

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Present: Commissioner Paul Anderes, Chair
Commissioner R. Matthew Scarfo (via Teleconference.
Commissioner Jake Seavert

Commissioner Anderes opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was given with all three Commissioners participating.

AGENDA REVIEW

There were no items to add or delete at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ELECTED OFFICIAL, DEPARTMENT HEAD & EMPLOYEE COMMENTS

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan – Letter of Commitment

Nick Vora, Emergency Manager, addressed the Commissioners with a brief overview of his request for a letter of commitment.

The purpose of this letter is to provide support for the Department of Land Conservation and Development's (DLCD) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) FY 2024 grant application. To apply for and/or be eligible to receive funds, all counties must have an active Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) and is required to be updated every five (5) years. DLCDC would update Union County's plan under this grant if received. Union County would commit to the necessary 25 percent match.

Commissioner Seavert asked if we start the process this soon, what is the timeline for the funding. Emergency Manager Vora indicated that there would be an updated plan by 2026.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Letter of Commitment with Authorization of Nick Vora to sign a letter of commitment with a 25% match up to \$25,000 as presented. Commissioner Seavert seconded.

Commissioner Seavert thanked Emergency Manager Vora for getting a jump start on this.

Motion carried unanimously.

Homeland Security Grant Award

Nick Vora, Emergency Manager, presented the Homeland Security Grant Award to the Commissioners for their consideration.

On behalf of the Union County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Services applied for a State Homeland Security Grant Award with the State of Oregon to fund multi-band portable radios for use by local first responders. There are no local agencies in Union County with multi-band radios capable of communicating with our partner agencies in Umatilla County.

Total grant funds available are in the amount of \$32,990 to allow for the purchase of seven (7) multi-band radios. The deadline to accept the grant agreement is February 10, 2025.

There is not a match requirement, however, the agreement does have an obligation of the county to use the funds for the intended purpose.

Commissioner Seavert made a motion to approve the Homeland Security Grant Agreement 24-239 to purchase 7 Multi-Band Radios presented by Emergency Manager Vora. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Manager Vora referred to the second page of his staff report that discusses the quote related to contract pricing and asked if the motion approves both of those requests.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to authorize Emergency Manager Vora to make the purchase as quoted. Commissioner Seavert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FY 2025-27 Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Plan

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, provided a brief overview of the STIF Plan to the Commissioners for their information. She also reported that the STIF Advisory Committee met on December 16, 2024 and recommended approval of the proposed projects and recommended funding.

Patrick Hemann, Transit Manager, provided background on the Green, Yellow Blue routes and their availability within the city. If the passenger needs a ride to a different location, a phone call is required to deviate the route. He also provided background on Rides to Wellness, CATLink and Greyhound. Greyhound will no longer be available in Union County beginning January 16, 2025, however there is an anticipation the service will return, which is why it is still included in the funding request.

Kane Lester also provided background on the upgrade of transportation services available in Union County.

Commissioner Seavert and Commissioner Anderes thanked Mr. Hemann and Mr. Lester for CCNO's transportation services available to Union County residents.

Commissioner Anderes doesn't believe there was anything wrong with transportation in Union County, but Kane and Patrick have brought it to a new level.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the FY 2025-27 STIF Plan as presented with authorization to submit the STIF Plan to the state. Commissioner Seavert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Scarfo moved approval of the consent agenda which included December 18, 19 & 31, 2024 claims journals and the December 4, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Seavert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

There were no items to present.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Seavert thanked staff in getting him settled in his new office. He also thanked the local community as it is an honor to represent the residents of Union County.

Commissioner Anderes asked for a legal ruling of the term limits for Commissioners. Administrative Officer Burgess will reach out to legal counsel and follow up at the next commission meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2025 at 9 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Anderes adjourned the meeting at 9:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Moore
Senior Department Specialist