

Board of Commissioners Meeting  
June 29, 2011

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

Call To Order

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

FY 2011-12 Union County 4-H & Extension District Budget Hearing

Resolution 2011-09, In the Matter of Adopting the Budget, Appropriating Funds Levying Ad Valorem Taxes, and Categorizing Taxes, for the Union County 4-H and Extension Service District for the Fiscal Year 2011-12, was presented for consideration.

Commissioner McClure opened the public hearing for testimony. There was no testimony received. The hearing was then closed.

**Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Resolution 2011-09 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

FY 2011-12 Union County Budget Hearing

Commissioner McClure opened the hearing for testimony.

Carrie Brogoitti, Public Health Administrator with the Center for Human Development, 2301 Cove Ave, La Grande, thanked the Commissioners and budget committee for all their hard work and effort that is put into preparing the budget. She knows that resources are limited and that tough decisions need to be made. She would like to request that the Commissioners consider increasing the allocation to Center for Human Development. Specifically, for funding the new school based health center in Union. School based health centers are a national model that work to increase access to health care services for youth. They are located on school grounds so students can access health care services immediately when they need them. They don't miss as much class time and can get treated and get back to class quickly. There is evidence that students do better academically when there are school based health centers. Last year they were fortunate to receive a planning grant from the State that has allowed them to open the new school based health center in Union. It is an expansion of services which means that their costs are increasing. Having additional support from the County would not only benefit the youth of the Union School District but would also help increase the number of services that are provided to non-La Grande residents within Union County. There are over 400 students that attend the Union School District that will have regular access to health care services because of the school based health center. She explained that they did a survey of the parents in the

Spring of 2010 and found that nearly 50% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders had not had a check up in the last year. The services are needed. They also know that many of the students are low income and lack access to health care services. They received a letter from one of the teachers at La Grande High School.

Ricco Weber, Fiscal Manager, Center for Human Development, read the letter that was received from the teacher at La Grande High School into the record. He stated that the health centers are very important to the health of the children. Ricco explained that the health centers take care of hard issues and are a good resource for the kids to keep them healthy and engaged in the education system. They are asking for additional funding for the school based health center in Union that will allow them to add these values that are existing in La Grande High School out into the County through the Union School Based Health Center.

Commissioner McClure asked what the contribution of the Union School District and how this health center is being funded right now. He asked them to explain how important this is to the Union School District and how they have addressed their support. Carrie explained that the Union School District has been very involved in the process. The school board and the superintendent were very engaged. They have given a lot of time to the planning process. Their contribution is in-kind mostly. They have reconstructed an entire building for the health center. They are going to donate electricity, computer, phones, and janitorial services as well as other operating costs. They will not be charging any rent to the health center.

Commissioner McClure asked if CHD will be contributing the salaries of the nurses that will be out at the health center. Carrie stated that CHD will pay for the staffing and supplies that are needed to provide the services.

Commissioner McClure asked if this is the first year start up for this center. Carrie explained that they opened in May because they needed to open in May for a few days so they could become certified. They became certified and she invited the Commissioners to come out to the health center and view the facility.

Commissioner McClure asked what they are requesting from the County. Ricco stated that they had requested \$25,000 as the initial request and are again requesting that amount.

Commissioner McClure asked if they thought the Union School District would be willing to make any kind of cash contribution. Carrie stated that she cannot speak for the school district. She is not sure that they have any resources they can put up. She is not opposed to asking them but she doesn't feel like she can make a commitment on their part. Commissioner Davidson stated that headlines in the paper stated that the Union School District is cutting positions to balance their budget.

Commissioner McClure stated that it is important to him that if the County makes the contribution he wants to hear that it is important to the schools and that the schools have stepped up and made some kind of statement in that regard.

Commissioner Davidson asked how this health center will work with the South County Health District. Carrie stated that the South County Health District operates the Union Family Health Center and has been engaged in the process. They are working on collaborating with them. She is under the impression that they are really busy and that they have a lot of demand for services. She sees this as an opportunity to compliment what they are doing. Her intention is to meet with them at least quarterly to talk about ways to collaborate. They are working on doing sports physicals for next year. They are talking about running a joint ad in the Observer to have them done at each location on different days. They believe that the students that are going to come to the school based health center would probably not have made it to the clinic. Once they come in and depending on their health needs they may need to send them to the clinic for health management.

Commissioner McClure asked if CHD is still doing the mobile program for the other communities. Carrie stated that they are providing services in Cove, Imbler and Elgin. Some of those are not nursing services but are mental health services only.

Commissioner Rosholt asked why CHD could not contract with the South County Health District for some of the nursing. Carrie stated that they do not have enough staff. Commissioner Rosholt asked if that would help them to have more staff. Carrie stated that it is her understanding that they can't find staff to fill their staffing needs. So, asking them to increase the amount of time they were giving would not be very feasible. The staff that will be at the Union health center is also the staff that will be at the La Grande High School health center so they are working with high school students which is a specialty area for them. The Health District has a different specialty which will be why it is important to collaborate. Commissioner Rosholt asked for clarification that the nurses that are at La Grande High School will also be at the Union High School health clinic. Carrie explained that there will be one nurse practitioner who works at La Grande and Union and the health assistant will work at La Grande and Union. There will be two different nurses working at each site. That will offer some continuity for the youth of Union County.

Commissioner McClure stated that public health was in the Joseph building a few blocks from La Grande High School and those students would not walk down and go to public health. They would either go to a facility they are comfortable with in the school or they will not get the services. This was a discussion that started when the La Grande High School health center was started. He would like to make a minor contribution to at least show some good faith. He would be concerned if he considered this to be a backfill of a cut from the State. The Commissioners

agreed on the philosophy that they were not going to backfill for any cuts made by the State. He would like to consider a \$12,500 contribution.

Commissioner Rosholt asked if the other school districts will now want to have the same thing. Carrie stated that they went through a planning process where they engaged with all of the other school districts in Union County and gave them an opportunity to express interest in this process. Union and Imbler were the ones that showed the most interest and the most readiness. When it came down to it Union had a facility and Imbler did not. That is why Union was taken forward.

Commissioner Davidson asked during the planning process what was the planned source of funds to support the center. Carrie explained that they did get a grant from the State to start the center but it does not cover all of the expenses. They did plan to ask the County to support the new expanded service. She has every intention of working to raise additional funding through grants for this project. She is trying to find a broad base of support for the project but that takes time and there are no guarantees. Commissioner Davidson stated that he doesn't intend to be argumentative but when one of these is started it never ends so when the County starts funding something it is harder to ever stop funding it. When a decision is made on whether to allocate any funding they might as well assume they are going to do this every year the way he looks at it.

Commissioner Rosholt asked how the program will go forward if the County decides to give \$12,500. Carrie explained that it will go forward. She is going to apply for grants. There is potential for reimbursement based revenues through the family planning counseling that was talked about in the letter. They can get reimbursement from the State if they are eligible for certain funding programs. They can try and get funding from the Oregon Health Plan. They will try and find resources to fill in where they can. Commissioner Rosholt stated that the concern that he has is that halfway through the school term it will have to be closed down because there is no more funding. Carrie stated that there is always a risk with any program that it can get to a point that there are no more resources that can be put towards the program. She has a pretty significant commitment in this program. They are committed to providing services outside of La Grande and it is a great opportunity for them to do that.

Commissioner McClure stated that he is willing to say that it will be a one year commitment.

Commissioner Davidson stated that he would have liked to have more conversation at the budget hearing with the full committee on this.

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that the budget that was approved by the budget committee was published in accordance with the local budget law. After that publication the County is allowed to make adjustments

within any fund as long as they are less than 10%. Since the budget committee met and the publication there are three items that have come to her attention that she is requesting the Commissioners change. She drafted a resolution for the Commissioners to pass that does include the changes. The first one is in the general fund in the Juvenile department. There was a letter from the Oregon Youth Authority received that stated that the basic services support money had been increased. They had been notified early on that it would be cut severely. There is an increase in the general fund, Juvenile Department, basic services line item of \$23,477 which would be put into detention basic services expenditure line item of the same amount. It leaves a total of \$28,901 in that line item. It is important to add it in because it allows the appropriation to expend it if there are detention expenses. The other item in the general fund is in special accounts. It would be adding a new line item for both revenue and expenditure of \$100,000. This is for a grant from the State of Oregon Health Authority. It is for a CAWEM program. This program is run through public health and it is to improve the availability of prenatal care of unborn children whose mothers are citizen alien waved emergency medical eligible residing in Union County. This grant was discussed with the Commissioners previously. The grant has been awarded and will be available so it needs to be included in the budget so that anyone eligible can use the funds. The last change she is requesting is in the project fund which is fund 205. She is requesting to add a new department in that fund which would be department 230 which would be EOCRO with revenue and expenditure items of \$100,000. This would provide a mechanism within the budget to enable Union County to serve as the fiscal agent for the Eastern Oregon County Regional Organization.

Commissioner McClure asked how much will be in the EOCRO fund. Shelley stated that it would be \$100,000. Commissioner McClure stated that he does not feel that is sufficient. He explained that they will probably take over the Harney County project that they are doing on the Forest Plan. He thinks it would be better to put \$150,000 in that fund.

Commissioner Davidson asked if it can be increased to \$200,000 and still be within the 10% limit. Shelley stated that would still be under the limit.

Shelley explained that those are her proposed changes for the budget since it has been published. She stated that she needs to know if the Commissioners would be interested in making an adjustment for the Union school based health center.

Commissioner Rosholt asked which fund the school based health centers are funded in. Shelley explained that they are in Special Accounts under materials and services. Currently in the budget for CHD \$20,000 is budgeted for the school based health center in La Grande and there is also \$20,000 for the rural schools program which is the one that services the outlying schools.

Commissioner McClure stated that part of the arrangement that was made with CHD when they moved out of the Joseph building is that when the building was rented the County might give them some kind of proration back on the rent that is received. However the building is rented for such a low rate there is no proration going back to CHD for that. He thinks that needs to be told to CHD. He would be comfortable making this a one year contribution to support the start up for the clinic.

Commissioner Davidson stated that he doesn't feel the County was sufficiently engaged in the process. Commissioner McClure explained that the way he handled it was that he put it through the budget process. They made a presentation at the budget process and the consideration was not there.

Commissioner Davidson stated that it puts more pressure on the County to fund a project when they have gotten that far into a project and that level of expenditures and they tell the County they can't operate unless the County funds them.

Commissioner Rosholt is fine with giving them the \$12,500 with the understanding that it is a one time funding. Shelley will add the amount and take it out of the contingency balance.

**Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Resolution 2011-11 with the changes as discussed. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

FY 2011-12 Union County Solid Waste District Budget Hearing

Resolution 2011-10, In the Matter of Adopting the Union County Solid Waste District Budget 2011-12, was presented for consideration. Shelley stated that the Solid Waste District budget was approved by the budget committee and published in accordance with local budget law. There are no proposed changes at this time.

Commissioner McClure opened the hearing for public testimony. There was no testimony given. The hearing was then closed.

**Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Resolution 2011-10 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Major Partition

Rick Robinson, Baggett, Griffith & Blackman, brought a major partition plat with a dedication to the Commissioners for approval. He explained that this is monumented and it has gone through the process of getting the other signatures needed. This adds an additional 10 feet to the road. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the major partition plat as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

Lisa Dawson, 115 Barton Heights, Joseph, and Frank Thomas 2204 E. Penn Ave. La Grande, came to the Commissioners to presented the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan for Baker Union and Wallowa counties with Union County being the agent on behalf of the three counties for consideration. Lisa explained that Community Connection and Northeast Oregon Economic Development District prepared the plan. Community Connections did the public input sessions and coordination early on. The Northeast Oregon Economic Development District talked to providers and conducted sessions with the county levels Special Transportation Fund committees that develop the priorities for the plan. She stated that they are before the Commissioners to see if they have any questions and what they want to know about the process.

Commissioner Davidson asked how the ride connection coordination entity is envisioned to be implemented. Frank explained that eligibility requirement changes has made it necessary to update the coordination efforts. The way his agency will be moving forward is they are very well capitalized and when they looked at some of the other agencies that are no longer eligible for funding they do not have as much capital property. The best thing for them to do is to take the old vehicles, refurbish them and make them available to their transportation partners to pick up for less then the annual cost of ownership of the vehicles. Adding someone as an additional insured on their policy is inexpensive. They intend to put their old vehicles in a pool and start putting it to work to backfill the needs the other partners cannot meet. Community Connections still has access to preventative maintenance funds through the State grants as well as replacement capital. They can keep the fleet updated and in relatively good condition and within good useful life standards. Lisa stated that in interviewing the other providers a fair number of them were interested in this new model.

Commissioner McClure stated that he is encouraged to see that kind of coordination foster in this community.

**Commissioner Davidson moved to adopt the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Transferring of Appropriated Funds

Court Order 2011-37, In the Matter of Transferring Appropriated Funds, was presented for consideration. Shelley explained that this is the transfers necessary as they close out the FY 2010-11 to keep the County within appropriations.

**Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2011-37 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

ODOT Public Transit Agreements

Shelley brought ODOT Public Transit agreement #27729 and #27614 to the Commissioners for consideration. Shelley explained that if the Commissioners approve the agreement then services can begin July 1<sup>st</sup>. Agreement 27729 is the 5310 funds. It is the purchase service contract that the County purchases services from Community Connections. It is a biennial agreement in the amount of \$367,524. The Commissioners have already approved the application. This is the actual agreement from the State. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of agreement 27729 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Agreement 27614 is between Union County and Public Transit. Shelley explained that this agreement is the STF formula funds. This is a biennial agreement in the amount of \$82,850. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of agreement 27614 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

FAA Airport Grant

Shelley explained that she has been working with the County liason at the FAA to secure a grant offer prior to June 30<sup>th</sup> so that the County can have access to the match that is provided by Connect Oregon III rural program. This is a fiscal year end item but it has to be approved and signed by the 30<sup>th</sup> or the match funding is lost. She explained that she anticipates that grant offer will come before the end of the day tomorrow so that the County can accept it. She is asking the Commissioners to authorize the chairman to accept and sign the grant. The grant offer will be for \$2,327,500. It will be for the Airport Improvement Project #3-410031-018. It is the final phase of the 12-30 safety improvement program. She spoke with legal counsel and he indicated that if the Commissioners would authorize approval subject to review it would be a legal authorization. He is standing by to review the grant agreement when it comes in. **Commissioner Davidson moved to accept the anticipated grant as presented and authorize the chairman to sign the grant subject to legal review. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm  
Sr. Dept. Specialist