

WEEKLY BUSINESS SESSION – February 24, 2016

9:00 a.m. – Anne G. Basker Auditorium
600 N.W. Sixth Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526

Present: Cheryl Walker, Chair; Keith Heck, Vice-Chair; and Simon Hare, Commissioner; Wendy Watkins, Recorder

These are meeting minutes only. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words.

Pursuant to notice through the media and in conformance with the Public Meeting Law, Cheryl Walker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Items discussed were as follows:

1. LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS:

- a. **Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 2016-001; An Ordinance Amending the Comprehensive Plan of Josephine County (Ordinance 81-11 as Amended), from Forest to Residential and Amend the Zoning Map of Josephine County (Ordinance 85-1 as Amended), from Woodlot Resource (WR) to Rural Residential (RR5). The Subject Property is Identified in the Josephine County Assessor's Records as Map 35-06-11, Tax Lot (TL) 1600. The Property Owners are Donald and Danelle Marvin. (First reading was held on February 10, 2016) (One original Ordinance filed with the County Clerk)**

Commissioner Hare made a motion to read the Ordinance by Title only, seconded by Commissioner Heck. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 3-0; Commissioner Hare – yes, Commissioner Heck – yes, and Commissioner Walker – yes.

Commissioner Walker read the Ordinance by Title only and James Black, Planner III, explained the Board approved the zone change on December 9, 2015 and in order to move forward an Ordinance needs to be passed to change the maps.

Commissioner Walker opened the Public Hearing for comment at 9:03 a.m.

None heard.

Commissioner Walker closed the Public Hearing at 9:03 a.m.

Commissioner Hare made a motion to approve the Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 2016-001, seconded by Commissioner Heck. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 3-0; Commissioner Hare – yes, Commissioner Heck – yes, and Commissioner Walker – yes.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS IN CONSIDERATION OF:

BOARD DECISIONS UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS WERE MADE AFTER PUBLIC COMMENT WAS RECEIVED

- a. **Approval of Resolution No. 2016-019; In the Matter of Referring to Josephine County Voters of the May 17, 2016, Primary Election an Advisory Question on Criminal Justice Services**

Wally Hicks, Legal Counsel, advised this is an advisory question to the citizens if they want the Board to ask the State to provide resources to the County for Criminal Justice services.

- b. **Approval of Resolution No. 2016-020; In the Matter of Referring to Josephine County Voters at the May 17, 2016, Primary Election an Advisory Question on the Rogue River's Proposed Federal Designation (One original Resolution returned to Legal to be filed with the County Clerk)**

Commissioner Walker stated this advisory question will ask the voters if they would like a quarter mile of privately owned properties along the Rogue River to be included into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

- c. **Approval of Contract for Personal Services between Josephine County and Women's Crisis Support Team for Victim Assistance Services (One original Contract filed with the County Clerk)**

- d. **Approval of Contract for Personal Services between Josephine County and Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance for Victim Assistance Services (One original Contract filed with the County Clerk)**

Nate Gairan, Community Corrections Director, announced he received notification from the State that the Justice Reinvestment Grant was approved for 1.1 million dollars and part of the grant requirement is to allocate 10 percent to Victim's Services, \$77,000 to the Women's Crisis Support Team, and \$33,000 to the Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance.

3. REQUESTS/COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: (Each person will be given three (3) minutes to speak)

Rycke Brown, Grants Pass, spoke about a proposed 9-1-1 services tax.

Larry Ford, Grants Pass, said last week he gave the wrong date for the Cannabis Symposium. The correct date will be Thursday, February 25, 2016 at the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

Sandi Cassanelli, Merlin, spoke about her concerns with Resolution No. 2016-019 and Resolution No. 2016-020.
Andres Blech, Sunny Valley, spoke about his dissatisfaction with the Ballot Title on Measure 1768.
Brad Converse, Josephine County, spoke about his dissatisfaction with the legality on Measure 1768.
Judy Ahrens, Josephine County, proposed schools have a Pride Day where students pick up trash in our County.
Dale Matthews, Grants Pass, spoke about his dissatisfaction to the advisory questions.
Laurie Johannsen, Josephine County, spoke about her dissatisfaction with how the Fielder Dam was removed.
Ray Smith, Cave Junction, spoke about his dissatisfaction with Resolution No. 2016-020.
Toni Webb, Grants Pass, spoke about meeting Donald Trump Jr. and submitted a letter she wrote (**Exhibit A**).

Board Discussion and Action – Agenda Item 2(a)

Commissioner Hare said he would like more information before making a decision and made a motion to table Resolution No. 2016-019; In the Matter of Referring to Josephine County Voters of the May 17, 2016, Primary Election an Advisory Question on Criminal Justice Services, seconded by Commissioner Heck. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 2-1; Commissioner Hare – yes, Commissioner Heck – yes, and Commissioner Walker – no.

Board Discussion and Action – Agenda Item 2(b)

Commissioner Hare made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-020; In the Matter of Referring to Josephine County Voters at the May 17, 2016, Primary Election an Advisory Question on the Rogue River's Proposed Federal Designation, seconded by Commissioner Heck. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 3-0; Commissioner Hare – yes, Commissioner Heck – yes, and Commissioner Walker – yes.

Board Discussion and Action – Agenda Item 2(c)

Commissioner Heck made a motion to approve the Contract for Personal Services between Josephine County and Women's Crisis Support Team for Victim Assistance Services, seconded by Commissioner Hare. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 3-0; Commissioner Hare – yes, Commissioner Heck – yes, and Commissioner Walker – yes.

Board Discussion and Action – Agenda Item 2(d)

Commissioner Heck made a motion to approve the Contract for Personal Services between Josephine County and Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance for Victim Assistance Services, seconded by Commissioner Hare. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 3-0; Commissioner Hare – yes, Commissioner Heck – yes, and Commissioner Walker – yes.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. **Minutes** (*Draft minutes are available for viewing in the Board's Office*)
County Administration Workshop – January 28, 2016
General Discussion – February 2, 2016
Weekly Business Session – February 3, 2016
Executive Session (Open Session) – February 3, 2016
County Administration Workshop – February 4, 2016
General Discussion – February 9, 2016
- b. **Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Judicial Department and Josephine County Community Corrections for Drug Court Services** (*One original IGA filed with the County Clerk and one original IGA returned to Community Corrections*)
- c. **Agreement for Work Crew Services with the Josephine County Public Works Department** (*One original Agreement filed with the County Clerk*)
- d. **Contract for Services between Josephine County and the City of Grants Pass for Work Crew Services** (*One original Contract filed with the County Clerk*)
- e. **Flexible Service Maintenance Agreement between the State of Oregon and Josephine County for Work Crew Services** (*Two original Agreements returned to Community Corrections for full execution*)
- f. **Resolution No. 2016-018; In the Matter of an Appointment to the Josephine County Rural Planning Commission** (*One original Resolution filed with the County Clerk*)

Board Discussion and Action:

Commissioner Hare made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Agenda Items 4(a) through 4(f) as listed, seconded by Commissioner Heck. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 3-0; Commissioner Hare – yes, Commissioner Heck – yes, and Commissioner Walker – yes.

- 5. OTHER: (ORS 192.640(1))** “. . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.”)

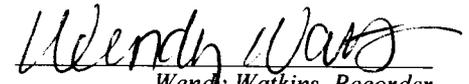
None reported.

6. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Walker received an email from Jay Meredith and asked his email to be entered into the record (**Exhibit B**).

Commissioner Heck spoke about the devastating news with the Illinois Valley Library being vandalized and severally trashed and said this is a community wide issue that needs to be addressed.

Weekly Business Session was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.


Wendy Watkins, Recorder

Entered into record:

Exhibit A – Toni Webb’s letter to Donald Trump

Exhibit B – Jay Meredith’s Email

Toni Webb
Josephine County, Oregon
toniwebb3@yahoo.com
541-450-3878



Exhibit A
WBS
2/24/16

(Ken Ivory, Allan Gardner, Toni Webb, Donald Trump Jr)

February 13, 2016

TO: Presidential Candidate Donald Trump & Donald Trump, Jr.

Gentlemen:

Thank you for reaching out to the American Lands Council to learn more about our position on the necessity of federal land transfer to the States and the divesting of that land.

I have come from Josephine County, Oregon, to attend this meeting with Donald Trump Jr.

Because of federal land-taking, we now have a broken county with a median household income less than the State of Mississippi. My father owned a sawmill here in the 1940's; anyone who wanted to work could easily find a job. In the 1960's, Josephine County had 53 sawmills; the revenue for Public Safety was around \$18 million per year. Josephine County, Oregon, has relied on the use of our natural resources for Public Safety, Education, and necessary Public Projects. We now live under the constant threat of having to close the jail; and this July we will receive our last congressional subsidy of \$4.3 million. Use of our resources has declined to the point that we are now an impoverished county largely dependent on welfare and government social services.

Yesterday—the last remaining sawmill in our county closed indefinitely because they could not get enough logs to fill orders. We've gone from 19 sheriff's patrols to a budget for only three patrols by this summer. Our County government laid off 127 people in 2012; 90 of those people were in the Sheriff's Department.

All promises from the Federal government to Josephine County have been broken. The government has not honored its commitment in the 1937 O&C Act, and the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service have reduced the timber harvests for two decades.

TO: Presidential Candidate Donald Trump & Donald Trump, Jr. (continued)

The BLM and Forest Service close vital roads throughout the county, so that we can't put out forest fires. Those agencies then refuse to let us log the burnt areas and derive some income from the catastrophe. **Management of our lands by Washington, DC, has proved to be a disaster to our county, both in terms of revenue for necessary services and in terms of modern forest management practices for sustainability.**

The EPA runs roughshod over our private and public lands; overly-zealous environmental activists derive much of their income from government grants. Environmental groups consistently portray logging as environmentally-destructive "clear-cutting", when in fact, **timber companies in Oregon are well-known for responsible, sustainable forest management.**

With this loss of use of our land to generate revenue and provide jobs come many of the **predictable social problems**, as indicated on the following page: drug abuse, health problems, rise in student dropout rate, children living in poverty, increased homelessness, and reliance on welfare subsidies. **This is the result of not having control and benefit of our county land.**

Poverty in Josephine County has reached the point that we cannot pass a property tax levy to fund public safety. Having barebones public safety negatively impacts our ability to retain and attract businesses and qualified workers.

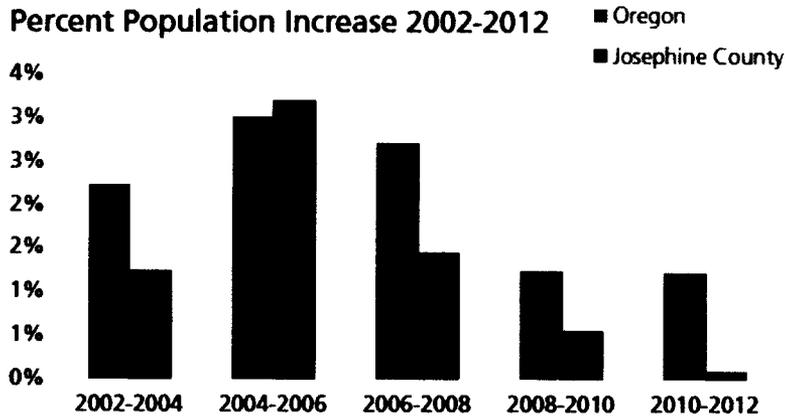
We would appreciate the support of Presidential Candidate Donald Trump for the transfer of our lands from federal mismanagement. **We need your help to prevent further loss and to reverse the losses that have plunged our county into poverty.** Whichever candidate emerges from the Presidential race, we will be looking to support the candidate who will be in favor of transferring the control of public lands to the states. If you want to Make America Great Again, start with Josephine County and help us help ourselves.

Thank you and Best Wishes,

Toni Webb

Toni Webb

Josephine County, Oregon, population: 84,000 Area: 1,642 sq. miles
68% of Public Land is controlled by the Federal Government



Source: PSU Population Research Center

- Outmigration of younger population**, who cannot find work.
- Influx of seniors**, largely from out-of-state, attracted by the low property tax (\$.58 per thousand in the county, outside the City of Grants Pass).
- 24% of the county population is over 65 years old.
- 30% of children in Josephine County live in poverty; 20% of adults 18-64 live below the poverty line.
- 65% of the children eligible for free/reduced cost lunches.
- Increased homelessness and reliance on welfare subsidies.

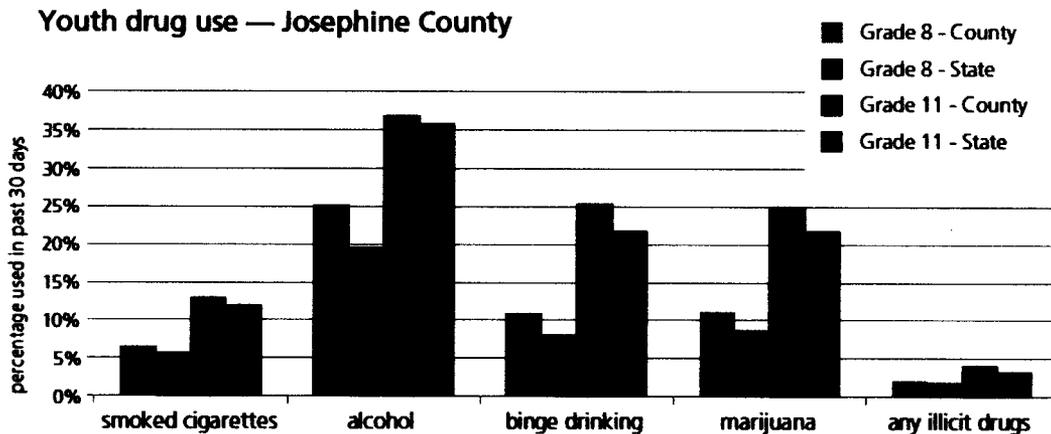
Drug abuse - #1 in Oregon for Rx drug abuse (seniors selling Opioids to supplement income). Rampant heroin, methamphetamine drug use. Approximately 125 babies born each year at hospital with drug addiction.

High school dropouts – 30-36% dropout rate throughout county. Misuse of funds allocated to school district. Dropout rate has not changed in 30 years.

Unemployment – 11%, estimated to be 20% in 18-30 age group. Rise in young people working part-time and growing marijuana.

Largest % employers: schools, health care, and social assistance.

County Health Ranking: 29th out of 33 counties in Oregon. High level of obesity-44% of adult population has chronic high blood cholesterol. 23% of children, grades 1-3, have rampant tooth decay; 62% of lower income children have at least one cavity.



Source: 2012 Oregon Student Wellness Survey

Exhibit B
WBS
2/24/16

Cherryl Walker

From: Jay <mkt_caster@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:03 AM
To: Keith Heck; Simon Hare; Cherryl Walker; Wally Hicks
Subject: Resolution No. 2016-019; Advisory Question on Public Safety Services

Dear Commissioners,

I cannot make your meeting tomorrow, so I would like to place the following comments on record in relation to the advisory question on public safety, specifically the following on your agenda:

Approval of Resolution No. 2016-019; In the Matter of Referring to Josephine County Voters of the May 17, 2016, Primary Election an Advisory Question on Public Safety Services

As someone that pays close attention to County business and the opinions out there on how we should work to solve our public safety / criminal justice challenges, I have a number of comments on this proposed action. Please forgive the relatively long letter but I did not get a chance to see your proposed ballot language before today.

First let me just say that it this advisory question does not appear to be needed. I'm having a really hard time figuring out why you need to hear the public's opinion of this because if there are truly no strings attached other than being able to negotiate with the Governor for financial assistance for our current emergency (no mandated higher tax or fee levels, State does not take control over programs), **then we should be declaring an emergency immediately and not waiting for an advisory vote. I think putting this to vote will only cloud the issue and make people even more nervous about the state coming in and assuming control of county operations and forcing higher taxes.**

And if you can't guarantee that an agreement with the state (Governor) would not result in higher tax/fee levels and would not result in the County losing control of any of its programs, you can't ask people to give their advisory yes or no on this question. This is an important distinction because I'm hearing many people out there that are fearful of the state coming in and taking over or forcing higher taxes. If this can't be guaranteed one way or the other, the advisory vote seems worthless.

In the ballot title you have "...if the County determines that it is financially unable to provide an adequate level of public safety services." Outside of the City of Grants Pass, our County has less law enforcement than many third world countries and the few deputies we have are only on the clock for less than half a day. We have zero detectives working for the County, the juvenile justice shelter/detention building remains closed, jail funding is not even coming close to meeting the needs, and the DA can't prosecute all the serious cases. And it might get worse next year if federal funding levels are reduced again. **We are already financially unable to provide adequate public safety services and right now it looks like it will get worse next year unless there is action at the federal level. We don't need a vote to affirm our financial status.**

So why do we need this vote? If all we're asking for is "free money" for a period of 18 months starting in the summer of 2017 and with the option to renew for another 18 months as was stated on the radio and as one can infer from reading this ballot title...why don't we declare an emergency today and get to work to see if we can come to an agreement with the state for some temporary revenues? Again,

why do we need to ask the public “would you like free money to help provide public safety services?” If we can dedicate some existing general fund revenues – around \$3 million or more that would have gone to public safety anyway...with no strings attached and no need to pay back the state, why wouldn't we want to do this as a bridge funding source while we work on other areas to direct resources to public safety?

It also may be beneficial to start negotiating the agreement with the state sooner rather than later. After all, we're in election season...perhaps our governor would like to show that she is being as helpful as possible to get us through this crisis? If we wait until later this year, or wait until the legislative session next year, our governor and governor staff will be extremely focused on either the election or the legislative session. It may be harder to capture their attention later this year or next year. And as we all know...with the speed of government we need to get started on negotiating a potential agreement right away if it is our intent to do so....it may take a significant amount of time as we might be the first county to ever try this.

Again, we are already in emergency today and we can't wait much longer to start planning on the what-if scenario of losing the rest of the federal SRS funds. Even if some federal funds are renewed at levels close to what they are today, we are still in emergency and still need to do this assuming as you say there really are no strings attached. Or at least we could try and negotiate a no strings attached emergency request and walk away if we can't get there.

But if for some reason you do need to send this to the ballot...please make the language more clear so people know exactly what they are voting on. The language is not very clear, and potentially downright scary to voters (meaning you may not get a true advisory opinion). For example the last sentence of the ballot title says “...agreement could include that...” which doesn't mean much. It should be a stronger statement that says “the Board would only agree to this if the State will pay for half the cost of agreed upon public safety services, and the County would pay for the other half....” and the same comment for the explanatory statement.

Explanatory statement – last sentence in the first paragraph says “...have remained at similar service levels.” This makes it sound like there haven't been any severe cuts to these services. You might amend that to say “similar service levels since after the large budget cuts in 2012.”

Explanatory statement – third paragraph, second sentence: I would recommend removing the scary comments about a 9-1-1 tax or other assessments. These types of comments will only fuel the fears that exist out there today. Why not just say the County will only offer existing revenue sources today as a match for this agreement?

Again, if we truly could get financial resources from the state with no strings attached, let's do that...yesterday. Because we are truly in an emergency today and it could get worse next year.

Let's do what we can to put some bridge funding in place to make up part of what we've lost in federal funding...and then let's make a concerted effort to have a major discussion with county residents and do the things that we can at the local level to solve this crisis.

Thanks,

Jay Meredith
Resident of Josephine County