexation has been received.

Commissioner Davidson opened the hearing to public testimony. With no testimony presented the hearing was closed.

**Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2010-38. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kylee J. Ingerson  
Department Specialist