

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Present: Commissioner R. Matthew Scarfo, Chair
Commissioner Donna Beverage

Commissioner Scarfo opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was given with Commissioner Scarfo and Commissioner Beverage present.

AGENDA REVIEW

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, requested to add Court Order 2024-16 Appointment to the Wallowa-Union Railroad Authority under Administrative Matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Scarfo closed the public comment period.

ELECTED OFFICIAL, DEPARTMENT HEAD & EMPLOYEE COMMENTS

Burn Ban Extension

Craig Kretschmer, La Grande Rural Fire Chief, presented the Burn Ban Extension request to the Commissioners for their consideration.

On July 22, 2024, at the request of the Union County Fire Defense Board, the Board of Commissioners implemented a complete burn ban in Union County. At this time, due to decreased fire danger and increased availability of resources, the Fire Defense Board recommends retracting the complete burn ban. By approving this request, the county would fall back into the regulated closure set forth in Ordinance 2024-02.

Commissioner Beverage is thankful that Union County is not currently experiencing fire impacts as other counties are.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to lift the Burn Ban as requested. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried.

Union County went into regulated closure on July 1 through September 30. In regulated closure, landowners and tenants are allowed to have recreational fires and use burn barrels while following the requirements outlined in Ordinance 2024-02. No open burning is allowed, and landowners and tenants in dual protected areas would be required to follow guidelines set forth from Oregon Department of Forestry.

The Union County Fire Defense Board recommends extending the regulated closure from September 30 through October 2. This would allow time to monitor conditions and make a further recommendation at the October 2 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the extension of the regulated burn ban from September 30 to October 2, 2024. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried.

Deflection Program Grant

Valerie Schlichting, Victim Assistance Program Director, presented the Deflection Program Grant to the Commissioners for their consideration.

This grant agreement is between Union County and the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to assist in funding Behavioral Health Deflection Grant Program. The agreement is effective immediately upon signing and will expire on June 30, 2025.

Upon execution of the agreement, CJC shall disburse grant funds to Union County in two separate installments of \$75,000 each.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the Behavioral Health Deflection Program Grant Agreement for \$150,000 as presented. Commissioner Scarfo seconded.

Commissioner Beverage thanked the District Attorney's office for all their hard work in getting Deflection Program up and running.

Commissioner Scarfo is anxious to see the results of the program.

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Beverage moved approval of the consent agenda which included September 4, 10 & 11, 2024 claims journals and August 7, 21 and September 4, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Old Growth Amendment Letter

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Old Growth Amendment Letter to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Commissioner Anderes drafted the comment letter that was discussed during a work session previously held. The comment letter is on the amendments to the land management plan to address old growth forests across the national forest system. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated there were no comments relayed to her regarding the draft and is seeking approval.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the Old Growth Amendment Letter as presented. Commissioner Scarfo seconded.

Commissioner Beverage would like to thank Commissioner Anderes and those involved in drafting this letter and acknowledged the importance of submitting the letter.

Motion carried.

Court Order 2024-15: Appointment to the Opioid Abatement Advisory Committee

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Court Order 2024-15 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

The Union County Board of Commissioners established the Opioid Abatement Advisory Committee on August 21, 2024 by Resolution 2024-11. The Opioid Abatement Advisory Committee is comprised of eleven (11) members serving at the direction of the agency they represent as well as two appointed lay members.

The lay positions have been advertised and an application has been received from Kylee Ingerson expressing an interest in serving.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve Court Order 2024-15; In the Matter of Appointment to the Opioid Abatement Advisory Committee. Commissioner Scarfo seconded.

Both Commissioners thanked Kylee Ingerson for volunteering her time to serve on this committee.

Motion carried.

Court Order 2024-16: Appointment to the Wallowa-Union Railroad Authority

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Court Order 2024-16 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

The term for Cory Miller is due for renewal and Mr. Miller has been an active member of the Wallowa-Union Railroad Authority who has expressed interest in continuing to serve.

His new term will expire on July 31, 2028.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve Court Order 2024-16; In the Matter of Appointment to the Wallowa-Union Railroad Authority as presented. Commissioner Scarfo seconded.

Both Commissioners thanked Cory Miller for volunteering his time on this committee. He has been a big help.

Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Beverage attended the Governor's Luncheon in Pendleton. She enjoys networking with all of the legislators. She also attended the Safe Communities Coalition meeting last night

tying up loose ends on the Drug Free Walk/Run to be held on MERA this coming Saturday at 9 am.

Commissioner Scarfo will be attending AOC Legislative Days in Salem next week pushing for the waste water projection at the fairgrounds.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 9 AM.

The next special session meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 9 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Scarfo adjourned the meeting at 9:18 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Moore
Senior Department Specialist