



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2007

### BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

County of Lake County  
State of Oregon

### WORK SESSION

The Lake County Board of Commissioners met in Work Session on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at 10:15 a.m. The following members were present: Chair, Bradley J. Winters, Ken Kestner and Dan Shoun. Also present: Administrative Assistant Bob Pardee.

**Agenda Review:** The Board of Commissioners reviewed the agenda items scheduled for the next Regular Session.

*No additions or deletions.*

#### **Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC)**

Mr. Tom Moore, Executive Director of the COIC, presented an outline of the services they are contracted to provide for the next four years, beginning on July 1, 2007. Mr. Moore indicated that they will likely be looking for additional office space, as the current space in the Chamber of Commerce Building will not be adequate for the future.

Commissioner Winters asked if the COIC office will have a bi-lingual person on staff. Mr. Moore indicated that they will partner as appropriate with other agencies or facilities to have an interpreter available as needed. The COIC has staff in Central Oregon which is fluent in Spanish.

The Board reviewed documents listing the services provided by the COIC, as provided in their handout.

Mr. Moore indicated that the award of the contract to the COIC by The Oregon Consortium (TOC) has been appealed and denied by TOC. It will likely be appealed to a higher level.

Mr. Kevin Bradley indicated that they have had some success with student workers being placed in Lakeview businesses. They hope to have continued success, and he outlined the various projects and contacts that have been made with the Federal Government and with local business.

Commissioner Kestner asked what the COIC's economic strategy is, and how it might benefit all of Lake County.

Mr. Moore indicated that COIC is primarily focused on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and on community development projects. It was mentioned that the Economic Development entity in Central Oregon is similar to South Eastern Oregon

Economic Development District (SCOEDD) in Klamath Falls. A separate entity works with specific Economic Development business recruitment programs.

Commissioners Shoun and Kestner asked for contact information for this group, and stated that they would like to speak with this entity.

Commissioner Winters asked about the membership of the Board for the entity in Central Oregon. Mr. Moore indicated that probably not since their Board is a Council of Governments.

Commissioner Shoun indicated that our contact will likely be through Ms. Kris Latimer of TOC since they are the oversight body that awarded this contract. Mr. Moore indicated that that was correct.

### **Modoc Northern Railroad (MNRR)**

Mr. Don Blansett and Mr. Ed Almacher from the MNRR were present to update the Board. Mr. Kerry Hart from Fort Collins, Colorado, representing the Railroad Commission, was also present.

Commissioner Winters indicated that Mr. Blansett has brought additional amendments to the Track Lease, and said that he wished to speak about a derailment that occurred last week, and about a request for capital.

Mr. Blansett outlined the MNRR's need to upgrade the infrastructure on the line. He then described the area near Sugar Hill, in California, that has been a source of continual problems. He then described what the proper fix will be to best reduce future problems for that approximately 1000 foot stretch of track. The upgrade will cost approximately \$51,394 for materials only. Mr. Blansett explained the MNRR balance owed to the County of \$30,000. He asked if the County would be willing to work with the MNRR in order to reduce some of the monies owed, so that the MNRR could have the additional working capital to put towards the track repairs.

Commissioner Shoun apologized, stating that he is the Commissioner who is the least familiar with the Track Lease. He's struggling with the idea that unless the Lease outlines the County's responsibility to invest in upgrades, it's difficult for him to support.

Mr. Blansett indicated that the Lease indicates that if the County chooses to have the MNRR pay for the upgrades that the MNRR would then own the upgrade which is on County Property. If the County chooses to participate, then the County will own the upgrade.

Mr. Almacher indicated that the Railroad is in very bad shape, and that these issues need to be addressed through track upgrades.

Mr. Blansett indicated that his request of \$15,000 in relief monies will pay for approximately half of the cost of the 1050 foot area in question.

Mr. Kerry Hart addressed the Board as both a shipper on the Railroad, and as Chairman of the Lake County Railroad Commission. He suggested that the Commission is in support of the \$15,000 request, and indicated that he will have a written recommendation for the Board of Commissioners by the Regular Board meeting scheduled for next week.

Commissioner Shoun asked if there will be a plan available for which other areas of the track need to be addressed and/or upgraded.

Mr. Hart indicated that is part of a longer term plan for maintenance on the Railroad, but that this project is more of an emergency issue that needs to be addressed outside of the full engineering plan.

Commissioner Kestner asked if this engineering plan will segregate maintenance work from upgrade work.

Mr. Blansett said that, yes, it would, and then he outlined the need to bring the track out of Excepted Status so that it is at least at a Class 1 Status. He then discussed the various work that needs to be addressed and the means to assemble the work crew.

Commissioner Kestner verified that the discussion that will be brought before the Board next week will be regarding the Emergency plan for the repairs on the Railroad. A plan will be provided by the next Work Session on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 and that plan will be discussed at the Regular Session on Wednesday, May 16, 2007.

### **Business Department**

Business Manager Robin Drinkwater presented the Insurance Committee's unanimous recommendation of the Preferred Health Plan utilizing tiered rates and an 80/20 match.

Ms. Drinkwater indicated that issues with the Teamster plan include:

1. A mandate that 51% of the County employees have to be Union employees in order to be eligible.
2. The plan has a composite Rate, with no 'Opt-out' option.

She reviewed two spreadsheets that compare Composite Rates vs. Tiered Rates.

Discussion followed regarding the impact to the General Fund, and regarding comparisons to existing health benefits.

Commissioners Winters expressed appreciation to the Insurance Committee for their hard work.

Due to the time sensitive matter of scheduling and ensuring that this program is implemented by July 1, 2007 the Board will need to make a decision on this program today.

**Upon motion by Commissioner Kestner, seconded by Commissioner Shoun and carried unanimously; the Lake County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the proposal to contract with Preferred Health Plan Insurance at the 80/20 rate as recommended by the Insurance Committee.**

Commissioner Shoun expressed the desire to pursue a wellness program within the County in the future. The Board agreed that this was something they need to look into.

*Five minute break at 11:20 a.m.  
Meeting resumed at 11:25 a.m.*

### **Building Department**

Mr. Pardee outlined the two Intergovernmental Agreements: IGA #2007-041 regarding residential inspections in Deschutes County and IGA #90G000022 regarding electrical permits.

### **Mental Health Amendments**

The Board will review the amendments to the Mental Health Agreement before next week's meeting.

### **Liaison Updates**

Commissioner Winters updated the Board on communication with Mr. Butch Hanson from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding the request for a traffic study in Summer Lake.

There will be a South Central Oregon Economic Development District (SCOEDD) Area Commission on Transportation (ACT) meeting on May 18, 2007 to approve the SCOEDD meeting. It is vital to have a minimum of two Commissioners present.

Commissioner Winters will attend the May 2007 Christmas Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting. Commissioner Kestner will attend the June 2007 Chamber of Commerce meeting in Christmas Valley.

Commissioner Winters announced that Union Negotiations will begin on May 16, 2007.

Commissioner Kestner will attend the KQIK radio session on May 16, 2007 at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioner Kestner asked about the Chevron at the corner of the road near the Corner Café. Commissioner Winters indicated that he has spoken with Mr. Butch Hanson with the Oregon Department of Transportation, and that the work is in process.

Commissioner Kestner indicated that the Mental Health audit will be sometime in mid-June 2007, due to a miscommunication about the schedule. He is also trying to identify the past practice of how administration fees were issued in the contract with Lutheran Family Services (LFS). He indicated that there is much work to be done there. He has received three responses from Wallowa County, Harney County and the Lakeview Center for Change which has submitted information in response to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) which was sent out last week. The Mental Health Advisory Board is in the process of reviewing this information. Commissioner Kestner will ask for a Special Session when the Advisory Board has a recommendation on which RFQ to pursue.

Commissioner Kestner reported that with the 911/IGC issue, the County Commissioners should step in and take action. He recommended that each Commissioner have a discussion with Legal Counsel Bailey regarding the possible course of action.

Commissioner Shoun indicated that he will be in Klamath Falls tomorrow to meet with Mr. Barry Faginello of Klamath-Lake Education Training Institute (KLETI), and with Commissioner Brown of Klamath County regarding the status of KLETI's disallowed costs and transition planning.

Commissioner Shoun has been working through the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) to stay updated with efforts that are being lobbied in Congress to get the County Payments put back into place.

Commissioner Shoun expects to spend time on the County Roads with Road Master Rick DuMilieu in order to better understand how to get projects in place for un-incorporated communities around the County. They will work together to bring suggestions to the Board.

The Board discussed various job openings.

### **Office Updates**

Mr. Pardee reported on the status of the County Web Site. He is hoping to make the first attempt to update the web site by the end of the day today. If it works, then ongoing updates will be possible. He needs to rethink how the web site is currently managed.

Mr. Pardee shared that the Calendar of Events for the Board will be worked on in the next week.

He stated that the Oregon Public Property Managers Association (OPPMA) Meeting was a great success.

Mr. Pardee will be out of town on Thursday.

Mr. Pardee indicated that regarding the vacation carryover issue, he needs to determine what Junior's schedule may be for the next six weeks, and then make arrangements for him to utilize the vacation time before the end of June 2007.

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFW) Facility**

The Board had some discussion regarding what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife reported they are going to pursue by moving the offices from the Lakeview Post Office to a new facility. This new facility is on private property that would ultimately be pulled from the tax rolls. Commissioner Shoun suggested that our Congressmen should be contacted and be asked to be aware of the proposal. Commissioner Winters will follow up on this issue.

### **Nuisance Updates**

Mr. Pardee indicated that there are still two new complaints pending, and suggested that the Board needs to schedule time to fully understand the current issues, so that the Board decisions to invoke action can be taken soon.

There being nothing further to come before the Board, the Lake County Board of Commissioners Work Session adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert R. Pardee  
Administrative Assistant

Board Approval,

Bradley J. Winters  
Chairman

Ken Kestner  
Vice Chairman

Dan Shoun  
Commissioner