

Union County Board of Commissioners
July 15, 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 commissioners present.

Public Comments & Concerns

Antelope Ridge Wind Tower Project Update

Valerie Franklin, Representative for Horizon Wind Energy, was present to update the Commissioners on the Antelope Ridge Wind Tower Project. In April the notice of intent was mailed to the county and stakeholders. Since that time Horizon has been receiving public comments and performing field work. The field work is approximately 90% complete and consists of employees going out and doing research on the wetlands, wildlife, botany and cultural aspects of the proposed area. Upon completion of the studies a report will be prepared along with the permit application. Horizon is hoping to have the site certificate application done by the end of September and will then begin to work with FSAC to prepare documentation and information that may be requested of them.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

2009-2011 County Intergovernmental Agreement

Vicky Brogoitti, Director of Commission on Children and Families (CCF), presented a temporary agreement between Union County and Oregon CCF. CCF will operate under the current resolution at this point because the Governor has not signed the state commission budget. The state will advance 3 months worth of funding to county CCF organizations until the Governor signs the legislation. Ms. Brogoitti is hoping that by the next Commission meeting she will have the permanent Intergovernmental Agreement with the State. In the past if a county was in good standing with the state, the state commission would release a years worth of general funds to that county. The Department of Administrative Services did not realize this was occurring and has put a stop to it, so at this time only 3 months worth of funds are allowed to be released. Upon appeal by the State Commission six months of funds will be released. It is highly unlikely that the release of 12 months of funds will ever return. This will hurt Union County because they have used the 12 months of funds from the State to generate interest which allowed them to maintain staffing at the current level without having to make reductions. Also, the child care development funds have been removed from the state commission budget and given to the Department of Human Services to offset employment related daycare cuts, among other things.

The two Union County programs this cut will affect are Kids Club and Child Care Resource & Referral. Union County CCF has made adjustments in their budget to continue funding for Kids Club but will not be recommending that Child Care Resource & Referral receive any funding for the upcoming budget year.

Commissioner Hibbert moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the State Commission on Children & Families and Union County. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

The June 25 and July 2 claims journal; June 24 and July 2 public works claims journals were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Administrative Matters

Building Department Fees

Postponed to a later date.

Appointment to the Union County Travel Management Advisory Committee

Court Order 2009-29 In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Travel Management Advisory Committee was presented to the Commissioners. Art Chase has applied and has been recommended for an open position on this committee and if appointed his term will go into effect immediately and will expire when the project is completed. **Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2009-29 In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Travel Management Advisory Committee. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Marine Board Contract

A contract between the Oregon State Marine Board and Union County for boating safety and law enforcement services was presented to the Commissioners. This grant will cover the fiscal year 2009-2010 and the marine board will provide \$9,507 for this program, while Union County will match with \$7,185 in services. **Commissioner Hibbert moved to approve the Boating and Safety Law Enforcement Services Contract between the Oregon State Marine Board and Union County. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Fire Cache Update

Chairman Steve McClure attended the open house for the newly developed Forest Service fire cache building and wanted to express his appreciation along with the Forest Service's, to Union County, its staff, Shelley Burgess, and Dennis Spray for their efforts in making this project such a success.

The meeting was recessed until the 10:00 a.m. Land Development Code Amendment Public Hearing.

Public Hearing – Land Development Code Amendment

Hanley Jenkins, II, Union County Planning Director and Mike Boquist, City of La Grande Planning Director, presented the Amendments to the Land Development Code to the Commissioners. The City of La Grande has been making various changes to their zoning ordinance, land development code and comprehensive land use plan by pursuing statewide Goal 9. The neighborhood development portion of the amendment is proposed to be completed through the transportation growth management grant. It is important for the Commissioners to adopt this amendment because they currently have an agreement with the City of La Grande for the area between the city limit boundary and the urban growth boundary, which is known as the urban growth area. Previously the County had delegated through the Land Development Code an Agreement granting the City of La Grande the administrative authority for land use actions for the urban growth area. It is still necessary for the Commissioners to adopt the regulations for enforcement within that area.

Mike Boquist summarized the topics that were being amended in the Land Development Code:

- historic buildings standards;
- adopting lighting standards (mainly shop lights);
- little text amendments in reference to building & fire codes which identified specific code titles;
- changed from uniform to international building code;
- sidewalk related improvements.

An opportunity for public testimony was offered with none given.

The hearing was then closed to further testimony and the Commissioners took the matter under advisement. **Commissioner Davidson moved to adopt Ordinance 2009-03 In the Matter of Amending the Union County Zoning, Partition & Subdivision Ordinance to Include the City of La Grande Development Code Amendment – Ordinance No. 3081, Series & Declaring an Emergency. Commissioner Hibbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Hibbert moved to adopt Resolution 2009-03 by Emergency Clause In the Matter of Amending the Union County Zoning, Partition & Subdivision Ordinance to Include the City of La Grande Development Code Amendments – Ordinance No. 3081, Series 2009. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing – Vacation a Portion of Mill Creek Lane

A public hearing was held at a prior meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The order will be signed once the project is complete and the right of way documents recorded.

The meeting was recessed until the 11:00 a.m. Transient Tax Allocation discussion.

FY 2009-10 Transient Tax Allocation

Commissioner Davidson presented the three entities that were at the meeting to make presentations to the Commissioners for the Transient Tax Allocation.

Judy Hector, Chamber of Commerce, 102 Elm St., La Grande, updated the Commissioners on improvements being made to the Chamber of Commerce. This fiscal year is being shaped by answers to a survey that was sent out to community members. The first suggestion the Chamber received was to promote more information about local shopping, so Judy has designed and ordered shopping totes with local business names on it along with window decals that chamber members have put in their car windows. The second suggestion was more focus on economic development. The Chamber has partnered with the City of La Grande to create a business retention and expansion program which focuses on understanding the problems, successes and needs of local businesses and assisting in solving those problems, along with financial assistance. The last goal that the Chamber of Commerce is going to be working on is more contact with area legislators. The Chamber has already this year, showed support for the re-instatement of pioneer rail, spoke out on field burning, and hosted meals with senators and legislators.

Janet Dodson, Union County Tourism, 102 Elm St., La Grande, gave a presentation to the Commissioners on the goals of Union County Tourism for the upcoming year. It has become evident that the fear of less people vacationing has come true, and more people are staying at home due to the economic crisis. UC Tourism has decided to focus on advertising locally with a new campaign showing that you don't have to travel far to get away. Ms. Dodson wanted to inform the Commissioners that Union County has been highlighted in multiple American Profiles, which is a huge accomplishment. She presented copies of the budget and work plan.

Mike Sandford, Union County Economic Development Corporation (UCEDC), 102 Depot, La Grande, has been the director of UCEDC for 10 months. At this time they are developing inserts for different properties available in the County to put in their existing brochures. The cities of Elgin and Union have approved the format of the brochure inserts. UCEDC is in the final stages of the Alicel Grain Tower Project, has assisted Outdoor RV in becoming operational, and donated one lot in the La Grande business park to the Eastern Oregon University Foundation. Mr. Sandford's main goal for the upcoming year is to make UCEDC a known presence in the community and hopes to do that through the local media.

Commissioner Davidson informed the Board that the other organization, Blue Mountain Conference Center, was notified but did not send a representative.

Public Hearing – Transient Tax Ordinance Revision

Commissioner Davidson presented Ordinance 2009-02 which revises Union County's Transient Tax Ordinance to better reflect the current economic crisis occurring in Union County and the City of La Grande. The new Ordinance provides for the following entities and organizations to receive the following allotments: Union County Economic Development Corporation receives 27%; Union County Chamber of Commerce receives 10.5%; Union County Tourism receives 35%; Blue Mountain Conference Center receives 7.5%; Local Service Agencies in the Communities in the Cities of Elgin, Union, and North Powder receives 5%; and the Discretionary Grant Program receives 15% of the amount designated for distribution.

An opportunity for public testimony was offered with none given.

The hearing was then closed to further testimony and the Commissioners took the matter under advisement. **Commissioner Hibbert moved to adopt Ordinance 2009-02 In the Matter of an Ordinance Revising the Union County Transient Tax Ordinance 2003-09. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Hibbert moved to adopt the Emergency Clause in Ordinance 2009-02 In the Matter of an Ordinance Revising the Union County Transient Tax Ordinance 2003-09 and Declaring an Emergency. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the dollar figure that will be allotted to each Tourism Agency: UCEDC \$36,180; Union County Chamber of Commerce \$14,070; Union County Tourism \$46,900; Blue Mountain Conference Center \$10,050; Local Service Agencies in the Communities in the Cities of Elgin, Union, and North Powder \$6,700; and Discretionary Grant Fund \$20,100.

Commissioner Hibbert moved to approve distribution of transient tax monies in the amount and to the agencies named. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

An Executive Session was held under ORS 192-660(1)(d) Labor Negotiations.

Adjournment:

The meeting was then adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kylee J. Ingerson
Department Receptionist