

Board of Commissioners Meeting
March 4, 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.

Executive Session

Commissioner McClure called an executive session under ORS 192.660(e) for the purpose of discussing real estate transactions. Following executive session the meeting was called back to regular session.

Court Facility Task Force Update

Warner Wasley, 63013 Buchanan Lane, La Grande, OR 97850 and Russ West, Circuit Court Judge, 1008 K Ave. La Grande, OR 97850, came to the Commissioners to give them an update on the Court Facility Task Force. Warner explained that in September 2008 the Commissioners passed the resolution establishing a Court Facilities Task Force which is in place to define the needs of the State Courts, to look at potential site locations, to review financial opportunities, and provide periodic updates to the Commissioners. There was a needs assessment prepared by Tim Thompson, District Attorney, who talked to the various people that would be involved in the facility to see what their needs were in terms of space. The total needs of the courthouse is almost 48,000 sq. ft.

Warner explained that there were potential site locations on the Island City Strip, in Downtown La Grande, and also the Union County Campus. At this time the Union County Campus is the number one site which includes the Joseph Annex building as well as the current jail building. The industrial park on Gekeler is the number two choice at this time with the Hand Ford Building in Downtown La Grande being the third choice. Warner stated that the task force has applied for a grant that would pay for site evaluations of these three sites. They should know whether they received the grant on April 24th. The purpose of the grant application is to get an expert that can do site evaluations.

Russ West believes it will be a good resource to use an architect from the State to evaluate the three prospective locations. The committee will be making a recommendation back to the Commissioners once a location is chosen.

Warner explained that he took the square footage needs to W.C. Construction and received a quote per square foot from them. He stated that they submitted an appropriation request to Senator Wyden's office for the price of constructing

the building. They used the prices that were given to them by W.C. Construction for the appropriation request. They are looking at other grant opportunities as well.

Commissioner Davidson asked what the current footprint is of the Jail building. Nellie stated that she believes it is 13,000 sq. ft. per level.

Extension Service Report

Carole Smith, 4-H staff Chair and 4-H agent for extension services, came to the Commissioners to share the programs and services that will be offered or implemented this year. Carole explained that all of the statewide program offices do research and education but the extension office is the department of Oregon State University (OSU) that takes the research to the communities and the education piece is focused on. There are a large number of resources available to the Extension office. Locally there are three faculty on staff. There is a vacant position but it will not be filled at this time. There is representation in forestry, crop and soil science agent, 4-H, family and community development position which is open, and a livestock agent who is in Baker County. The positions are multi-county positions so they are housed in Union County but they serve Wallowa, Baker, Umatilla, and Union Counties.

Carole stated that there is a webpage that was developed by the Family and Community Development Department at OSU to help people in tough times. This information is not just geared toward people who are used to being short of funds because the research shows that people that are short of funds now are people who haven't been there before. It is more middle income people who are out of work and out of money. There are items such as, how to do a resume, how to get a job, housing, how to shop wisely and make the dollar stretch, college funding, etc. The webpage is continually being updated.

Carole stated that OSU and extension will take a 5% cut and have been taking that since November 2008. She explained that they will get by to June 30, 2009 by doing reductions in supply and services and holding empty positions open. They are looking at a 10-30% cut for Fiscal Year 2009-10. Carole gave an example at a 20% cut it would be \$9.4 million for extension which would be about 31 FTE. There is a little over 200 FTE throughout the agency statewide.

Imbler Rural Fire Annexation

Court Order 2009-18, In the Matter of Adopting an Amendment to the Imbler Rural Fire Protection District Boundary, was presented for consideration. Hanley Jenkins II, Planning Director, explained to the Commissioners that the Planning Department received an application for annexation into the Imbler Rural Fire Protection District. The application was received on February 10, 2009. It was submitted by Roy S. Hill for approximately 139 acres on Ruckell Road. Notice was given to the Imbler Rural Fire Protection District and received a letter back

authorizing their approval to annex the property into the District. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Court Order 2009-18. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Stimulus Projects for Union County

Richard Comstock, Public Works Director, came to the Commissioners to discuss the stimulus projects that he has lined up in Union County. There is a Taxiway Extension at the Airport. Part of the extension was done last year through a federal grant but the grant ran out. There was another \$750,000 received through the stimulus money to finish the project. The project has to be out to bid by May 15th. The project will commence building this summer.

The second part of the stimulus package is complex and has to go to a specific project within the county. Richard decided that there would be a two inch overlay on Hunter Lane. The project had to fit into certain criteria. The project chosen had to be a road that is on the Federal Aid system, the pavement must be in fair or better condition, there can be no sub-standard bridges on the route, there can be no right of way issues, and the work has to be completed by September 15, 2009. Hunter Lane fits these criteria.

Consent Agenda

The January 15 and 22 claims journal, the January 14 public works claims journal were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Appointment of Budget Officer

Court Order 2009-17, In the Matter of Appointment of a Budget Officer for Union County for Fiscal Year 2009-10, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that this is a formal appointment that needs to be made each year for the budget process. The Court Order would appoint Shelley Burgess as the Budget Officer for Fiscal Year 2009-10.

Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Court Order 2009-17. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Perry Swimming Hole Resolution

Resolution 2009-02, In the Matter of a Resolution Designating the Perry Swimming Hole a Public Use Area, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that this land is owned by Union County which was up for sale at one time. There were a number of residents that asked the Commissioners to reconsider the sale of the property and designate it for public use. Union County's attorney reviewed the request to make the land public use. The attorney stated that Union County can use the land for whatever purpose they want. He also stated that as long as it is open to the public and no fee is charged there is a statute ORS 105.682 which offers immunity for the land owner for public recreational purposes. The attorney's recommendation was to clearly sign the property to make it clear to the public as well as declare it in a

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resolution that it is use at your own risk. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Resolution 2009-02. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Department Specialist