

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 7, 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

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

ELECTED OFFICIAL, DEPARTMENT HEAD & EMPLOYEE COMMENTS

Airport Ground Lease

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, presented the Airport Ground Lease to the Commissioners for their consideration.

This is a sale of a hangar between Cascade Aggregate and Minam Aviation. Minam Aviation is purchasing from Cascade Aggregate which would require a new ground lease with Minam Aviation.

Commissioner Anderes thanked Director Wright for bringing this forward.

**Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the Airport Ground Lease as presented.
Commissioner Seavert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mutual Aid Agreement

Nick Vora, Emergency Manager, presented the Mutual Aid Agreement to the Commissioners for their consideration.

This Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement establishes a Mutual Aid Assistance Program and contains procedures and standards for a water and wastewater Utility Mutual Aid Assistance Program. This agreement is entered into by Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (ORWARN) and Union County.

Unless restricted by Oregon statutes, the term of this agreement shall be for 5 years and shall be automatically renewed for additional terms of five years each unless otherwise notified by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Seavert asked if there was an obligation for reimbursement or if this is considered a loan. Emergency Manager indicated there is an obligation for reimbursement under the requesting agency in the agreement, but the responding agency can waive that, which is commonly done. The items utilized are typically temporary loans and then returned after the emergency.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement as presented by Emergency Manager Vora. Commissioner Seavert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Scarfo moved approval of the consent agenda which included April 16, 17, 23, 24, 25 & 30, 2025 claims journals and the March 19, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Seavert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Court Order 2025-10: In the Matter of Appointment to the Ambulance District Advisory Committee

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented Court Order 2025-10 to the Commissioners for their consideration.

There is a vacancy for an At-Large member representing the communities of Cove, Imbler, La Grande, or North Powder. An application has been received from Ken Patterson expressing a desire to serve on the Union County Ambulance District Advisory Committee.

Mr. Patterson resides within the designated At-Large area and meets the eligibility criteria for appointment. The term for this position expires June 30, 2026.

Commissioner Seavert made a motion to approve Court Order 2025-10; In the Matter of Emergency Repairs as presented. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: Court Order 2025-09 – In the Matter of Annexing Property into the La Grande Rural Fire Protection District

Staff Report

Inga Williams, Planning Director, provided a brief staff report to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Union County Planning Department received petitions from Brian and Carol Kruse to annex properties described in attached Exhibits A & B into the La Grande Rural Fire Protection District stating it was prepared to annex the subject properties into the La Grande Rural Fire Protection District.

Union County received letters from the La Grande Rural Fire Protection District stating it was prepared to annex the subject properties into the La Grande Rural Fire Protection District.

Public Comments

Carol Kruse, 60479 Bushnell Road, La Grande, addressed the Commissioners regarding Court Order 2025-09. She confirmed they are requesting the annexation.

Mrs. Kruse answered Commissioner Anderes' question about the properties being next to each other and indicated that one property does touch the other.

Commissioner Anderes closed the public comment period.

Discussion/Action

Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that it should be noted that the La Grande Rural Fire Protection District has agreed to annex the property into the district.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve Court Order 2025-09; In the Matter of Annexing Property into the La Grande Rural Fire Protection District as presented by Director Williams. Commissioner Seavert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Seavert will be leaving for county college through Sunday. He attended the Elgin Steak Feed on Saturday, which had a great turnout. He also attended the Wildhorse Foundation luncheon at the casino where they recognize all of their grant awardees. Last week, he was nominated as the Weed Board Co-Chair.

Commissioner Scarfo noted that the Friends of the Children event is this evening at the White Barn Estates. Loveland Safe Ride Fundraiser is this Saturday at 5 pm in the Benchwarmers parking lot. It is also EOU Blue and Gold weekend next weekend, with the Grand Staircase on Friday evening. He is heading to Salem on Sunday to continue working on the Fairgrounds Waste Water project funding.

Commissioner Anderes noted that the Ag Timber Parade is this Friday in Island City and added that next weekend is the 50th EOU Powwow. He returned on Monday from Salem, and had some good conversations down there with legislators regarding the Fairgrounds Waste Water project.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2025 at 9 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Anderes adjourned the meeting at 9:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Moore
Senior Department Specialist