

Board of Commissioners Meeting
March 18, 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.

Public Comments and Concerns

John Williams, P.O. Box 1384, La Grande, OR 97850, came to the Commissioners to voice his concerns of the proposal to extend the power line that Idaho Power is proposing. John explained that Idaho Power is proposing to put towers in prime winter Elk habitat. He believes it will be a lot more extensive than what Idaho Power is proposing.

Commissioner McClure stated that they appreciate his comments and explained that the application for the power line goes through FSAC which is a State agency. Union County's participation is as a cooperating agency to express the county's point of view but there will be no decision made about the power line by Union County.

NEOEDD

Resolution 2009-05, In the Matter of a Resolution Supporting Participation in a Regional Microenterprise Assistance Program with Junction City as Lead Applicant, was presented for consideration. Lisa Dawson, Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NEOEDD), came to ask the Commissioners to approve NEOEDD's part in a community development block grant microenterprise development program. Junction City is the lead applicant this year for this program. They will contract with EDEV to provide services in Western Oregon and NEOEDD to provide services in Baker, Union, and Wallowa counties. NEOEDD will be able to provide classes for businesses or people thinking about going into business. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Resolution 2009-05. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Idaho Power Memorandum of Understanding

Hanley Jenkins II, Planning Director, explained that the Commissioners were given a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that has been prepared and reviewed by the cooperating agencies. There are five counties involved in the review process for the Idaho Power high voltage power line that extends from Hemmingway to Boardman. Hanley explained that one of the issues that was raised in the MOU was Oregon's open public records law and how it relates to

this process. The proposed changes that are identified will be incorporated into the MOU. The MOU outlines the participants or the coordinators roles in the Federal Review process. There are some specific items that are listed for the Forest Service and the counties. It is essentially the county's responsibility to provide information and to participate in the process which Union County has been doing. Hanley stated that it is essential for Union County to sign the MOU in order to participate in the cooperator meetings that will occur in the future. The issue of the public records was raised by the Oregon Department of Energy. So, the Oregon Department of Energy has been the lead in making sure that the Oregon law is incorporated into the MOU. Idaho power will take the application to the Department of Energy. The County will participate in their process.

Commissioner Hibbert asked when the public hearings would be. Hanley explained that there have been public scoping meetings. Idaho Power will have a set of public information meetings. There will be multiple opportunities for the public to review to project. Hanley wants the Commissioners to give the Chairman authorization to sign the MOU once it is ready. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of the chairman signing the MOU once it is complete. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Computer Bid Quote Recommendation

Kathie Powell, Computer Services Manager, came to the Commissioners with the quotes for a new computer system. Quotes were sent out to computer vendors asking for a bid. Kathie stated that Mackley computers came in at \$984.14 per unit, Beaver State came in at \$701.50 per unit, All Around Geeks came in at \$1,092.77 per unit, Byte Me Computers came in at \$1,150 per unit, and Eastern Oregon Net, Inc. did not submit a quote. The quote was sent out requesting four units with additional units as necessary. Kathie explained that since the time that she sent out the quotes she has found that there are eight units that are needed. She recommended that the quote award go to Beaver State Computers which was the lowest bid for all eight computers now needed. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that these computers were budgeted within the department budgets. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Kathie's recommendation. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

The February 26 and March 5 claims journal, the February 25 and March 4 public works claims journal were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Child Abuse Awareness Proclamation

Proclamation 2009-02, In the Matter of a Proclamation Declaring April 2009, Child Abuse Prevention Month, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that the request for the proclamation

came from the Commission on Children & Families. It is one of the partnerships that they have been working through. They are trying to bring attention to child abuse and the need for prevention efforts. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Proclamation 2009-02 as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

OSPW Loan Agreement (Fire Cache Financing)

Resolution 2009-03, In the Matter of a Resolution of Board of Commissioners Authorizing a Loan From the Special Public Works Fund by Entering into a Loan Contract with the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that this Resolution will authorize the signature of the loan contract with Oregon Economic and Community Development Department. This is a Resolution that is required by the Department to complete the funding process for the Airport Fire Cache building. This funding was applied for in November 2008 and received a notice of award in December. The documents are now prepared and they do require a formal Resolution to authorize signature of the documents. Shelley explained that the lease with the Forest Service will cover the payment of the loan. The interest rate is 1.69% until December and then it is 4.99% until maturity for 10 years. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Resolution 2009-03. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

2009-2011 Community Dispute Resolution Program

Resolution 2009-06, In the Matter of Participation in Funding Activities of the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burges, Administrative Officer, stated that the funding for the biennium is \$24,500. In the other years there has only been one applicant.

Commissioner Davidson asked if there is a match that needs to be given with this. Shelley stated that the applicant is the party that needs to find the match or in kind funds. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Resolution 2009-06. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Discretionary Fund Recommendation

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that the Tansient Tax Discretionary Fund Committee reviewed five applications for funding and have recommended funding in the amount of \$3,100 to the Union County Fair for the Waterline repair upgrade, \$1,000 to the La Grande FFA chapter for the 2009 State Convention, and \$800 to Union County Tourism for the Eagle Cap Excursion Train map project. Commissioner McClure explained that the City of La Grande requested funds for the Crossing the Blues Festival and there is a scale for the funding that the Commissioners can choose to fund if they feel it is necessary. Commissioner Hibbert stated that since the Crossing the Blues Festival does not take place until August it gives the Commissioners the

opportunity of doing something in the new fiscal year. Commissioner Davidson recommended asking the City of La Grande to re-apply after the start of the fiscal year. The committee can then consider that request along with the other requests that are received. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval the discretionary fund committee recommendations with the City of La Grande to re-apply in the next fiscal Year. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

South County Health District – Final Hearing

Court Order 2009-19, In the Matter of an Order Calling for an Election on the Formation of a South County Health District and Election of Board, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, gave a staff report on the south county health district. She stated that this is the last opportunity for public input. Walt Brookshire, President of Cove, Union, and North Powder Medical Association (C.U.P.) came to testify on behalf of the south county health district. He explained there is a physician that is interested in moving their practice to the health district. This court order will refer the question of formation of the district to the voters and call for the election of the five board members. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Court Order 2009-19. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Tabled until April 1st meeting.

Solid Waste – Landfill Financial Assurance

Resolution 2009-07, In the Matter of the Dedicated Landfill Post-Closure Fund Pledge of Revenue, was presented for consideration. Hanley Jenkins, Planning Director, explained that the landfill has been closed but there is thirty years of monitoring required by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Hanley explained that the biggest cost is the lab cost and financial assurance will have to be looked at annually. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Resolution 2009-07. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Enterprise Zone Application

Resolution 2009-04, In the Matter of a Resolution Supporting the Application for Continuation of the Grande Ronde Enterprise Zone, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that the current enterprise zone designation for the Grande Ronde Enterprise Zone expires on June 30th. They have gone through the process of initiating an application for reauthorization and that process has included an initial meeting that was held on February 10th. Prior to the meeting a letter was sent out to all of the cities inviting their attendance and inquiring about their participation in the Enterprise Zone. The existing Enterprise Zone includes area out in the county. It is in the City of La Grande, the City of Island City, the City of Elgin, and the City of Union.

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In order to renew the application it is necessary for all of those governing bodies to indicate whether or not they want to continue to participate. It was also an opportunity to invite any additional land that wanted to be included in the Enterprise zone. There is a maximum amount of land that can be included of 12 square miles. A notice had to then go out to all of the taxing districts within any of the areas giving them an opportunity to discuss any potential impacts to the district. The City of La Grande has adopted a resolution to continue their participation. The City of Island City adopted a resolution to continue as well. The cities of Elgin, Union and North Powder are in the process and should have the resolutions within the next week or so. The deadline for the submission of the application which is a separate document but requires the resolutions from each sponsoring agency is April 3rd. This resolution presented to the Commissioners is for the County to endorse the application as a sponsor. The Enterprise Zone application is for the tax exemption which is a State exemption. There is an opportunity to include local incentives and those can be done by those jurisdictions within the Enterprise Zone. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Resolution 2009-04. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Department Specialist