

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 2, 2025

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

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

AGENDA REVIEW

There were no revisions to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Anderes reminded guests providing public comment that this is not a time for debate or to engage with the Commissioners.

Irene Gilbert, 2310 Adams Avenue, La Grande, provided a copy of her comments to the Commissioners regarding HB 3681 which requires the Energy Facility Siting Council to conclude a contested case and issue a final order within 12 months from the date of a proposed order. She gave a little background on the importance of participating in the bill. She is very concerned with the limited information that will be in the record if this is passed. Ms. Gilbert also presented a copy of a letter from Idaho Power to Mr. Gregory Larkin. He expressed concern about how property owners are being treated.

There were no more further comments. Commissioner Anderes closed the public comment period.

ELECTED OFFICIAL, DEPARTMENT HEAD & EMPLOYEE COMMENTS

Public Works Department Surplus Property

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, addressed the Commissioners with the Surplus Property proposal for their consideration.

Union County Public Works Department is requesting to surplus used equipment that no longer suits their department. Director Wright included an inventory list of 30 items with the proposed auction price provided to the Commissioners for their information.

Commissioner Seavert indicated that the City of Elgin was looking for a street sweeper. Director Wright indicated it is up for public auction and anyone is welcome to bid.

Commissioner Seavert made a motion to approve the Public Works Department Surplus Property List available for public auction. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Seavert moved approval of the consent agenda which included March 19, 26 & 27, 2025 claims journals and the February 19, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Recycling Modernization Act Funding Designation

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Recycling Modernization Act Funding Designation to the Commissioners for their consideration.

In 2024, the Recycling Modernization Act was enacted. Union County is eligible to receive compensation for eligible costs under OAR 340-090-0810 for recycling expenditures. The administrative rules allow the county to designate the compensation directly to the service providers. Administrative Officer Burgess is requesting Waste Pro to be the recipient of the funding. There are five categories in which they can apply for the funding, Waste Pro won't automatically receive the grant. Waste Pro will have to show costs in these categories that qualify. The categories are transportation, contamination evaluation, contamination reduction programming, recycling service expansion, which was identified in the Needs Assessment, and purchase of post-consumer recycled content collection containers.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve Waste Pro as the Recipient and Applicant of the Recycling Modernization Act Funding as presented. Commissioner Seavert seconded.

Commissioner Scarfo asked how competitive the funding is. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that it is statewide but designated by region.

Motion carried unanimously.

2025 Wolf Compensation Grant ODA-4609-GR

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the Wolf Compensation Grant ODA-4609-GR to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Union County has received notification from the Oregon Department of Agriculture that we have been awarded \$69,176.31 under the Wolf Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program. We will receive \$15,980 in Category 1 for Death or Injury of Livestock or Working Dogs, and \$53,196.31 in Category 3 for Non-Lethal Prevention efforts.

The county did not receive funding in Category 2 for missing livestock.

Commissioner Seavert made a motion to approve the Wolf Compensation Grant ODA-4609-GR as presented. Commissioner Scarfo seconded.

Commissioner Scarfo wonders how much money it is going to take to keep the wolves out of this side of the state. Quit feeding the problem and throwing our states money out the window.

Commissioner Seavert said because of limited of funding, ODA did not fund missing livestock in any county of Oregon. He wants to see the wolves managed to avoid these losses.

Motion carried unanimously.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Scarfo commented that HB2527 passed out of committee this morning and is on its way to Ways and Means. It has been a long 6 years to get the county fair wastewater project this far and its exciting to see things moving.

Commissioner Seavert has been working with local farmers and ranchers on the elk population in the valley over the winter. He is working collaboratively with ODF&W trying to come up with options and possibilities to keep that population down in the winter.

Commissioner Anderes commented that the joint ways and means will meet on April 11,2025 at EOU in Loso Hall from 5-7 pm. He will be on the east coast for NACo next week but will return on Friday.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2025 at 9 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Anderes adjourned the meeting at 9:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Moore
Senior Department Specialist