

Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 20, 2015

Present: Commissioner Steve McClure
Commissioner Mark D. Davidson
Commissioner Jack Howard

Chairman Davidson opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with all three Commissioners present. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Public Comments

Lois Barry, 60688 Morgan Lake Road, La Grande, asked what type of public notice is given for the Union County budget meeting. She stated that she could not find the notice in the newspaper or the County website. Commissioner Davidson explained to Lois that there are mandates in the Statutes that state the rules for publishing for the budget committee. Those statutes have been followed. Lois stated that she felt that the budget committee should be a larger committee with more members. Commissioner Davidson explained that it also is in the State Statute the number of committee members that have to be on the budget committee and Union County is meeting that requirement. Lois stated that she has learned about the Secure Rural Schools funding and that a percentage of that funding goes to the maintenance on the roads within the County. She feels that the County should not be using as much of the funds on roads and give more money to the schools within the County. Commissioner Davidson explained that the Secure Rural Schools funding is a Federal funding source and in the Bill that allows for the funding it mandates the percentage of the funding that is to be used on roads and the percentage that can be given to the schools with the County. There is no discretion for the Commissioners to decide how much or where that money can be spent. Lois explained that the title of the funding is very misleading. Commissioner McClure stated that Senator Ron Wyden came up with the name for the funding and that is who Lois can talk to about any changes she feels that funding should have.

Norm Cimon, Oregon Rural Action, came to the Commissioners to talk to them about SolWest. He explained that the Oregon Rural Action helped to bring the wind developers to the County. He thanked the Commissioners for support and explained that Oregon Rural Action submitted a discretionary fund application to help support the SolWest Fair. He would like the Commissioners to consider the request and continue to support for the fair.

Steve Bartell of La Grande came to the Commissioners to show his support for the SolWest fair. He explained that he has used alternative energy and saved several thousand dollars. He feels the SolWest fair is an opportunity to get people more active in the renewable energy business.

Intergovernmental Services Agreement for Map Services

Linda Hill, Assessor/Tax Collector, brought an Intergovernmental Service Agreement between the Oregon Department of Revenue and Union County to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that this agreement states that the Department of Revenue will perform map maintenance and other related cartography activities. The costs are based on the estimated staff hours required to complete the work in accordance with state cadastral map standards. The total estimated cost is \$22,980.

Commissioner McClure asked if this is already in the budget. Linda explained that it is in her budget request.

Commissioner Howard moved approval of the Intergovernmental Services Agreement as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Weed Enforcement Letters

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, brought enforcement letters for weed management to the Commissioners for consideration. He will issue the notices to land owners that have a noxious weed infestation. The notices will explain the responsibility of the land owners to maintain the noxious weeds.

Commissioner McClure explained that the County used to have a weed supervisor. He feels that these notices are now the best way to take care of the weed issue within the County. He stated that there is an economic concern because of the crops in the valley. The noxious weeds can be detrimental to a crop.

Commissioner Howard asked how Doug will deal with vacant lots within the city jurisdiction. Doug explained that this is only for property within the County. The cities have their own process for dealing with noxious weeds.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the weed enforcement letters as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Airport Intergovernmental Agreement

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, brought an Airport Intergovernmental Agreement to the Commissioners for consideration. He explained that this agreement is with the Pavement Management Program through the Oregon Department of Aviation. The State will hire the contractor to oversee the work. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

The April 29 and 30 and May 7 and 14 claims journals; and the April 29 and May 6 and 13 Public Works claims journals were approved as presented on the consent agenda.

Planning Department Fee Waiver Request

Ashley Wilhelm, Senior Department Specialist II, brought a Planning Department Fee Waiver Request to the Commissioners for consideration. Ashley explained that the Planning Department received a fee waiver request from the City of Island City in the amount of \$600. This fee is generated from an application for an amendment to the Urban Growth Boundary to allow for a park and greenway trail connectivity between La Grande and Island City. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of the fee waiver request as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appointment to the Community Advisory Council for the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization

Court Order 2015-19, In the Matter of Appointment to the Union County Community Advisory Council for the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization, was presented for consideration. Ashley Wilhelm explained that this Court Order will appoint Tammy Winde to replace Paul Shorb as the Grande Ronde Hospital representative on the Advisory Committee. **Commissioner McClure moved approval of Court Order 2015-19 as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Intergovernmental Agreement between Oregon Department of Human Services, Union County and the District Attorney

Ashley Wilhelm brought an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Oregon Department of Human Services, Union County and the District Attorney to the Commissioners for consideration. This agreement allows the District Attorney to provide legal services for Child Welfare dependency cases. This is a continuation of an existing agreement. This agreement is for a total not to exceed \$46,000 and will expire June 30, 2017. **Commissioner Howard moved approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement as presented. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Discretionary Grant Application Recommendation

Ashley Wilhelm brought a Discretionary Grant application recommendation to the Commissioners for consideration. She explained that the Discretionary Grant Advisory Committee met and reviewed an application received from Oregon Rural Action for funds for the SolWest fair. The Discretionary Fund Committee is recommending funding the request at \$1,000. **Commissioner McClure moved approval to fund the Discretionary Grant recommendation as presented with the understanding that the Discretionary Grant is to support a project one time and not on an on-going basis. Commissioner Howard seconded. Commissioner Howard moved that the request be increased to \$1,500. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Resource Zones – Public Hearing

Ordinance 2015-01, In the Matter of Replacing the Union County Zoning, Partition & Subdivision Ordinance Article 1, Section 1.08 Definitions; Article 2, A-1 Exclusive Farm Use Zone; Article 3, A-2 Agriculture-Grazing Zone; Article 4, A-3 Agriculture Forest Use Zone and Article 5, A-4 Timber-Grazing Zone, was presented for consideration. Hanley Jenkins II, Planning Director, gave a staff report explaining that the changes that are being proposed in the four county resource zones are to bring the local land use regulations into compliance with Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon proposed revisions.

Commissioner McClure asked where all of these definitions came from. Hanley stated that it is all updated with State Statute.

Commissioner McClure stated that the Commissioners received changes to the Ordinance and supporting documents the day before the meeting and have not had time to properly review the documents in order to have the first ready today. The other Commissioners agreed that they needed more time to review the Ordinance before the first reading.

The hearing for the first reading of the Ordinance is set for June 3rd at 10:30 a.m.

Executive Session

An executive session was held under ORS 192.660(e)

Marijuana Tax

Commissioner Howard stated that he would be interested in looking into the tax potential on marijuana facilities for local taxes. Commissioner McClure stated that he is open to looking into the option but would like to see what rules the State comes out with. Commissioner Howard and Davidson agreed with Commissioner McClure and will meet on the issue after they receive more information from the State.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Sr. Dept. Specialist II