

Union County Board of Commissioners
March 21, 2018

Present: Commissioner Steve McClure
Commissioner Jack Howard
Commissioner Donna Beverage

Commissioner Beverage opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and the pledge of allegiance was given with all three commissioners present.

Public Comments

Commissioner McClure suggested accepting Airport Master Plan public comments after an update is provided by staff later in the meeting. Commissioner Howard stated that he would not object to amending the agenda. Commissioner Beverage stated that Airport Master Plan comments would be taken after the staff update.

Public Comment- Universal Healthcare

Bill Whitaker, 1108 G Avenue, La Grande, submitted a written statement referring to a potential universal healthcare resolution. He thanked the Commissioners for taking comments from the public and members of Oregon Rural Action (ORA) at the January 17 Commission meeting and the February 14 work session. The resolution calls upon the Oregon Legislature to refer a measure to voters in 2020 that would create a publicly funded healthcare system serving everyone in Oregon. He stated that ORA is not asking the Commissioners to support the referral on its merit, but is instead asking the Commissioners to support democracy by recommending that the Legislature refer the measure to the 2020 ballot. He believes that the elected County Commissioners will support their constituents by approving the request. He asked Union County to join other cities and counties that have already passed resolutions urging a referral to the voters.

Commissioner McClure asked if there was any progress in the Legislative short session regarding this issue. Mr. Whitaker stated that it was not considered during the short session, but there is ongoing work towards it.

Commissioner Howard stated that he is generally supportive of propositions to refer the issue to voters on the 2020 ballot, but the submitted proposal has major issues not defining its relevance to other poverty related issues, such as housing. He would like to see the proposal language modified before he would consider it at the next meeting. He would also like time to review language used in resolutions from other cities and counties. He generally supports improving healthcare access, and eventually making it a statewide system, but market implications are clear that if Oregon adopts this type of healthcare system, it will be in the position to deny access based on time and residence in Oregon. The specific concern has to be that whether universal healthcare can be afforded or not, he would not want to see that it is just language to be passed. He wants it to be meaningful that can be brought to the Association of Oregon Counties for Legislative purposes; he does not think the current proposal would do that.

Mr. Whitaker felt that the Commissioners should make suggested amendments to the proposal. Healthcare is a fundamental poverty issue and many are unable to afford it.

Deductibles are high and the consequence is a major factor of bankruptcy; the majority of those filing bankruptcy have health insurance.

Commissioner Howard stated that he was more unhappy that Mr. Whitaker requested the Commissioners redraft the proposal since it could take more than six months to make adequate changes. It is disingenuous to say that the request is to pass the resolution without supporting it on its merits. He felt it was telling that no one opposed to universal healthcare was involved in drafting the proposal. He is less likely to vote yes at this point, but supports it on its merits. He did not feel that the Commissioners should redraft the proposal. He suggested that it be referred to the Community Advisory Council for the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization.

Mr. Whitaker stated that he would be happy to provide copies of statements made by other cities and counties supporting the proposal. This resolution is specific to healthcare. They cannot deal with the entire poverty problem in a referral to the voters.

Commissioner Howard stated that the amount of money available to spend on poverty-related issues is limited. The Legislature will debate other poverty-related issues, such as cap and trade. He shared a story about a person who spends 30% of her electric budget to charge her wheelchair battery; she has to stop eating food in order to pay for that electricity. That is a poverty issue.

Mr. Whitaker agreed that Commissioner Howard's example was a poverty issue.

Commissioner Beverage stated that the Commissioners held a work session to take public comments and discuss the proposal; the item will be placed on the April 4 agenda. She would like to review statements from other cities and counties prior to the April meeting, at which time the Commissioners will vote whether or not to support the resolution.

Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments

Intergovernmental Agreement: Union County Sheriff's Office and School Districts

Union County Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen presented an Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County Sheriff's Office and Cove School District, La Grande School District, North Powder School District, Union School District, and Intermountain Education Service District. This would fund a Sheriff's Deputy to serve as a shared School Resource Officer Mondays through Thursdays in Cove, North Powder, and Union, as well as Fridays in La Grande. School Resource Officers help build relationships with students and increases safety.

Commissioner McClure asked why all the county schools were not included. Sheriff Rasmussen stated that Imbler and Elgin chose not to participate.

Commissioner Howard asked if there were more benefits to having a Sheriff's Deputy in the schools over a trained volunteer. Sheriff Rasmussen stated that Deputies have specialized knowledge in law enforcement, but he would not be opposed to trained volunteers filling in

as a supplement. He has had some conversations with retired law enforcement officers that may be interested in that type of arrangement.

Commissioner McClure asked if there would be armed volunteers in the schools. Sheriff Rasmussen stated that volunteers would not be armed, but a Reserve Deputy would fill in for the School Resource Officer during vacations and other time off. Sheriff Rasmussen was unsure if that time worked would be paid or volunteer.

Commissioner McClure asked Sheriff Rasmussen about his opinion of arming teachers in schools. Sheriff Rasmussen stated that arming teachers is a school district decision; there are some benefits to doing that as long as they can ensure safety. He added that the Sheriff's Department has provided training to some schools for that purpose; if there is someone on site that is trained, experienced, as well as ready and comfortable to react to keep students safe, then that is a good thing.

Commissioner Beverage asked if the School Resource Officer had scheduled times at the outlying schools. Sheriff Rasmussen stated that for safety purposes the schedule would be random.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Intergovernmental agreement between the Union County Sheriff's Office and Cove School District, La Grande School District, North Powder School District, Union School District, and Intermountain Education Service District as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded.

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, stated that the agreement had been reviewed by legal counsel. The agreement calls for the Sheriff's Office to apply for grant funding to support this program; the school districts will maintain responsibility for funding if the grant is not awarded.

Roll Call on the motion to approve: Commissioner Howard, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Commissioner Beverage, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Intergovernmental Agreement: Union County Sheriff's Office and the City of Elgin for Law Enforcement Services

Sheriff Rasmussen presented an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Elgin that would extend the current agreement for three more years. The City has chosen to have a municipal court and plans to begin prosecuting some misdemeanor crimes, as listed in Exhibit B.

Commissioner Howard moved approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Union County Sheriff's Office and the City of Elgin for Law Enforcement Services with Exhibits A and B. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Elgin Animal Control Contract

Sheriff Rasmussen stated that the City of Elgin has requested to rescind the Animal Control Services agreement with the County; they feel that they are able to handle animal control services on their own. Sheriff Rasmussen stated that if rescinded, it would be effective April 1, 2018.

Commissioner McClure made a motion to rescind the Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County and the City of Elgin for Animal Control Services. Commissioner Howard seconded.

Commissioner Howard asked if animal welfare cross training would be provided in Elgin. Sheriff Rasmussen stated that the Sheriff's Office would provide communication and training to help with the transition as needed.

Commissioner Howard stated that he was working on the feral cat program with Cathie Falck at the Sheriff's Department. He suggested that Union County accept cat license fees on a voluntary basis and use funds for a feral cat program. He would be interested in starting this type of program if it can pass the audit function.

Sheriff Rasmussen acknowledged that there had been problems with feral cats. Commissioner Howard stated that there were some working proposals to address the problem, but about \$5,000 would be needed to start a program.

Commissioner Beverage stated that she appreciated working with the City of Elgin and would support rescinding the agreement.

Commissioner McClure had no objections to rescinding the agreement.

Roll call to rescind the Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County and the City of Elgin for Animal Control Services: Commissioner Howard, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Commissioner Beverage, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Used 2001 Volvo 10-yard Dump Truck Purchase Request

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, 10513 N. McAllister, La Grande, requested approval to purchase a used 2001 Volvo 10-yard dump truck for \$9,500 from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) surplus sale. The equipment has no major problems and the price is reasonable compared to other trucks that are older and/or newer. This would be a good addition to the County's fleet; it would provide an additional vehicle for snow removal, as well as to be used as a water truck and general maintenance.

Commissioner McClure stated that the County's fleet is aging and finding equipment at that price would be a very good decision. He encouraged Mr. Wright to continue replacing old equipment as inexpensively as possible.

Commissioner Beverage asked if this vehicle was used locally. Mr. Wright did not have that specific information as it is not provided by ODOT.

Commissioner McClure moved approval to purchase a Used 2001 Volvo 10-yard Dump Truck for \$9,500. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2018 Regular Cab 4500 Truck

Mr. Wright stated that Public Works requested bids for one or more 2018 4500 four-wheel drive trucks. Three bids were sent out to local dealerships and the low bid was compared to the state bid contract. The following bids were received:

Chevrolet does not make a comparable truck	
Legacy Ford	\$43,588
State Bid	\$42,368
Legacy Chrysler	\$42,706

Some options were added to the vehicle for specialty use. It is a diesel engine with dual rear wheels and will serve as a snow plow and spray vehicle. This truck will work well for hill roads and will allow for three drivers to be dispatched and provide better coverage in the county. This truck is versatile; it is powerful, can be used year round and get into small areas. He added an option to the vehicle to make sure that the setback axel was lengthened; it ensures that there is not too much weight placed on the front of the vehicle, which would make it dicey for plowing snow. He also added an upfitter switch and a 5,500 gallon tank. The State did not want to provide these options. He recommended Legacy Chrysler be awarded the contract.

Commissioner Beverage asked if this vehicle would be in addition to the current fleet. Mr. Wright stated that was correct; the two 1998 vehicles that serve the same purpose are costing the County quite a bit of money in maintenance in that they are breaking down and parts cannot be secured over weekends.

Commissioner McClure asked if the funding for this purchase was budgeted. Mr. Wright stated that this purchase was budgeted in the capital line item for FY2017-18.

Commissioner McClure moved approval to purchase a 2018 Regular Cab 4500 Truck From Legacy Chrysler for \$42,706. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2018 Regular Cab 3500 Pickup Truck

Mr. Wright requested the purchase of a 2018 Regular Cab 3500 Pickup Truck for the signs department. Public Works requested bids for one or more 2018 3500 four-wheel drive pickup trucks. Three bids were sent out to local dealerships and the low bid was compared to the state bid contract. The following bids were received:

M.J. Goss	\$34,460
Legacy Ford	\$28,351
State Bid	\$27,556
Legacy Chrysler	\$27,445

Mr. Wright recommended Legacy Chrysler be awarded the contract.

Commissioner McClure asked if this purchase was budgeted for FY2017-18; Mr. Wright stated that was correct. Mr. Wright added that this vehicle would replace a 1995 pickup that has 300,000 miles and has had \$21,000 in vehicle repairs.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the purchase of a 2018 Regular Cab 3500 Pickup Truck from Legacy Chrysler for \$27,445. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Hot Mix Asphalt Concrete Pavement

Mr. Wright stated that Public Works requested bids for hot mix asphalt concrete pavement; two companies returned bids:

High Desert Aggregate & Paving	\$72.50 per ton
Hampton/Rogers Asphalt	\$81.00 per ton

Mr. Wright recommended High Desert Aggregate & Paving be awarded the contract.

Commissioner Beverage asked about the location of the businesses. Mr. Wright stated that High Desert is located near RD Mac and Rogers is in Island City.

Commissioner Howard asked how pricing compared to last year; Mr. Wright stated that it was comparable to last year.

Commissioner McClure made a motion to award the Hot Mix Asphalt Concrete contract to High Desert Aggregate & Paving at \$72.50 per ton. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

½ - ¼ and ¼ - 10 Chip Rock Bids

Mr. Wright stated that Public Works requested bids for ½ - ¼ chip rock.

Two bids were received:

Royal Rock Co.	\$11.95/ton
R.D. Mac	\$10.00/ton

Mr. Wright stated that Public Works requested bids for ¼ - 10 chip rock.

Two bids were received:

Royal Rock Co.	\$21.50/ton
R.D. Mac	\$17.00/ton

Mr. Wright recommended R.D. Mac be awarded the contract for ½ - ¼ chip rock and ¼ - 10 chip rock.

Commissioner McClure asked if prices reflected that Public Works would haul the product; Mr. Wright agreed that was correct.

Commissioner McClure made a motion to award the ½ - ¼ and ¼ - 10 Chip Rock Bids contract to R.D. Mac as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

¾ - minus Crushed Rock

Mr. Wright stated that Public Works requested ¾ - minus crushed rock quotes to be used on various county roads. The location will be determined at the discretion of the Public Works Director. A mileage fee of .45 cents per mile will be added to determine the haul cost. The approximate quantity is 10,000 tons on an as needed basis.

Three companies returned quotes:

Hampton/Rogers Asphalt	\$10.00 per ton
Harney Rock & Paving Co.	\$5.80 per ton
Royal Rock	\$6.25 per ton

Mr. Wright recommended all quotes be accepted.

Mr. Wright stated that the project location and mileage fee to haul the rock would be factors in determining which supplier to use to get the lowest price.

Commissioner Howard asked if .45 cents per mile was an industry standard; Mr. Wright stated that was correct.

Commissioner McClure made a motion to accept all ¾ - minus Crushed Rock quotes as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Emulsion Oil and Fog Seal Oil Bids

Mr. Wright stated that Public Works requested bids for Emulsion Oil and Fog Seal Oil to be used for chip seal projects throughout Union County.

Three companies returned bids:

Albina- Emulsion	\$442/ton
Albina- Fog Seal	No Bid
Western States- Emulsion	\$514/ton
Western States- Fog Seal	\$359/ton
Idaho Asphalt- Emulsion	\$413/ton
Idaho Asphalt- Fog Seal	\$313/ton

Mr. Wright recommended Idaho Asphalt be awarded the contract for Emulsion Oil and Fog Seal Oil.

Commissioner McClure asked Mr. Wright if he was satisfied with Idaho Asphalt's quality. Mr. Wright stated that he was satisfied with Idaho Asphalt's quality and added that he requested a high float product in the bid request from all suppliers. Every supplier offers the same product, but each has their own variation of how it is delivered. Union County has worked with Idaho Asphalt for a couple of years; their representative works with the County extensively to make sure the product is applied appropriately. All the suppliers have good representatives and would work with the County, but awarding the contract is a matter of price.

Commissioner McClure asked Mr. Wright if he had noticed any product failures with Idaho Asphalt. Mr. Wright stated that he had not seen failures like that due to the product and application, but it has happened due to snow plows taking it off because roads are not flat. **Commissioner McClure made a motion to award the Emulsion Oil and Fog Seal Oil contract to Idaho Asphalt as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Beverage recessed the meeting for a five minute break and called it back to order.

Airport Master Plan

Doug Wright, Union County Public Works Director, stated that the Airport Master Plan expired. Union County hired WH Pacific and Precision Approach Engineering to draft an updated plan; it has been pending with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the last two years and is now ready for consideration and approval of the Commissioners.

Sara Lucas, WH Pacific, presented an update regarding the Airport Master Plan. The advisory committee met multiple times to discuss issues at the airport and desired goals for the Master Plan, as well as to take public comments.

Public Comment – Airport Plan

Greg Barreto, Barreto Manufacturing, stated that he was most concerned about height restrictions on his current building.

Commissioner McClure asked if the Plan would allow for compensating current building owners that are affected by potential changes. Mrs. Lucas stated that she did not believe that the FAA would agree to do that and added that the conditions and height restrictions were in place prior to the proposed updated plan.

Commissioner McClure stated that the County has never intended to intrude on property owners. Mr. Barreto stated that the concern is about building restrictions that the Master Plan would place on current and future buildings.

Commissioner McClure stated that the plan identified a potential conflict with rotorcraft and the current location of the Blue Mountain Hangars; it does not stipulate that hangars must be relocated. The U.S. Forest Service Rappel Base is needed here and there were no other alternatives for the space and utilities needed.

Public Comment – Airport Plan

Craig Dixon, 2002 Jupiter Way, La Grande, co-owner of Blue Mt. Hangars, stated that their building was constructed with private funds in 2004; they have a 50 year lease and are not interested in relocating. The space shown in the Airport Master Plan for the relocation of his building is inadequate.

Commissioner Howard did not like the uncertainty of the hangars' location that is created in the Master Plan.

Mr. Dixon stated that the Airport Master Plan is impacting their ability to sell to potential buyers and investors; he would like the plan to reflect the County's commitment to cover the costs associated with demolition and rebuilding the hangar. It would make a big difference for the County to construct a new hangar prior to demolishing their hangar so that aircraft is not outside in the weather for an extended period of time.

Commissioner McClure concurred and stated that he would not want to wait ten years for an agreement with Blue Mt. Hangars; he suggested that the Commissioners consider executing it now as an addendum. He does not want the financial burden of relocating hangars placed on private owners.

Commissioner Howard stated that it is important to include private hangars in the process of determining where the hangars would be relocated.

Mrs. Lucas cautioned the Commissioners against changing the Master Plan after it has been approved by the FAA.

Commissioner McClure stated that the County could make an agreement with private hangar owners that would not be included in the plan.

Mrs. Lucas stated that she hoped tenants did not feel shut out from advisory committee meetings. Public feedback was sought at those meetings prior to drafting the plan and public notification of meetings times was made in the newspaper as well as at the airport.

Mr. Dixon stated that he did not receive notification about the meetings or hearings for the approval of the Master Plan; he learned about it from a neighbor. The hangar's managing member was not informed of plans to demolish the building, but he should have at least received a phone call. Commissioner McClure apologized to Mr. Dixon and added that the County wants to get this right.

Public Comment – Airport Plan

Jim Holloway, Experimental Aircraft Association La Grande Chapter President, 504 S. 12th Street, La Grande, stated that their chapter would be a good resource to distribute information to pilots. He was concerned about leaving expensive aircraft on the tarmac as well as the potential increased rent for new hangars. He did not receive notification of meetings and only learned about the plan update through a personal email.

Public Comment – Airport Plan

Ellis Mickey, Experimental Aircraft Association member, has been flying out of the local airport for 20 years. He is concerned about the potential for increased costs at the airport. He stated that they pay an annual maintenance fee of \$100 at the airport and suggested that the County consider offering a 10% fuel discount to pilots with aircraft housed at the local airport. Local pilots promote aviation in the community and they would like to see the community become more aviation centered.

Commissioner McClure stated that it has been a challenge to collect and manage the \$100 maintenance fees charged to local pilots; he suggested that the County consider eliminating the fee once it begins receiving additional revenue from the U.S. Forest Service. Mr. Wright stated that the suggestion would be looked at and considered.

Commissioner Beverage had concerns about the demolition of the Blue Mt. Hangars. She understands that the current location may cause problems for other development.

Public Comment – Airport Plan

David McClay 407 F, La Grande, suggested that the County use tax rolls to notify hangar owners through a phone call or letter.

Public Comment – Airport Plan

Peter Benjamin, LifeFlight Network and Union County resident on Craig Loop, asked for construction timeline information on Runway 1634. It significantly impacts their operations and they have requested runway improvements for many years. He does not think the fixed wing aircraft was listed in the master plan inventory. LifeFlight may need to consider relocating aircraft due to construction phases.

Capital Improvement Plan Update

Tracy May, Precision Approach, stated that pre-design work for the Runway 1634 project is scheduled to begin this year, with design expected in 2020 and funding in 2021. It is a sizeable project that will be coordinated with tenants. Total construction time is estimated at two to three months.

Public Comment – Airport Plan

Phil Robinson, Experimental Aircraft Association member, stated that he has been flying out of the local airport since 1993. He was surprised that more aviation related people were not involved in the planning meetings. He was disappointed to see where helicopter space was planned considering other available space. Helicopters are noisy and potential problems are catastrophic; the intended location of helicopters in the Master Plan is a concern. Relocating hangars places him and other pilots at a greater distance from the FBO, creating a problem for people needing to use the restroom and other facilities at the FBO. The current hangars are in good condition and don't need replaced.

Mrs. Burgess stated that this was an informational update. The public hearing for the ordinance that would adopt the Airport Master Plan is scheduled for April 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner McClure moved approval of the Consent Agenda, which included claims journals from February 21, 22, 27; March 1, 8, 12, 15 and meeting minutes from January 3. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Court Order 2018-12, Appointment to the Union County Community Advisory Council

Commissioner Howard requested to remove this item from the agenda to allow for a technical fix prior to presenting it for consideration. There were no objections to placing it on the next meeting agenda.

Resolution 2018-03, Appropriating Unanticipated Funds

Mrs. Burgess stated that this resolution would transfer an appropriation within the weed fund due to additional grant funding to purchase a truck sprayer; approval would authorize a transfer of \$5,000 from contingency to capital equipment purchase within the weed fund.

Commissioner Howard moved approval of Resolution 2018-03. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Buffalo Peak Golf Course Rack Rates

Mrs. Burgess stated that the Commissioners discussed Buffalo Peak Golf Course rates last November, resulting in an adjustment to season pass rates at the end of 2017. In an effort to narrow the gap between costs and revenues, the advisory committee and staff have made efforts to address the problem. The advisory committee recommends increasing rates for the upcoming season effective immediately (see summary of proposed rates.)

Commissioner Beverage stated that the advisory committee did not feel that increases would be a deterrent to play at the course.

Commissioner McClure moved approval of Buffalo Peak Golf Course rates as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beverage recessed the meeting for an executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(e) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) and called it back to order.

Next Meeting and Location

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled to take place at the Joseph Annex Building on April 4, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Commissioner Beverage adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorcinda Johnston
Sr. Dept. Specialist II