

Board of Commissioners Meeting
April 1, 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

There was an executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(1)(e) Real Estate Transaction Discussion.

Airport Property Acquisition

Commissioner McClure stated that the Board of Commissioners meeting was now in open session. **Commissioner Hibbert moved to remove acceptance contingency in the amended agreement to purchase and authorize and designate Commissioner McClure to execute any agreements to purchase the property on behalf of the County in regards to the Sholund property. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Hibbert moved to remove the acceptance contingency in the agreement to purchase and authorize and designate Commissioner McClure to execute the agreement to purchase on behalf of the County in regards to the Addleman property. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mt. Emily Update

Cody Vavra, Assistant Planner, came to the Commissioners to update them on the progress of the Mt. Emily project. He stated that the County has approximately \$80,000 in grants for operations and maintenance and development. He explained that the development is to include the Fox Hill staging area, campground and related infrastructure. They are Oregon Parks and Recreation grants. Two of the grants are ATV grants and one is a recreational trails program grant. There is a local government grant that is due this week. Cody requested that the Chairman sign the application for submission. The grant is a request for one million dollars to purchase timber that could not be purchased with the land acquisition.

Commissioner McClure asked if the local match was going to be done with volunteer labor. Cody stated that the match will be met with volunteer labor. The ATV grant that he will be applying for requires a 50% match and there is approval on the recreational trails program grant to be used for the 50% match.

Commissioner Davidson stated that he would like the county to have a policy or a discussion about a policy for harvesting of the timber on Mt. Emily. He would like to have a plan in place to harvest the timber that would benefit the local economy.

Commissioner Hibbert stated that there is a harvest plan in place to follow if the timber is purchased.

Commissioner Davidson asked how much of the 2/3 that Forest Capital owns would be purchased if the grant was obtained.

Hanley Jenkins, Planning Director, explained that the grant request that is being submitted proposes to purchase four of the eight units of timber. Those four units are proposed for harvest this year. Those units also have the greatest volume of timber on the property. There will be two units harvested next year and two units harvested in 2011 of the remaining four units. The proposal is to only purchase the first four units. The grant request can only be made for one million dollars. The grant would allow the county to buy timber value that could be harvested on a more sustained yield basis. Forest Capital is proposing to harvest their 2/3 of the timbered value in three years. The county would harvest 1/3 over a period of time which is more reflective of a stewardship harvest. That is the difference between what the county and Forest Capital would do.

Hanley explained that he received a letter from State Forestry that states they are willing to work with the County on a stewardship harvest of the property but are not willing to work with the County on an industrial harvest which is the only way it would have been financed if it would have been financed at the time of the purchase of Mt. Emily.

Commissioner Hibbert moved to have Commissioner McClure be designated to sign the agreement for the \$1 million grant through the local government grant opportunities. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Hanley explained that the grants do not start until July 1, 2009. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has advisory committees that make recommendations to the full commission. Part of the problem is that there is a lot of work that is being proposed to be done this year, but it can't start until July 1st.

MERA Advisory Committees

Cody Vavra, Assistant Planner, explained that there are two advisory committees, the motorized and non-motorized. The committees meet separately, and have been going over the rules and regulations that should be set for the recreation area. The committees have identified the needs for each user group which is geared more toward a master plan that the committees were originally

formed to create. Cody explained that he does have some drafts of master plans from other counties who have similar properties.

Commissioner McClure asked if there would be something in place when the operations start to inform people of the rules. Cody stated that he will have something ready for the Commissioners to pass before the property is opened to the public.

Cody stated that the ATV club donated money for initial signs on the site since funds are not available until July 1st. There will be some regulatory signs in place when the Mt. Emily Recreation Area opens. The trails will be designated and marked and the intention is to have use restricted to the designated marked open trails only. Cody explained that the park will not be opened for motorized use until things thaw out. Cultural surveys need to be done where the parking lots will be placed.

Forest Capital has been attending some of the advisory committee meetings and they have made their equipment and operators available to the County while they are on Mt. Emily conducting harvest operation.

Communications System Fund Billing Agreement

Resolution 2009-08, In the Matter of a Resolution Adopting Communication System User Fees, was presented for consideration. J.B. Brock, Emergency Services Officer, explained that this resolution covers the communication system user fees. He went to the 911 user board and proposed a billing formula which received unanimous support. J.B. stated there was a lot of support for the general concept of being prepared for the future.

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, stated that back in February there was an approval by the Board of Commissioners to create the fund. This Resolution would implement the fees that will be collected.

J.B. stated that the user board agreed to raise the user fees by 3% each year to keep up on the increase in costs. J.B. explained that there is some interest from private entities as well as other cooperators such as Grande Ronde Hospital in sharing the site.

Shelley will amend the Resolution to show a 3% increase per year and bring it back to the Commissioners at a later meeting for approval.

Household Hazardous Waste Franchise Agreement

This was tabled to a future meeting.

Bid Award for Bridge Materials

Joe Valek, Public Works Department Roads Supervisor, came to the Commissioners to inform them that the Forest Service would like to have a

bridge installed over Mill Creek. They feel that it will make the creek more fish friendly. The public works department believes it will be a good thing as well because it will realign the road. The new bridge will be a few hundred feet below the existing culvert. Union County Public Works requested quotes for metal to be used in constructing the bridge over Mill Creek. Quotes were requested from Roscoe Bridge, Eagle Cap Steel and Supply, and Big R Bridge. Legal counsel approved the process and the bid documents. All three quotes were returned. The results were: Roscoe Bridge came in at \$81,475, Eagle Cap Steel and Supply came in at \$64,188.41, and Big R Bridge came in at \$56,895. Joe's recommendation is that the quote be awarded to the lowest bid, Big R Bridge.

Commissioner McClure explained that this is being paid for by the Federal Government through the Federal Highway Administration. The total funding is \$360,000.

Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Big R Bridge to be awarded the bid for steel for the Mill Creek bridge construction. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Amendment to Oregon Commission on Children and Families Intergovernmental Agreement

Tressa Seydel, Commission on Children and Families, explained that the intergovernmental agreement is a realignment of their funding stream between the County and the State Commission. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the Amendment to the Oregon Commission on Children and Families Intergovernmental Agreement and the OCCF signature authorization form. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

The March 12, 18 and 19 claims journal, the March 11 and 18 public works claims journal, and the January 7 Board of Commissioners Minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Title II Projects

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that the recommendations for funding is coming from the Community Forestry Advisory Board. Each county through their advisory committee recommends a list of projects for funding. Commissioner Davidson has been serving as the county representative on the committee.

Commissioner Davidson explained the recommendations for funding. The first item is thinning for release which is commercial thinning to reduce fire load and increase the spacing so the remaining trees grow at a greater rate. The next item is noxious weed management. These two items would be pooled with other money that the Forest Service has to work on a larger scale. The next item is a

recreation youth crew that brings in at risk teenagers and puts them with a supervisor where they work on projects in the forest. The last two items are native plants and seed banks where local species seeds are collected and harvested. There is not as much funding available as once thought.

Commissioner Hibbert asked if the Title II dollars can be carried over to the next year. Shelley stated that the funds can be carried over to the end of the authorization period. Once the authorization period expires the funds have to be utilized or returned.

Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Title II projects that were recommended for 2009 and 2010 funding. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment to Northeast Oregon Housing Authority

Court Order 2009-20, In the Matter of Appointment to the Northeast Oregon Housing Authority Board, was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, stated that Marianne Meisner had been serving as a representative on the board. The City of La Grande has appointed Les Balsiger to take her place on the board. **Commissioner Hibbert moved approval of Court Order 2009-20. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Guardian Discussion

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, came to the Commissioners to talk about the Public Guardian position that was brought to the Commissioners at an earlier meeting. She explained that at the earlier meeting Dale Mammen and Dwaine Spooner were present to discuss the creation of an office of Public Guardian and Conservator in Union County. They provided some information on the Statutes. Shelley sent letters to the two judges as well as the Bar Association on whether they felt this was something that would be beneficial in Union County. Shelley asked the Commissioners if they would like to pursue it further or if they are not interested in doing it at this time.

Commissioner Hibbert stated that she supports this because she has talked to the administrator at the Grande Ronde Retirement Residence and she has indicated that there are residents there who could use the guidance of a public guardian or conservator. Commissioner Hibbert visited with Dwaine Spooner about the position and he stated he would not expect any compensation and his requests were very minimal. He was just interested in the humanitarian benefit to the community.

Commissioner McClure stated that he does not have an issue looking into the position but he would like the cost to the County to be explored more before a decision is made.

Shelley stated that if the Commissioners are interested in pursuing the creation of the position she would propose that she does more research on the cost issue. She explained that in the Resolution that would create the office it would be made clear that the County would provide copies at no cost and that would be the extent of the compensation for the position. Once the Resolution is done to create the office the position would be advertised for applicants.

Contract Amendment – SPWF Community Facilities

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that this is the loan restructuring documents that were offered in August 2007 in regard to the Buffalo Peak Golf Course purchase. There was a letter of commitment that outlined the conditions. It has taken some time for their department to give the County the documents. These documents forgive accumulated interest that totals about \$626,000, applies \$250,000 that has been paid to date by Buffalo Peak Golf Course to the principal. There is a 2% interest rate for five years, then it will go to a 3% interest rate for another five years, 4% for the next five years, and 5% for the final five years. The payments adjust every five years based on the interest rates. This is the formalization of the conditions previously agreed upon.

Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the Special Public Works Fund Community Facilities Contract Amendment and authorization for the Chairman to sign the agreement. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Oregon Consortium

Kris Lattimer, Executive Director of Oregon Consortium and Oregon Workforce Alliance, explained the purpose of the Oregon Consortium and Oregon Workforce Alliance and updated the Commissioners on the changes in the existing programs and new programs that will be put into place.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Department Specialist