

Board of Commissioners Meeting
February 23, 2009

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

Call To Order

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

Stitzel Partition Platt

Greg Blackman, County Surveyor, came to the Commissioners with a three parcel partition in which one of the conditions of the planning is a road. They dedicated an additional 30 feet to the Stitzel side of a 40 foot road. In doing this the County Commissioners must sign off on the road before it can be completed. This has gone through the planning process and this is the final step.

Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of the Stitzel Platt as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications

J.B. Brock, Emergency Services Officer, gave the Commissioners a proposal to create a sinking fund to support the Union County communications system. The system has been built up in the last few years. In the last year the primary Mt. Emily site has been brought online which was a major investment in funds. He explained that he is trying to make sure there is a funding stream to support the system and the ongoing maintenance. The County does own two different sites the Mt. Emily site and the Worth Hill site. This has been discussed with all of the effected agencies that will be billed and they have been supportive of this fund. Commissioner Hibbert suggested not implementing this until the beginning of the fiscal year because it will cost the Sheriff's office some additional funds. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that this creates another fund for the budget. She thinks that this fund will work well and there is a history with maintenance type funds that builds up so when there are replacement needs there is funding available. She stated that this is a new cost so the details on what it would cost to replace or repair it are hard to determine but feels that it is being approached well. Commissioner Hibbert stated that it is a good concept but the details need to be worked out mutually among the users. J.B. stated that the billing does need to be discussed more but the fund has to be established first and the infrastructure in place so that the money can be collected.

Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of the Union County Communication System Maintenance and Operation Fund as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Waterline Easement

Hanley Jenkins, Planning Director, explained that Union County acquired the Mt. Emily property in which Dale and Margaret Young have a waterline that crosses that property. It collects water on land that is above Union County's property on the Forest Service property. Dale Young came to the county and stated that there is no waterline easement in writing. Hanley stated that the waterline easement that was submitted to the Commissioners has a map attached. The Youngs have reviewed the easement language and believe that it satisfies their needs for a 30 foot wide easement to maintain a buried waterline that would provide water to their property.

Dale Young, 64613 Mt. Glenn Rd. La Grande, OR 97850, stated there was a new spring that came down Mt. Emily and they built a pipeline that goes down to their house from the spring. The entire pipeline is buried under ground. Dale explained that once he owned the property he started filing a permit with the Forest Service for the portion that was on Forest Service property. The Forest Service traded 40 acres to Boise Cascade and now Union County has purchased the property. When Boise acquired the land there were no easements with them to the waterline. He would like to have an easement for the waterline now that the property is owned by Union County.

Commissioner Davidson moved approval of waterline easement from Union County to Dale and Margaret Young. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BLM Memorandum of Understanding

Hanley Jenkins, Planning Director, explained the Memorandum of Understanding and what it is concerning. Hanley stated that the Union County Commissioners have already signed an MOU with the Oregon Department of Energy for their role in citing the Idaho Power high voltage power line. Their role follows after the federal process which is going to deal with the federal lands associated with the route. Union County has been in that process and there was a meeting scheduled in February that was postponed until March where the alternative routes would be discussed. The MOU for the federal process is pending and is supposed to be signed before the March meetings with BLM and now that meeting has been postponed so there is no urgency in signing the MOU.

Consent Agenda

The January 26 and 29 and February 4 claims journal, the January 28 and February 5 public works claims journal, and the December 17 Board of Commissioners Minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Renewable Energy Committee Appointments

The Renewable Energy Committee wanted to interview some of the applicants so this was postponed until a later meeting.

Appointment to Forestland Classification Committee

Court Order 2009-14, In the Matter of Appointment of a Union County Forestland Classification Committee, was presented for consideration. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Court Order 2009-14. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appointment to UCEDC Board of Directors

Court Order 2009-16, In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained there are two vacancies on the Economic Development Board. One was filled earlier by Commissioner Davidson. The recommendation is for Bill Rosholt to fill the vacant position. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2009-16. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Executive Session

An executive session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660 2(e). Those present included all three commissioners, Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, Will Werner, and attorney Brandon Eyre.

South County Health District Public Hearing

Court Order 2009-15, In the Matter of an Order Approving the Petition for Formation of a South County Health District, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, gave the Commissioners a staff report concerning the prior discussion of the South County Health District Public Hearing. This is the first hearing and it is to accept comments from the public on this proposal. Shelley prepared an order that would schedule a final public meeting on March 18, 2009 where additional testimony can be taken and if the Commissioners feel it is in the best interest to move forward the question of district formation can then be referred to the voters.

Terry Edvalson, 700 H Ave. La Grande, OR, volunteer staff for the Cove, Union, North Powder Medical Association (C.U.P.), came to the Commissioners to express support for the formation of the South County Health District. He stated that on the 19th of February the C.U.P foundation toured the community school building and the facility that was originally designed for a clinic at the community school.

Terry explained that he submitted a pre-application to the Meyer Memorial Trust for operating funds for the period of July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 which would allow for operation until tax revenues would come in. Meyer Memorial Trust sent out an email that stated their priority is going to be health care for low income and rural areas. Terry will be submitting an application to the Ford Family Foundation for operation funding as well.

Terry stated that there is a dentist who lives in North Powder who has expressed interest in opening a clinic in the South County Health Clinic. The original design of the building was put in place with a dental office operation in place. If the district were to accept the dentist's proposal it would be a shared cost. There is a physician that is interested in moving their practice to the clinic as well. He said that every one seems to be positive about the health clinic.

Commissioner Davidson asked if there would be an additional charge to out of area residents that use the clinic. There are a large number of people that come from La Grande that go to the clinic. Terry explained that they can only charge what the federal regulation will allow them to. So, at this time he has no answer for this.

Commissioner Hibbert asked if the clinic will remain Medicaid certified. Terry stated that they will still be Medicaid certified.

Gary Tate, North Powder, OR, stated that he feels that the users should pay for the clinic and not a tax base because there are quite a lot of people that use the clinic who live outside of the district.

**Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Court Order 2009-15.
Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Building Department Fee Schedule Change – International Building Codes –
Building Code Fees

Loren Preston, City of La Grande Building Inspector, and Charlie Mitchell, City of La Grande, explained that they are trying to set a fee schedule that is consistent with the State fee schedule. The State is requiring the building department to set a minimum fee and have that fee more consistent throughout the State. Loren combined some of the charges to make it easier for the public and the contractors to get their permits. Loren gave the Commissioners a building fee table that showed the new fee schedule that would be put into affect. All of the neighboring counties are doing the same with their building fee schedules. This was supposed to take affect January 1, 2009 but was not brought to Loren's attention until recently. He explained that the minimum fee would be set at \$55.00

Commissioner McClure asked what Baker County's rates are set at. Loren stated that they have the same rates as Malheur County which is in the same range as the proposed fee schedule. Wallowa County will also be adopting this same fee schedule as proposed.

Loren explained that he consolidated the plumbing fees as well which caused a slight increase in those fees.

Commissioner McClure asked Loren if he has had any discussions with the contracting community about these fee changes. Loren stated that he had discussed the fee changes with the contracting community and they don't seem to have any issue with the raise in prices for the permits.

Commissioner McClure wanted to wait until the City of La Grande adopts the fee schedule to see if there are any changes made. He suggested the County adopt fees after that.

Commissioner Hibbert stated that she would like to know what the neighboring counties are doing as far as fees.

Commissioner Davidson asked if the Commissioners could get a copy of the current fee schedule so they can see the changes that are being made to all of the fees.

Loren stated that he will get the Commissioners the current fee schedule and the minimum fees for the neighboring counties for the next meeting on March 18, 2009.

Forest Service update

Steve Ellis, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor, Judy Wing, Public affairs officer, and Arlene Blumtin, representing Kurt Weidenmann, shared information with the Commissioners on projects that they are hoping to be funded soon by the government and explained the rough draft of the Travel Management Plan for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Steve explained the process of the release of the Travel Management Plan to the public. He stated that he would give the Commissioners a copy of the plan when it is released to the public for comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Department Specialist