

Union County Board of Commissioners Meeting
December 4, 2008

Present: Commissioner R. Nellie Bogue Hibbert
Commissioner Colleen MacLeod
Commissioner Steve McClure

Call to Order

Chairman Hibbert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all three commission members present.

Major Partition Platt

Rick Robinson, Bagett, Griffith and Blackman, came before the Commissioners with a Major Partition Platt. He stated that this Major Partition creates a road and that is why the Commissioners must approve the Platt. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Major Partition Platt as presented. Commissioner MacLeod seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Household Hazardous Waste Facility Bid Award

J.B. Brock, Emergency Services Officer, explained to the Commissioners that on November 12, 2008 there was a bid opening for the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. There were five qualifying bids received. The apparent low bidder was Mike Becker Construction. The Household Hazardous Waste Steering Committee met and reviewed the bids compared to their budget. The Committee decided to move forward with a notice of intent to award to Mike Becker Construction. The bid is at the high end of the budget so there will be some negotiations done with Mike Becker Construction to see if the bid can be reduced. The Committee is currently in negotiations with Waste Pro for the lease of a site for the facility.

Commissioner Hibbert asked what the projected timeline would be once the negotiations have started with Mike Becker Construction. J.B. stated that they hope to commence construction in the Spring when the ground thaws.

Commissioner McClure explained that it is the intent of the Committee that the Facility is up and running by the third quarter.

Oregon Public Mutual Aid Agreement

J.B. Brock, Emergency Services Officer, brought the Oregon Public Works Emergency Response Cooperative Assistance Agreement to the Commissioners for signature. This agreement is a mutual aid agreement that is in place so that in a case of an emergency Union County has the ability to access other Public Works Departments. It sets the frame work up so that the details do not have to be figured out in an emergency.

Commissioner Hibbert pointed out that all of the neighboring counties have entered into the agreement.

J.B. stated that this agreement has been used in the past and has been a benefit to Union County and to the neighboring counties. **Commissioner MacLeod moved approval. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Tax Collection/Property Tax

Linda Hill, Assessor/Tax Collector, came to the commissioners with an update on property taxes and values for the current tax year. Linda rounded the figures but the exact figures are available to those that would like to see them. The real market value for Union County is approximately \$3.15 billion which is an increase of \$486 million over the prior year. The assessed value on the tax roll is approximately \$1.37 billion which is an increase over last year's value of about \$84 million. Of that \$84 million approximately \$45.5 million is new value on the roll. The new value on the roll is a definite increase and does include the Elkhorn Wind Farm which added real market value of \$207 million and an assessed value of \$25 million. The amount of taxes certified for this year's roll is approximately \$18.9 million. So far \$16.5 million has been collected which makes a collection rate of 87.5%.

Linda explained that this year the Assessor's office partnered with local banks to collect property taxes. Those banks were three branches of Sterling Bank, two branches of U.S. Bank, and Banner Bank. There were 376 tax payers that paid their property taxes at the bank, which were 615 accounts for a total of \$595,452. It was a 26% increase over last year which was the first year to have those services available. The feedback for the taxpayers was very positive about this service.

Another option that was introduced last year was the credit card or e-check option. This year taxpayers that chose to pay with a credit card or e-check increased.

Linda commended her staff for their hard work. Linda stated that all payments that were received were posted by the third day after the deadline to pay taxes. In past years it has not been posted until well into December.

Amending Fees for Assessment and Taxation

Court Oder 2008-48, In the Matter of Amending Court Order 2007-47 Amending Fees for Union County Assessment and Taxation and Computer Services was presented for consideration. Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that last year Court Order 2007-47 was adopted that amended a number of fees and established a fee schedule. Court Order 2008-48 has the same fee schedule

with a change in the item number 7. Instead of only having one fee for each release there would be an additional fee added based on the recommendation of Linda Hill, Assessor/Tax Collector. **Commissioner MacLeod moved approval of Court Order 2008-48. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

MERA Advisory Committees Resolution

Resolution 2008-21, In the Matter of a Resolution to Create Two Mt. Emily Recreation Area Advisory Committees, was presented for consideration. Cody Vavra, Assistant Planner, told the commissioners that this Resolution will allow Union County to begin receiving applications to create the two advisory committees responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on the management of the Mt. Emily Recreation Area.

Commissioner McClure explained that these Advisory Committees are in the grant assurances that were given to both granting agencies. They have requested the formation of two separate committees. One would be for the motorized portion and the other would be the non-motorized portion. The committees will be made up of agency people that have an interest or user of the Mt. Emily Recreation Area. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Resolution 2008-21. Commissioner MacLeod seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Animal Fees and Ordinance Revisions

Becky Maddock, Animal Control Officer, came to the Commissioners about forming an ordinance to regulate Bison or Buffalo within Union County. Becky explained to the Commissioners all of the research that she had done on what can or should be done in Union County.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that she would like more time to look over the material that Becky gave to the Commissioners before they reach a decision. The Commissioners agreed to table the issue until they had more time to look over the ordinance and additional information given to them by Becky.

Becky Maddock also brought amendments to the animal control ordinance to the commissioners for consideration. She tried to make it mirror Oregon State law and she added in the items that have been in Union County's ordinances for the last few years. She stated that it is arranged differently.

Commissioner McClure asked if the changes were mostly house keeping items. Becky stated that it is mostly house keeping with some changes in the public nuisance section.

Commissioner McClure asked if Becky has discussed the new information with the Blue Mountain Humane Association. Becky stated that she did bring the information in front of the Board and they accepted the changes.

Becky explained that the changes bring about clarification. The Commissioners agreed that they would like to have time to look at the information that Becky gave to them. They would like to review it and bring it back to the Commissioners at a later date.

Becky also had some changes to the Resolution that established combined fees and bail schedules. She gave the Commissioners two options for changes. The first option brought the fees close to other County's fees for equivalent violations.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that if the fees are going to be raised there needs to be a time for public comments.

Becky stated that the fines that are given now are not enough to cover all of the costs and she feels that they need to be raised to at least cover the cost of processing the ticket.

Becky brought another Resolution to the Commissioners for some changes. The Commissioners again stated that they would like to have more time to read through the changes before they make a decision.

Consent Agenda

The October 30 and November 6, 12, 13, 17 and 20 claims journal, the October 29 and November 5, 12 and 19 public works claims journal, and the September 17 and 29, and October 8 and 22 Board of Commissioners Minutes were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

OYA Lease Renewal

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, explained that this lease renewal is for the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) office lease in the Joseph building. It is a two year renewal to begin July 1, 2009. The rent that will be collected did go up but the rest of the lease is the same that it has been in the past years.

Commissioner MacLeod moved approval of the OYA Lease Renewal. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reimbursement of Funds Expended

Resolution 2008-22, In the Matter of a Resolution of Intent to Reimburse for Funds Expended, was presented for Consideration. Union County has applied to the Oregon Economic Community Development Department (OECDD) for a loan for the Airport Fire Cache Building that will be for the U.S. Forest Service. Since the loan has not been approved yet it is necessary to adopt this resolution that

indicates that it is the intent of Union County to cover any of those expenses with a loan from OECDD. This would allow the funds that were expended before the loan was approved to be eligible for reimbursement by the loan. The payments for the loan would come from the lease payments made by the U.S. Forest Service. **Commissioner MacLeod moved approval of Resolution 2008-22. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Health and Human Services Advisory Committee

Court Order 2008-47, In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Health and Human Services Advisory Committee, was presented for consideration. There is a vacant position and a recommendation was made. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2008-47. Commissioner MacLeod seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Grande Ronde Model Watershed Board of Directors

Court Order 2008-49, In the Matter of Appointment to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Board of Directors, was presented for consideration. There were a few vacancies as well as reappointments that were recommended by the board. **Commissioner MacLeod moved approval of Court Order 2008-49. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Renewable Energy Committee

Court Order 2008-50, In the Matter of Appointment to the Renewable Energy Advisory Committee, was presented for consideration. There are two vacancies for the committee and this would appoint one of those vacancies. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2008-50. Commissioner MacLeod seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Department Specialist