

Union County Board of Commissioners
June 16, 2010

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

Call to Order

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

Public Comments & Concerns

Tilos Court Major Partition Plat

Greg Blackman, Bagett Griffith & Blackman Surveying, presented a major partition for Gus and Karen Tsiatsos. This partition is off of Fruitdale Lane and is a continuation of a partition that they did approximately a year ago. This partition will dedicate a portion of Tilos Lane and is the third step in a series of actions.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of Tilos Court major partition plat as presented. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Renewable Energy Committee Update

Howard Butts, 69873 Summerville Rd., Summerville, gave a summary report on the solar fair that took place June 4, 5, and 6th at Eastern Oregon University. There were approximately 100 to 120 participants this year with 6 vendors displaying various products. Twelve to fifteen citizens participated in the tours each day which the committee sees as a huge success. As per the agreement with the Commissioners the Renewable Energy committee is returning all non-used funds which amounts to \$793.05. Howard is hoping that the commissioners realize that although it is small there is a very viable concern for renewable energy that has been emphasized with the recent oil spill. Commissioner Davidson wanted to inform the Renewable Energy Committee that he fully supports renewable energy educational endeavors, such as the solar fair, and sees it as a great use of funds and thanks them for holding up their part of the agreement. He would personally like to see the criteria for the grant fund be geared towards projects that have a wide benefit to the community and a job creation retention component. Howard reported that one vendor received six positive feedbacks while another one received three to four inquiries, during the solar fair.

Opposition to Renewable Energy Grant

Dennis Wilkinson, 68287 Lower Cove Rd., Cove came in opposition of the renewable energy grant, but agrees with Commissioner Davidson that renewable energy funds should go towards educational programs rather than separate energy projects. Dennis does not like the idea of taking tax payers money and

using it to benefit one person. He would like to see the Commissioners develop a program that promotes renewable energy projects that benefit the community and generates additional jobs. Dennis feels that the amount of money in this fund should be reduced and used elsewhere. Dennis also extended an invitation to the Commissioners to attend the upcoming informational meeting regarding the wind tower projects.

Wind Tower Feedback

Faye Stein-Swanson, 68562 Telocast Ln., Union reported to the Commissioners that she has been tortured for the last 2 ½ years due to the wind towers near her residence. She is unable to sleep, and her ears are always under pressure. If she goes away for 3 days her symptoms get better. She explained that Morrow County is doing a moratorium to look at the noise created by the wind towers. Also, in Lincoln County, Wisconsin two dairy farmers just won a lawsuit for stray voltage from wind towers affecting their cows. Faye feels that Union County has not done enough research on the effect of wind towers being close to residence. The wind towers are approximately 350 yards from her residence, while the recommendation is for the wind towers to be 4 to 6 miles away from human contact. Dairy farmers have proven that stray voltage has caused their cows to have miscarriages, deformities and stop producing milk. Faye talked to the State Governors office and they stated that they do not regulate the Elkhorn Wind Farm and that it's up to the county commissioners to shut down the wind farm. Faye reminded Commissioner Davidson that when she talked to him earlier she had noticed that Horizon had hired an out of the area company to clean a major oil spill and Mark explained that Horizon said they only spilt 10 gallons, so she wonders why they hired someone to clean that up instead of hiring locally, like promised, and why they brought in 350 gallons of oil. Faye demanded the Commissioners set up more regulations and prays they shut the wind farm down so she can sleep and stray voltage stops hitting her. She said that her neighbors, the Thurston's, also want the wind towers shut down because they have figured out that their headaches are a direct result of the wind towers.

In Support of Renewable Energy Grant

Dave Falley, 302 C Avenue, La Grande, supports the alternative energy grant program and feels that the reason it is under utilized is because it has not been well advertised or promoted in the last couple of years. He also notes that the grant application is minimal and does not list guidelines clearly outlining who can apply. Dave supports using these funds for individual solar applications on residences because it allows installers to stay local instead of looking for jobs in energy trust areas. This grant program makes it feasible to create solar business in our county.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

City of Union Law Enforcement and Animal Control Contract

Captain Craig Ward presented the Law Enforcement and Animal Control contracts between the Union County Sheriff's Office and the City of Union. The law enforcement contract was changed this year to reduce the basic policing contract hours and instead provide animal control for the City. In order for the animal control contract to be successful the city of Union will need to abate their local ordinance, allowing the Sheriff to enforce state and county ordinances. The Sheriff's office is not willing to enforce the city ordinance and create a liability issue for the county. The City of Union has not been providing animal control so the Sheriff's office anticipates a back log, which is why the contract calls for animal control to provide 20 hours of service for the first two months and then 10 hours of service after that. Animal Control will also be available for emergency situations. Currently 30% of calls for service in Union County are referred to animal control.

The remainder of the law enforcement contract is unchanged from the current one. Commissioner Hibbert feels that it is a real compliment to the Sheriff's office to contract with a local city and has done the math and noticed that these contracts will bring in a revenue of approximately \$35,000. Commissioner Hibbert also wanted to confirm that the 911 issue is not a part of this contract. She was also appreciative that in the event they exit the contract there will be monetary compensation for the Sheriff's office. Commissioner McClure questioned Captain Ward about whether they will enforce the county ordinance in the City of Union. Captain Ward confirmed that State law allows the county to enforce their ordinance in a City in the event that they enter into an agreement stating that it will be enforced. Captain Ward said that they would like this to take effect on July 1, 2010. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of both contracts representing law enforcement and animal control services between the Sheriff's Department and the City of Union. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

The May 27 and June 3 claims journal, May 27 and June 3 public works claims journal, and March 17 Board of Commissioners minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Administrative Matters

Amendment to 12th Street Agreement with ODOT

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, provided the commissioners with amendment 1 to Agreement #26444 with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the 12th Street Improvement project. The original agreement indicated the county would be responsible for expenses until the bonds were sold and money became available, if the project went forward. The amendment states that ODOT will cover a portion of the costs until the bonds are issued but

the county will still be responsible for repayment if the bonds are not issued. Commissioner McClure commented that the county will not know the scope of the project until after it is decided whether to include a gas tax on the ballot or not. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Amendment #1 to local interagency agreement for fund distribution to 12th Street Improvements. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution 2010-08, Revising the Renewable Energy Grant Allocation

Resolution 2010-08, In the Matter of a Resolution Revising the Renewable Energy Grant Allocation, was presented for approval, which states the budgeted transfer of 25% of the Community Service Fees received during fiscal year 2009-10 (51,300) from the wind energy fund to the Renewable Energy Fund will not be made and no funds will be transferred during the 2010-11 budget or future budgets. The number of grant applications requesting funding for renewable energy projects is not large enough that the current monies in this fund are being used up. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Resolution 2010-08 Revising the Renewable Energy Grant Allocation. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Marine Patrol Contract

The contract between the State of Oregon Marine Board and Union County for marine safety and law enforcement patrol is up for renewal. The State of Oregon pays Union County \$10,341 for marine patrol while Union County does an in-kind match of \$7,115. This has been an on-going contract. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Contract for Boating Safety and Law Enforcement Services between State of Oregon Marine Board and Union County Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Forest Service Lease Renewal

The lease for property at the Airport between Union County and the local Forest Service Agency was presented for renewal. Currently the Forest Service leases two parcels of land, 11.73 acres and 2.365 acres, for the hot shot operation and tanker base. The lease is for 20 years and allows for removal of parcel 2 which is 2.365 acres. The Forest Service recently started leasing parcel 2 from the county last year and feel that they will not need this property for long term. The rental rate is \$30,698 per year and that revenue goes to the airport operation fund. All the conditions are the same as past leases. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of lease with the Forest Service for the purpose of the tanker base and hot shot facility. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment

The meeting was then adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kylee J. Ingerson
Department Receptionist