

Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 4, 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.

Predator Control Update

Curt Mattson, USDA Wildlife Services, came to the Commissioners to tell them about how his program is doing in Union County. He explained that Union County began cooperating with Wildlife Services in 2009 and since then he has done work on complaints with technical assistance or direct control. Last year he responded to some complaints and removed a bear and a coyote from different areas. He has also worked heavily on hazing birds that were damaging crops. He explained that the program is going well but he cannot answer all the calls that he receives with the current quarter time program.

Renewable Energy Grant Proposal

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that a grant application to the renewable energy grant program fund was brought to the Commissioners for consideration. It is for the second annual Eastern Oregon Solar Fair. They are requesting approval for a budget of \$3690. They will utilize funds that are generated from the project to assist with the expenses of the project.

Peter Farnum, Oregon Rural Action Energy Committee, stated that last year there was an energy solar fair and the purpose of the event was to educate the public on solar and renewable energy for home and business use. The mission of the solar fair is to advance renewable energy education and economic development.

Commissioner McClure explained that this grant application is different this year in that they are requesting the full amount with the idea of reserving funds for next year. Peter Farnum explained that their hope is that they will be able to start a fund and become independent and self sustaining. **Commissioner Rosholt moved approval of grant funds of \$3690 as requested. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Veterans Services Update

Byron Whipple, Veterans Service Officer, came to the Commissioners to explain the services that he is providing to the veterans and the number of veterans in the community that are being served.

Surveyor Fees

Greg Blackman, Surveyor, explained that there are two items that he has brought to the Commissioners for consideration. One item is the land corner preservation fund. The downturn in the economy has depleted that fund. It is supposed to be a self sustaining fund with the Clerk's filing fees that are generated with housing sales. The fund has gone down to where he cant adequately do what he used to do with the funds. This effects the GPS coordinates that are sent into the tax commission for the tax maps to more accurately create the tax maps. It preserves the corners that every survey begins at. What that does is decrease the cost of a survey. The original law allowed a \$10 fee and the County is at \$8. He is suggesting that the fee be brought up to \$10. The other item is the amount that is charged for a plat check. This is also a self sustaining fund. It was originally established in the 1950s. The cost was \$100 with \$5 a lot for subdivisions. The partitions are brought into the County Surveyor and he does a plat check to make sure it is correct. He doesn't foresee a change in most of the local surveys. The ones that he is having the most trouble with are coming from out of the area. The fee will usually cover what he does with the partitions but he has had to send them back as many as five times in order to get it right and he couldn't recoup his time on that. He is asking for the actual cost of what it costs him to check them. They have not gone out in the field and done field checks to see if the monument is there but they would like to start doing a quality control check on the monuments. What he is recommending will allow the fund to at least stay even with what it costs to do the work.

Commissioner McClure asked when he goes out and does the corner preservations if that gets into the GPS base map that the County has. Greg stated that it does.

Commissioner McClure suggested that Greg work with Shelley to draft a proposal to change the fees.

Grazing Lease

Sean Chambers, MERA Coordinator, brought a grazing lease to the Commissioners for consideration. He explained that the current grazing lease is expired. He put out an RFP for a new grazing lease. He received three proposals. Of the three proposals received he is recommending that the Commissioners accept Matt and Katie Martin's proposal. There are five criteria on how to choose a proposal and the top criteria is the price per AUM which was the decision maker in this process. The Martin's are proposing \$15 per AUM at 337 AUMs for the first season. That number is subject to annual review. They propose that to evaluate how the first season would go. There is a maximum of 424 AUMs for a season as the top of the carrying capacity. Sean explained that he would like to have a five year lease. Another criteria is how the grazers will respond to cattle outside the grazing area. The Martin's are from the La Grande area and they said that they would respond in a timely manner.

Commissioner McClure stated for the record that Matt Martin is an employee of the County. He has not received any preferential treatment from anyone that he knows of in the County. His proposal was considered in the same manner as the other submitted.

Commissioner Davidson stated that he feels Sean has taken the proper steps and it is clear that they are the highest price per AUM and the greatest amount of income for the property and the County.

Commissioner McClure explained that there have been a lot of problems in that area of stray livestock. He is sensitive to the livestock control issue. He wants the livestock monitored very closely.

Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the grazing lease for MERA with Matt and Katie Martin as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

The April 14 and 21 claims journals; and the April 13 and 21 Public Works claims journals were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

STF Recommendations

Shelley explained that the Commissioners have a memo from Ashley Wilhelm who has staffed the STF advisory committee through the last few processes. This is a biennial recommendation. The advisory committee met and reviewed two applications. Their recommendations are for FY2011-12 \$9,300 to Center for Human Development and \$32,126 to Community Connections. For FY 2012-13 they recommend \$7,327 to Center for Human Development and \$34,098 to Community Connections. The amount is given to the County by Public Transit and the Commissioners make the decision on the allocation and it is then submitted to Public Transit for their final approval. These two entities have received STF funding in the past. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the STF funding recommendation as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appointment to Vector Control Budget Committee

Court Order 2011-28, In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Vector Control District Budget Committee, was presented for consideration. This Court Order would appoint Carrie Lane and Russell Scott to serve on the Union County Vector Control Budget Committee. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2011-28 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

OYA Lease Agreement

Shelley brought a lease amendment between the State of Oregon and Union County to the Commissioners for consideration. This is for a small office space located in the Juvenile Department for the OYA employee. This is a two year renewal starting July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013. The monthly rent is \$186.54 and this just amends the master lease agreement. The rental amount is a 2% increase from the previous amount that the County has been receiving.

Commissioner Davidson moved approval of OYA lease agreement as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Refund of Personal Property Taxes

Court Order 2011-27, In the Matter of Refunding Real or Personal Property Tax, was presented for consideration. This Court Order would refund personal property taxes to Gilmore Logging, Inc. in the amount of \$1,946.11.

Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2011-27 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FY 2011-12 Transient Tax Allocation Presentations

Commissioner Davidson explained that every year the County has to go through the Transient Room Tax allocation. There are presentations scheduled from the organizations that are usually funded through the Transient Room Tax. Those organizations are the Blue Mountain Conference Center, the Chamber of Commerce, Joint Tourism Promotion Committee and the Union County Economic Development Corporation.

Judy Hector explained that in the last fiscal year the conference center received no funding from either the County or the City. There were no transient tax dollars allocated. In order to maintain operations the conference center depleted its reserve funds. In order to meet the needed funds the Oregon Military Department has agreed to buy down their contract by \$4500. The Chamber has agreed to a lower management fee of \$16,000. She stated that she is hoping to achieve the remaining funding that is necessary from both the County and the City Transient Tax funds. From the \$16,000 the Chamber pays the staff and are responsible for the operation expenses and some of the maintenance. Commissioner Davidson stated that the amount that is projected in the allocations for the conference center is \$8,000.

Judy explained that in this past year the Chamber of Commerce has put a strong focus on economic development. The economy is first and foremost in everyone's mind. They are working closely with UCEDC, La Grande Mainstreet, NEOEDD, and chambers around the area. The Chamber has started a sports committee and the goal of that committee is to get sporting events to come to town. The amount that the Chamber is requesting is the same that they received last year which is \$14,070.

Judy explained that the Tourism Promotion is in the beginning of the second year. In the past 6 or 7 months she has noted that the Tourism Promotion needs to interface with people to show them the great things that La Grande and Union County have. In order to do that she has included a few trade shows. She would like to go to the State Fair and get some information out as well as to a few sportsman shows or outdoor shows. She feels that the biggest asset is the open space in this area. She is shifting some of the funds away from print advertising and putting those funds into some internet advertising.

Dan Stark, Executive Director of UCEDC, explained that the funding request is broken out into two parts. They are requesting a basic membership participation amount that is the same as this fiscal year which is \$31,200. That combined with the City's \$30,000 and UCEDC's operating revenue provides a base budget for UCEDC. It pays the rent, utilities, insurance, supplies and also funds staffing at half time. The second part of the funding request is a supplemental funding request. That request would provide an additional 10 hours of executive director and an additional 8 hours of the administrative assistant to bring them up to 35 hours a week each. It would allow the office to be open every day all day. He identified the goals and work items that the Board of Directors developed and approved.

Commissioner Davidson moved to allocate the Transient Room Tax as follows: UCEDC \$31,200, the Chamber of Commerce \$14,070, Small Cities Fund \$6000, Discretionary Fund \$18,000, Blue Mountain Conference Center Foundation \$8000, and Joint Tourism Promotion \$40,000 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Davidson moved to direct the Administrative Officer to budget the necessary amount for the supplemental funding proposal amount of \$23,719 out of Economic Development Fund. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Aggregate Site Plan Amendments – Hindman – Second reading

Ordinance 2011-01, In the Matter of Amending the Union County Land Use Plan Aggregate Inventory (Hindman), and Ordinance 2011-02, In the Matter of Amending the Union County Land Use Plan Aggregate Inventory (Hindman), were presented for consideration. Hanley explained that the Commissioners made a motion that passed to tentatively approve the Ordinance amendments at the April 20, 2011 meeting. This meeting is the final reading of Ordinance 2011-01 and Ordinance 2011-02. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Ordinance 2011-01 and Ordinance 2011-02 as presented. Commissioner Rosholt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Executive Session

The meeting then entered into an executive session under ORS 192.660(1)(d) discussing labor negotiations followed by another executive session under ORS 192.660(1)(b)and(f).

The meeting was brought back into open session.

Commissioner Rosholt moved to take Legal Counsel's recommendation and submit a letter of reprimand as written to Mr. Jenkins. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Sr. Dept. Specialist