

Board of Commissioners Meeting
July 20, 2016

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

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

Public Comments and Concerns

Fair/ Shrine Week Transit Partnership

Frank Thomas, Northeast Oregon Transit, 2204 E Penn Avenue, La Grande, presented a proposal to provide transportation for the Union County Fair and East-West Shrine Football teams.

Commissioner McClure stated that the county has supported these projects since 2008. He receives a lot of positive feedback for Fair transportation; service for the Shrine teams is appreciated by the teams who are given the opportunity to interface with local merchants.

Commissioner McClure moved approval. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Thomas stated that this is one of the busiest projects they do and his staff look forward to it every year.

Emergency Services Public Comment

George Mead, 57744 Foothill Rd, La Grande, stated that he had been reading about the potential of a 9.0 earthquake in Oregon that would be 40 to 80 miles offshore. 70-80% of Oregon's population lives west of the Cascades. The newspaper's data shows that everything west of the coast range would not be there after the earthquake and everything west of the Cascades will be in some kind of chaos. There is some disagreement about predictions, but either way damage will be mostly west of the Cascades. He asked what Union County's Emergency Services has planned for this type of event outside of joining trainings on the west side that would address what could be a very hard problem for the county, considering the numbers of people traveling east. He asked what the county would do if the population doubles and people do not have housing, food, and shelter. He asked what kind of budget is needed for that event if it occurred. Emergency Services has got to get really detailed planning if and when it was to happen. Everything in Union County that could be a hazard is on the western edge, for example for the railroad and freeway; those are the people that are hauling things that in other parts of the country cause lots of problems. He asked what has been planned for that and what the cost would be that the county would have to get engaged in. The county cannot say that if the train rolls off the tracks and blows out a piece of

downtown La Grande, the Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, and La Grande Police Department will respond; assuming someone will take care of it is not planning. He thinks that the earthquake is a major disaster looming on the horizon. When it happens is anyone's guess; Emergency Services has to plan for potential problems and seriously involve all the people. Many years ago the area had a real emergency services problem from a snow storm and freezing rain; the county was closed for over a week. He worked with the Emergency Services people; those who were supposed to make decisions were unprepared to do so. Fire Departments ran around with generators to help people keep their food cold in refrigerators. If all the data is serious, then it is time to plan; it is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. It is time to seriously talk to all the different agencies that would have to be involved to make sure it is coordinated.

Commissioner Howard stated that everyone at the county takes it seriously and are aware of the issues; Emergency Services recently held a major Cascade training event last month. He suggested that Mr. Mead take a look at information, results, and action report from the training event to see the weaknesses and strengths. There is a great risk that people forget about the first tool of preparedness, which is to be prepared for self-sufficiency. Over the last ten years good work has been done in the community encouraging self-reliance and self-preparation. The county government is taking an active role in preparing and encouraging that in any way it can, including participation in statewide drills. He would like the public to know that the county is listening. It participates in the monthly mayors group meetings, which will discuss fire and trauma-informed communities over the next two years. That includes preparing for other types of emergencies including the potential for a mass shooting. Getting focused on one emergency doesn't distort the message that the county is getting prepared to help people to help themselves first. The county is also getting prepared with organizational and communication structure to take care of emergencies, which is being done in a way that was not done twenty years ago. There is progress being made and important steps are being taken. This is a process of the continued dialogue about emergency services, but he did not think this was the appropriate place to have it.

Commissioner McClure invited Mr. Mead to sit down with Emergency Services Manager, JB Brock, to look at the county's plans; meaningful suggestions would be listened to. The county has put a lot of effort in planning and held a Cascadia event training a month ago. The county plans for all potential hazards and does not try to anticipate any specific hazard.

Mr. Mead stated that when he visited the Emergency Services section on the county website, he only found generic information and there was no comment about any recent trainings or a Cascadia event. If it is incumbent on him to track down the Emergency Services Manager, then it is incumbent on the county to have that information on the website.

Commissioner Howard stated that local response will be key, not relying on a website in this case. He welcomed continuing the conversation. He hoped the press would pay attention as it is another opportunity to get the message out to be ready for an emergency.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

Grant Agreement for Place Based Integrated Water Resources Planning Pilots

Scott Hartell, Planning Director, presented the Grant Agreement for Place Based Integrated Water Resources Planning Pilots for consideration and approval; it had been reviewed by the county's Administrative Officer.

Commissioner Davidson asked if it had been reviewed by legal counsel; Mr. Hartell stated that it was not reviewed by the county's legal counsel. Commissioner Davidson asked if it was a standard Water Resources grant agreement; Mr., Hartell stated that it was. Mrs. Burgess stated that the Attorney General's office had reviewed the agreement. Commissioner Davidson stated that it has a budget and work schedule.

Commissioner Howard stated that it keeps looking better and better to him and turned into a great project.

Commissioner McClure asked if this was the initial step to start the process and other documents for approval would come later; Mr. Hartell stated that was correct and added that as one step is completed, others would follow. He added that Water Resources will pull all of the grantees together to talk about the first step and resulting successes and failures, and then work on the next step.

Commissioner Howard stated that this type of water conservation management planning will be a key tool for emergency planning for climate change.

Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the Place Based Integrated Water Resources Planning Pilots Grant Agreement. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Pick-up Bid Award

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, 10513 N McAllister Rd, Island City, stated that Public Works went out to bid for a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton 4x4 regular cab long box pick-up with three bids as follows:

- MJ Goss \$29,324.02
- Legacy Dodge \$26,526.00
- Legacy Ford \$25,155.00

He recommended awarding the bid to Legacy Ford as it was the low bid for the purchase of two pick-up trucks, totaling \$50,310.00.

Commissioner Davidson stated that no spec sheet was provided and asked for description of the pick-ups. Mr. Wright stated that the pick-ups were basic models with vinyl seats, V8 gas engine, four wheel drive; options added were a spray-in bed liner, skid plates, and tow package. They come equipped with automatic transmission, which all that is available for this size pick-up.

Commissioner McClure asked if all the dealerships complied with the requested specs; Mr. Wright stated that they did and there was no shortage on any of the specs. Commissioner McClure asked if all three bids were for the same vehicle; Mr. Wright stated that they were. Mr. Wright stated that he compared the bids to state bid contracts and Legacy Ford was still lower due to shipping and handling charges. Mr. Wright stated that the state bid for this pick-up was \$25,144 plus \$400 for delivery. Mrs. Burgess added that the state bid did not include the three options added to the base pick-up.

Commissioner McClure moved approval to award Legacy Ford the bid for two pick-ups totaling \$50,310.00. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the Consent Agenda, which included Claims Journals for June 22, 23, 29, 30 and July 7. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Court Order 2016-27, Appointment to the Vector Control Board

Mrs. Burgess stated that the agenda listed this item as a resolution; it is a court order. She stated that there was a need to appoint a member to the Vector Control Board due to Shaneen Bergette's resignation. Brent Austin applied to serve; his term would begin immediately and expire December 31, 2018.

Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2016-27. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Transient Room Tax Discretionary Fund Application

Mrs. Burgess stated that the Transient Tax Discretionary Fund Advisory Committee reviewed an application from the Union County Chamber of Commerce for a welcome sign on July 12 and recommended awarding the amount requested of \$3,500.

Commissioner McClure asked if ODOT was consulted for the sign location. Commissioner Davidson stated that ODOT was consulted and signed off on the location, which is on city property. Commissioner McClure asked where the second sign would be located; Commissioner Davidson stated that it has not yet been finalized, but they have tentatively picked a location on city right of way that dead ends at the

highway. This application is for one sign only. The key component is that it is an official city sign and it is on city owned property; ODOT requires public access to the location.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the TRT application to fund \$3,500 to the Union County Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Davidson seconded.

Commissioner Davidson stated that he expects they will ask for more money for a second sign, most likely in the next fiscal year. Commissioner McClure asked if he expected this a first phase in two phase project; Commissioner Davidson stated that he did.

Roll Call: Commissioner Howard, yes. Commissioner Davidson, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Howard recessed the meeting for an Executive Session to be held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) and ORS 192.660(2)(h).

Next Meeting and Location

The next meeting will be on August 3, 2016 at 9:00 AM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorcinda Johnston
Sr. Dept. Specialist II