

Union County Board of Commissioners
May 20, 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.

Public Comments & Concerns

Northeast Oregon Business Development (NEOBD) Grant Match Request

Sara Miller, Northeast Oregon Economic Development presented a written request for NEOBD asking the Commissioners for matching funds to leverage an additional loan from the USDA for an intermediary re-lending program. Northeast Oregon Business Development is a non-profit organization that gives out loans to businesses in Baker, Union and Wallowa Counties. The funds borrowed for these loans are from the USDA and NEOBD re-loans them at a higher interest rate to businesses that are unable to get a full loan from local banks. Since 1995 they have borrowed \$2 million in allocated funds from the USDA. NEOBD has been awarded a \$750,000 grant with the stipulation that they come up with a \$50,000 match. NEOBD has agreed to award them \$25,000 which is half of the required amount, while Wallowa County has given them \$2,500 and Baker County has agreed to \$10,000. NEOBD is requesting Union County to award them \$10,000 to \$12,500 for this grant. At this time NEOBD is loaning 45% of their money to Union County businesses, 36% to Baker County businesses and 9% to Wallowa County businesses with a 5.1% of loan loss. **Commissioner Davidson moved to award the Northeast Oregon Business Development with \$11,250.00 in funds. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Owsley Canyon Road Concerns

Linda Carter, 63670 Owsley Canyon Road reported to the Commissioners a disturbance she had Friday night when a scooter went by her house on Owsley Canyon Road with no muffler. Ms. Carter contacted law enforcement who got back to her two hours later. She was able to give them the license plate number of the scooter but is very concerned about the noise level that may be associated with the MERA access off of Owsley Canyon Road. She has talked to neighbors and they would like to be notified of what's legal and what kind of support they are going to be receiving from the county on issues like noise.

Ms. Carter is also part of the Mt. Emily Water Association and expressed concern about people dumping garbage up Owsley Canyon Road. The neighborhood association is willing to put up signs regarding noise, dumping, and fire safety.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

Community Corrections Fee Increase Resolution

Jane DeClue, Director of Union/Wallowa County Community Corrections, submitted a request to the Commissioners for a resolution to increase the monthly supervision fee paid by parolees/probationers per ORS 137.540 from \$25.00 to \$35.00. This fee goes to assisting offenders through services offered to them. If approved, the fee increase would take place from the date of signature forward and would not affect the parolees/probationers who are currently receiving services. Ms. DeClue is also requesting the Interstate Compact Transfer Fee, which goes towards documents for offenders convicted in Union County but who are living in other states, be increased from \$50.00 to \$100.00 effective immediately. **Commissioner Hibbert moved to approve Resolution 2009-11, A Resolution Approving Fees for the Union/Wallowa County Community Corrections Program. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mt. Emily Recreation Area (MERA) Update

Assistant Planner Cody Vavra informed the Commissioners that MERA will not be able to open by Memorial Day weekend as originally planned due to weather constraints. He has set June 19, 2009 as the new date to open MERA to the public. There are still motorized areas that will not be open to the public, which is west of Mt. Emily Canyon Road and the northwest corner of the property, due to significant resource damage. Mr. Vavra is going to block off the routes that are unpassable and the wetlands that have been damaged and is hoping to have these areas ready to be opened by late summer. Cody informed the Commissioners that the link from Igo Lane to Mt. Emily Road has been constructed and most of the motorized trails have been signed and mapped. The staging area on Fox Hill has been started and volunteers have put together an entrance sign at this area that has the rules and regulations for use posted. Mr. Vavra has been working with volunteers to get crew leaders for three YCC groups that are planning on performing work on Mt. Emily this summer. Cody also explained that they have received grants for improvements on the motorized area of MERA, but have not received any grants for the non-motorized areas at this time. An ordinance is being drafted for MERA which will adopt existing state laws, regulate camping, and other rules and regulations. There has been an increase in grant funding for law enforcement detail on MERA and the Oregon State Police have a program that reimburses them when patrolling MERA. Mr. Vavra is hoping that with signs and extra patrols, laws and regulations will be followed by MERA users.

Consent Agenda

The April 30, May 1 and May 7 claims journals; May 6 public works claims journal; February 4 and May 6 commissioner minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Administrative Matters

Title III Participation Resolution

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Commissioners with a resolution regarding the annual decision of the county to participate in the Title II and Title III programs. Title II funds go to RAC and are distributed by them to various projects while Title III funds go to the County and is distributed by them. **Commissioner Hibbert moved to adopt Resolution 2009-10 In the Matter of the FFY 2009 Elections for National Forest Related Safety-Net Payments, and grant 7% to Title III Funds and 8% to Title II Funds. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

12th Street Agreement

An agreement between Union County and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) was presented to the board regarding an economic stimulus project to be completed on South 12th Street in La Grande. ODOT will provide funds for this project in the amount of \$472,349.00. Commissioner McClure explained that the project is a partnership with the City of La Grande and is the reconstruction of South 12th Street from Gekeler to Lakeview. This agreement gives the Commissioners an option to re-evaluate again in August if the additional funding has not been secured. Administrative Officer, Shelley Burgess, informed the commissioners that the agreement has been reviewed by the attorney. **Commissioner Hibbert moved to enter into an agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation for the project to be completed on South 12th Street. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Audit Comment Resolution

A resolution was presented to the Commissioners to adopt corrective measures for the fiscal year 2007-08 audit comments. The audit division of the Secretary of State sent a letter mentioning some items that the county needed to address regarding there 2007-2008 audit. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, met with Mike Poe, Auditor, and Donna Marshall, County Treasurer, and together they came up with the following solutions to the deficiencies identified in the audit:

1. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, will be responsible for preparing the Management Discussion and Analysis.
2. Union County funds are and will continue to be held only in Qualified Depositories for Public Funds as identified by the Office of the State Treasurer.
3. Department Heads and Elected Officials have been cautioned and informed of consequences for expenditures over appropriated limits and the Accounting Department and Administrative Officer will monitor expenditures more closely. **Commissioner Hibbert moved to approve Resolution 2009-12, In the Matter of a Resolution Adopting Corrective Measures For FY 2007-08**

Audit Comments. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NEOEDD) Budget Committee Appointments

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented a request from NEOEDD to appoint new members to the budget committee. The NEOEDD board has recommended Donna Heffernan and Charlie Mitchell to be appointed to the committee. Their terms will begin immediately and expire on December 31, 2011. **Commissioner Hibbert moved to approve Court Order 2009-24 In The Matter of Appointment to the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District Budget Committee. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Proposal from Sheriff's Office for Motorcycle

A bid proposal was received from Captain Craig Ward of the Sheriff's Department regarding purchasing a motorcycle with monies that were awarded them from the State Parks and Recreation ATV grant. The Sheriff's Office has been allocated \$6,000 to purchase the motorcycle and has received 5 bids. Three of the bikes that they received bids on did not have enough horsepower to be used effectively and another motorcycle is not available. The Sheriff's Department is recommending purchasing a Suzuki from AC Power Sports for \$5,495. Commissioner Davidson noted that this particular motorcycle is not only capable of being used off-road but is also street legal. **Commissioner Davidson moved to award the bid to AC Power Sports for a 400cc Motorcycle. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Eagle Scout Project Update

Commissioner McClure informed the board that the Eagle Scout picnic table project has been completed.

Adjournment

The meeting was then adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kylee J. Ingerson
Department Receptionist