BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

July 27, 2010

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, July 27, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. The following members were present: Chairman Ken Kestner, Dan Shoun and Bradley J. Winters. Also present: SCOEDD Economic Development Specialist Sara Swank, Administrative Assistant/Lands Manager Bob Pardee and Clerical Assistant Karen Smith.

Additions: Fair Board Member Recommendations: Quit Claim Deed – Jerald & Verlinda Simmons: Road Department Potential Contract Agreement -Ruby Pipeline, LLC:
Deletions: None

Public Comment:

Joe Elder, Citizen, come before the Board expressing concern about their 40% pay increase. He inquired about the dollar amount being received by each Commissioner. Commissioner Winters indicated the Treasurer’s office could give him the correct yearly amounts. Commissioner Winters continued to explain the wages of the Board had been made equal to other elected officials based input from the Compensation Review Committee.

Mr. Elder expressed this was done in the worst recession since World War II.

Commissioner Winters indicated this decision was made more than a year ago and had gone through two budget cycles. Mr. Elder responded “we are still in a recession”. Discussion continued on the economy of Lake County and the history of the recommendation made in regards to the raise the Board of Commissioners received.

Commissioner Kestner asked if during the recession, was that not the best time for the County Commissioner’s to work in a full time capacity for the County. Mr. Elder responded “how would he know, he was not a Commissioner”. Mr. Elder continued by asking if they felt they needed $16,000 more just to sit.

Mr. Elder asked the Board how many worked, in addition to the Commissioner’s position, at a full time job. Commissioner Winters responded this was their full time job.

Commissioner Shoun indicated historically, not only in Lake County, there were years when the Commissioner’s position was only a part time position. Mr. Elder repeated himself saying; “this took place during the worst recession since World War II”. Commissioner Kestner indicated the budget had been studied before a decision was made. Mr. Elder asked
where the money was coming from, “was it from the state of Oregon because it is $14 billion in the hole or the federal government which is $1.6 trillion in the hole”.

Commissioner Shoun explained the current setting Commissioner’s got an increase to make them equal to the lowest paid officials for doing the same type of work, which had been proposed for a long time. “There was never a good time for the raise but we have our financial “house” in order”. “This allows a lot of people to have the opportunity to sit in these positions”.

Discussion continued on the Board of Commissioners working very hard to get money for Lake County, jobs for Lake County and work to sustain jobs.

Mr. Elder asked why the increase was not phased in gradually.

Bob Pardee explained that in the last 6 to 8 years this Board, and the previous sitting Board, had gone through the effort to adjust employee salaries closer to market wage. This included adjusting the salary of department heads and other elected officials so they were equally compensated. The very last adjustment made, based on the recommendation of a panel of citizens and based on the approval of the budget committee, was to raise the pay scale for the Board of Commissioner’s. Mr. Pardee continued by recommending that Mr. Elder become a member of the budget committee to have input before decisions are made. Mr. Elder responded he would like to do this but was unable because of caring for his father.

Mr. Elder continued by saying there were a lot of older citizens upset by the pay raise taken by the Board of Commissioners because of the $500 billion being cut from Social Security. He continued to say ‘they won’t get a pay increase for two years’.

Commissioner Kestner indicated they had considered doing the increase in 1/3 increments but indicated that would have upset people as well.

Discussions continued with Mr. Elder stating the Board of Commissioners were doing a great job.

Mr. Elder continued with the biomass plant coming into Lakeview and Lake County having the worst air in the State.

Commissioner Winters continued by saying that all of the factors were looked at before making a decision to support the biomass.

Discussion continued on Collins Pine sawmill and the EPA air quality standards.

Commissioner Kestner indicated the need to move on with the meeting, and encouraged Mr. Elder to come in and talk with each Commissioner individually if he has any further concerns.

9:00 a.m. – Facility / Space Planning ~ Discussion:

Commissioner Kestner stated time was short and a decision needed to be made in regards to the space planning. He indicated some proposal needed to be decided on, and soon.
It was agreed by all that time was running short, as soon a new administrative assistant would be hired and there was still no designated work space for the new Property and Land Department.

Mr. Pardee indicated he had been working with Brian Mayer, State Water Master, on the proposed adjustment of his work space.

9:30 a.m. – Lake County Watershed Council ~ Marci Schreder:
Project Proposal / Funding Request:

Marci Schreder, Lake County Watershed Council, came before the Board to ask for Title III funds for their project proposal. She continued by giving the Board some background information on the proposed project involving students in a backcountry resource program. Mrs. Schreder listed the organizations involved in this project; Collins Timber, Oregon State University Extension, Lake County Cooperative Weed Management, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fremont/Winema Forests, Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of State Forestry. The program includes a backcountry camp set up where the students stay to attend different sessions put on by experts from the different fields. It is designed to teach the students how to manage for different options (range land, forest land). Mrs. Schreder indicated this funding request would pay for the supplies that would be needed for two full days for the students, involving every high school in the County.

Commissioner Winters indicated this program had been in place for a number of years. He indicated he hoped the Watershed Council had feedback from students that have gone on to college because of this program. Commissioner Winters indicated the Board would need to check on how many Title III dollars were available.

Commissioner Winters asked how the program would be sustainable when Title III dollars were no longer available. Mrs. Schreder answered they were hoping for a 5 year program and are working on other partnerships to make it sustainable after that, indicating it was a very important educational program.

Commissioner Shoun proposed the Board check into the funding this week to make a decision by next week.

Commissioner Kestner asked this be moved to the next Work Session on August 3rd for a decision in the Regular Session on August 4th.

Other Business:

Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2009 & March 4, 2009:


Commissioner Winters asked Commissioner Kestner if he had received any paperwork back on the 911 system from the Town of Lakeview. Commissioner Kestner answered he had not.
ORMAP Contract #2433:
Commissioner Kestner inquired if Legal Counsel had looked at the grant documentation and if there were any red flags the Board should be made aware of.

Phil Israel, Tax Assessor, indicated the document only needed the Board’s signatures.

Mr. Pardee indicated he had submitted the document to Jim Bailey, Legal Counsel yesterday and there were no issues with it. He continued to say it was a typical grant agreement with the State of Oregon, as has been done in the past.

Discussion continued on the grant received, where the money had been put in the Assessor’s budget and the type of machine received.

Mr. Pardee indicated Mr. Israel had been able to offset the new file server cost with this grant by $5,000 as well.

Commissioner Kestner asked if it was time sensitive for the Board to sign the document. Mr. Israel answered ‘yes’.

Commissioner Winters moved to accept the Department of Revenue ORMAP Intergovernmental Agreement Contract #2433 as presented in the amount of $14,400.00. Commissioner Shoun second. Motion carried.

Addition: Fair Board Member Recommendation:
Commissioner Kestner indicated a recommendation had been submitted by the Fair Board for a new Fair Board member. He explained that Junior Gabriel had resigned from his position on the Fair Board and Dustin Counts name was submitted to fill his position.

Commissioner Winters moved to accept the recommendation to appoint Dustin Counts to the Lake County Fair Board to fill the vacant Fair Board member position. Commissioner Kestner second. Motion carried.

Commissioner Winters asked for a 5 minute break to review the agreement document submitted by the Road Department.

Recess: 9:40 a.m.
Reconvene: 9:45 a.m.

Addition: Quitclaim Deed:
Bob Pardee indicated the Quitclaim Deed for parcel #2008-101 was the result of the purchaser, from the 2008 land sale, satisfying the terms of the contract of sale. He indicated it was not time sensitive.

Commissioner Shoun moved to approve the Quitclaim Deed for Parcel #2008-101 to Jerald N. and Verlinda Simmons as presented. Commissioners Winters second. Motion carried.
Addition: Road Department Potential Contract:

Commissioner Winters indicated the draft agreement the Road Department had submitted was for a contract for the hauling on County roads by Ruby Pipeline and El Paso Natural Gas. He indicated the draft agreement had been reviewed by Rick DuMilié, Lake County Road Master and Jim Bailey Legal Counsel.

Commissioner Winters continued by saying he would like to get the Board’s approval to move ahead with the agreement contingent upon Legal Counsel’s approval of the changes he wanted to propose.

Commissioner Winters moved to accept the agreement between Lake County and El Paso Natural Gas / Ruby Pipeline, LLC contingent upon Legal Counsel’s review. Commissioner Shoun second.

Discussion: Commissioner Kestner asked if this agreement had been discussed with members of the pipeline. Commissioner Winters answered he would hand deliver the agreement and follow through.

Discussion continued on the draft agreement.

Commissioner Kestner further explained the need for the agreement to the press.

Motion carried.

Liaison Updates:

Commissioner Winters reported that last Friday, members from Rockford Corporation, the Road Department and himself had met together to discuss the County roads. He continued to say that the Oregon Department of Transportation would be putting on a class in regards to hauling on the road system. He indicated the meeting was very positive and they had toured where Ruby’s equipment is being stored.

Commissioner Winters reported today the Town of Lakeview would be meeting on the annexation of county land for use as a work camp. He asked Commissioner Kestner if the Board was still in agreement with the motion that had been made. Commissioner Kestner answered the original motion was to consent to the annexation of only what was being developed at this time.

Commissioner Kestner continued by saying in communication with Ray Simms he has indicated the annexation should only be on the developed land.

Discussion continued on the other land being annexed when developed.

Commissioner Kestner reported on who would be doing the construction on the work camp area and the time line would be about 4-1/2 weeks.

Discussion continued on the increase of business in the area.

Commissioner Kestner updated the Board on the 911 issues – the proposal to have the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) involved in regards to the money the County would be contributing. Discussion continued on the Intergovernmental Agreement for 1993 that the Judge
had indicated the County needed to go back to and amend. Also discussed was the dispatch language having a direct impact on the budget.

Commissioner Shoun gave a brief report on the meetings he had been attending by saying he had just received the Wild Land Fire strategy. A group of County representatives will be spending time interfacing with members of Congress about this strategy. They were able to make a lot of headway with management of the natural resources; getting language in the public land side in regards for offsets as we move forward with the authorization; the Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILT) monies were also discussed and how it will all fit in. He continued by saying it was a very, very good set of meetings.

Discussion continued on the documents Commissioner Shoun had received.

Commissioner Winters gave a quick fire update: Harney County and the Sheldon area approx. 100 acres – the red & dead area also but those were taken care of pretty quickly. He stated that all fires have been relatively small except for the Sheldon area.

There being nothing further to come before the Board, the Lake County Board of Commissioners Work Session adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert R. Pardee
Property and Land Manger

Board Approval,

{Not Present when approved}  

Ken Kestner  
Chairman

Dan Shoun  
Vice Chairman

Bradley J. Winters  
Commissioner