

Union County Board of Commissioners
April 15, 2009

Present: Commissioner Steve McClure
Commissioner R. Nellie Hibbert

Absent: Commissioner Mark D. Davidson

Call to Order

Chairman McClure called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioner Hibbert and Commissioner McClure present.

Public Comments & Concerns

Transportation Stimulus Projects

Commissioner McClure updated the Commissioners on a project that the County and City are proposing to do together on South 12th Street. Anderson & Perry are going to go ahead and design the project, which includes sidewalks and bicycle paths, while stimulus funding is still being sought. The City of La Grande already approved this and is awaiting an agreement from the State of Oregon. Upon completion of the project the County will transfer 12th Street over to the City of La Grande.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

CAFFA Grant Application

Linda Hill, Assessor/Tax Collector asked the Commissioners to adopt a resolution approving an application to the Department of Revenue in order to participate in the Assessment and Taxation Grant. **Commissioner Hibbert moved to adopt Resolution 2009-09 In the Matter of a Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Assessment & Taxation Grant. Chairman McClure seconded. Roll Call: Commissioner Hibbert – yes; Commissioner McClure – yes. Motion approved.**

Memorandum of Understanding with La Grande Police Department

Craig Ward, Union County Sheriff Captain, has been working with the City of La Grande Police Chief regarding a JAG grant which comes from the stimulus money for law enforcement. The City of La Grande will submit the grant application but is required to partner with a county. The money from this grant will be split 50/50 between the county and city law enforcement agencies and comes out to \$10,078 each. Captain Ward is planning on using this money to upgrade microphones worn by Sheriff Deputies. The Sheriff's Office needs the commissioners to approve a memorandum of understanding to be submitted to the La Grande Police Department stating that they understand the money is only to be used for law enforcement equipment, which is a stipulation of this program.

Commissioner Hibbert moved to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the La Grande Police Department. Chairman McClure seconded. Roll Call: Commissioner Hibbert – yes; Commissioner McClure – yes. Motion approved.

Consent Agenda

The March 26 and April 2 claims journal; March 25 and April 1 public works claims journal were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Security System Update

Boyd Rasmussen, Sheriff presented the Commissioners with bids to upgrade the jail recording system. Currently there is one reliable monitor, a monitor that is intermittent and an additional monitor in the mental health hold cell that is being constructed. This bid also covers 11 cameras that would monitor outside the premises. Sheriff Rasmussen explained that he is seeking stimulus grant funding to help cover the cost of this project. Due to the lack of funds in the Sheriff's budget, Administrative Officer Shelley Burgess suggested that the Commissioners authorize the bid and then continue to seek funding for this project. Sheriff Rasmussen suggested even funding a portion of the project. **Commissioner Hibbert moved to expend funds to purchase 2 DVR's for the interior of the jail. Chairman McClure seconded. Roll Call: Commissioner Hibbert – yes; Commissioner McClure – yes. Motion carried.**

Administrative Matters

Communication System User Fee Resolution

Resolution 2009-08 adopting communication system user fees was presented to the Commissioners with changes. This resolution adopts a user fee schedule that has been reviewed and agreed upon by the 911 user board for the new tower system which provides radio frequency to emergency responders. This resolution calls for a 3% increase in fees and allows new users to be assessed a fee. If adopted this fee schedule will be implemented on July 1, 2009.

Commissioner Hibbert moved to adopt Resolution 2009-08 In the Matter of a Resolution Adopting Communication System User Fees. Chairman McClure seconded. Roll Call: Commissioner Hibbert – yes; Commissioner McClure – yes. Motion carried.

Appropriating Unanticipated Funds

Court Order 2009-22 which allows for the acceptance and expenditure of unanticipated funds was presented to the Commissioners. Union County received unanticipated community service funds from Horizon Wind Partners for the Union Cemetery District, Union County Vector Control District and the North Powder Rural Fire District. While preparing the 2008-09 budget it was not anticipated that Union County would be receiving the funds on behalf of these districts and then need to distribute the monies, in the amount of \$117,901, to the appropriate districts. **Commissioner Hibbert moved to approve Court Order**

2009-22 In the Matter of Appropriating Unanticipated Funds. Chairman McClure seconded. Roll Call: Commissioner Hibbert – yes; Chairman McClure – yes. Motion carried.

Re-Appointment to Northeast Oregon Housing Authority Board (NEOHAB)
Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Court Order 2009-21 in the matter of re-appointment to the NEOHAB to the Commissioners. Member, Commissioner R. Nellie Hibbert's, term has expired and she has agreed to continue to serve. **Commissioner Hibbert moved to approve Court Order 2009-21 In the Matter of Re-Appointment to the Northeast Oregon Housing Authority Board. Chairman McClure seconded. Roll call: Commissioner Hibbert – yes; Chairman McClure – yes. Motion carried.**

USDA Wildlife Services

Mike Slater, District Supervisor for USDA Wildlife Services presented a request to the Commissioners to provide funds for a full time employee based out of the La Grande USDA office. Mr. Slater has talked to local industries regarding matching funds since he is unable to get money from state and federal resources at this time. Union County has a need for a full time USDA employee to perform predator work. Mr. Slater has been volunteering his time to assist Union County residents with predator problems but is unable to do this on a constant basis. A full time employee, with vehicle costs, would cost approximately \$75,000. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Slater for his information and indicated the request would be considered in the upcoming budget process.

Adjournment

The meeting was then adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kylee J. Ingerson
Department Receptionist