

WEEKLY BUSINESS SESSION – March 2, 2016

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

Present: Cherryl 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, Cherryl Walker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Agenda items taken out of order due to guests present.

Items discussed were as follows:

1. RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES:

The Board announced the following employees not in attendance for their years of service:

Robert Keith – Public Works – 10 Years
Deborah Foster – Public Works – 20 Years
Diana Davis – Juvenile Justice – 20 Years

2. PROCLAMATION:

a. In the Matter of Proclaiming the Month of March 2016 as Oregon Problem Gambling Awareness Month *(One original Proclamation filed with the County Clerk)*

Commissioner Heck read and presented the Proclamation to Jean Linck, Options for Southern Oregon. Ms. Linck expressed the importance of this issue and said there is free treatment all over Oregon which is very easily accessible through the helpline at 877-My-Limit.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS IN CONSIDERATION OF:

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

a. Approval of Personal Services Contract for Transit Vehicle Cleaning *(One original Contract filed with the County Clerk and one original Contract returned to Transit)*

Commissioner Hare explained this contract is for the weekly cleaning of all County Transit Vehicles.

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

Dr. Christine Gardiner, read and submitted Support for small agriculture producers in Josephine County (**Exhibit A**).

Margaret Goodwin, Josephine County, spoke about her dissatisfaction regarding a request for declaration of public safety fiscal emergency.

Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger, Grants Pass, spoke about her dissatisfaction regarding a request for declaration of public safety fiscal emergency.

Larry Ford, Grants Pass, spoke about his appreciation with the Firewise Communities.

Bill Hunker, Merlin, spoke about how he feels there is no crime crisis in the County.

Commissioner Walker said she would stop public comment due to the audience being disrespectful. Commissioner Hare said he would like to continue with public comment.

Commissioner Hare made a motion to go ahead with public comment, seconded by Commissioner Heck. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 2-1; Commissioner Hare – yes, Commissioner Heck – yes, and Commissioner Walker – no.

Sandi Cassanelli, Merlin, spoke about her dissatisfaction regarding a request for declaration of public safety fiscal emergency.

Toni Webb, Grants Pass, spoke about her concern with Economic Development dollars being doled out inappropriately.

Mike Jones, Grants Pass, spoke about his dissatisfaction regarding a request for declaration of public safety fiscal emergency.

Mark Seligman, Selma, spoke about his dissatisfaction regarding a request for declaration of public safety fiscal emergency.

Judy Ahrens, Grants Pass, spoke about her concerns within Josephine County.

Kathy Svendsen, Grants Pass, spoke in support of Commissioner Walker and praised her work.

Christine Austin, Cave Junction, spoke about her dissatisfaction regarding a request for declaration of public safety fiscal emergency.

Raymond Smith, Cave Junction, spoke about his dissatisfaction regarding a request for declaration of public safety fiscal emergency.

Joseph Rice, Josephine County, spoke about Josephine County having a vandalism problem not a violent crime problem. Mark Collier, Grants Pass, spoke about his dissatisfaction regarding a request for declaration of public safety fiscal emergency.

Dale Matthews, Grants Pass, spoke about his dissatisfaction regarding a request for declaration of public safety fiscal emergency.

Board Discussion and Action – Agenda Item 3(a)

Commissioner Hare made a motion to approve the Personal Services Contract for Transit Vehicle Cleaning, seconded by Commissioner Heck. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 3-0; Commissioner Hare – yes, Commissioner Heck – yes, and Commissioner Walker – yes.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. **Minutes** (*Draft minutes are available for viewing in the Board's Office*)
County Administration Workshop – February 4, 2016 (*Minutes approved on February 24, 2016*)
County Administration Workshop – February 11, 2016
General Discussion – February 11, 2016
Weekly Business Session – February 17, 2016
Executive Session Meeting (Open Session) – February 17, 2016
County Administration Workshop – February 18, 2016
General Discussion – February 22, 2016
General Discussion – February 23, 2016
- b. **Request and Recommendation for the Disposition of Property Pursuant to Ordinance No. 2014-003** (*One original Recommendation filed with the County Clerk*)
- c. **Provider Agreement between Josephine County and Boys and Girls Club for Prevention Programs** (*One original Agreement filed with the County Clerk and one original Agreement returned to Juvenile Justice*)
- d. **Provider Agreement between Josephine County and Women's Crisis Support Team for Prevention Programs** (*One original Agreement filed with the County Clerk and one original Agreement returned to Juvenile Justice*)

Board Discussion and Action:

Commissioner Hare made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Agenda Items 5(a) through 5(d) as listed, seconded by Commissioner Heck. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 3-0; Commissioner Hare – yes, Commissioner Heck – yes, and Commissioner Walker – yes.

6. **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.”)

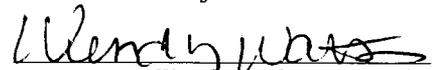
Michelle Baumgartner, Forest Resource Specialist, presented Pinnon Roads Community with a Firewise Award and thanked Pinnon Roads Community for coming together and making their lands safe. (Item discussed following Proclamation)

7. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Heck announced open Advisory Board positions and mentioned on Saturday, March 5, 2016 the Third Annual SOS Run/Walk for the Law will take place and encouraged people to sign up and join.

Commissioner Walker read a letter she sent to Governor Brown regarding Senate Bill 1532 (**Exhibit B**).

Weekly Business Session was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.


Wendy Watkins, Recorder

Entered into record:

Exhibit A – Support for small agriculture producers in Josephine County

Exhibit B – Letter to Governor re: Senate Bill 1532

Dr. Christine Perala Gardiner
PO Box 2451, Cave Junction Oregon 97523

1 March 2016

To the Board of Josephine County Commissioners
Mrs. Cherryl Walker Mr. Keith Heck Mr. Simon Hare

RE: Support for small agriculture producers in Josephine County

As an organic farmer in Josephine County, I write to you representing the views of many other organic farmers here in the county. As you know, we are living during a period of significant climate instability. We know that recent summers have been among the hottest summers on record. We also know county economic activity is increasing with a plant that has now officially been declared an "agricultural crop" by the Oregon State Dept of Agriculture.

There were a number of conflicts around summer water use in rural JoCo. Since we know that State/ County water resources are not unlimited, it would make sense to be more proactive with regard to private use of public water resources.

I ask you, honored Commissioners, to address this water demand now, in March 2016. Please make a written request to Oregon State University Extension, to bring monthly classes in Drip Irrigation to Josephine County, starting in spring 2016.

Readily available technology called "Drip Irrigation" requires skill, knowledge and expertise that most people did not learn in school. The potential pool of users for such a class is more than 5000 people, so monthly classes will still reach only a small percentage, but will support and encourage wide adoption of this technology.

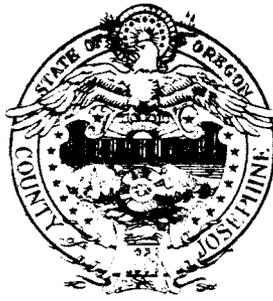
We can reduce summer water demand in JoCo by encouraging farmers to use drip irrigation, which is also a great savings in labor. I'd like to see such classes offered in the south county, perhaps at the Granges, which traditionally served this role. Monthly Grange classes to teach responsible, cost-effective water use in agriculture are in the best interests of the County, the State and the fish in our rivers. All our historic Grange Halls all need support as well.

Since the OMMP generated some \$14 million income in excess of expenses for the State in 2015, I suggest that you request funding support for these classes to come from the State OMMP funds. In this way, you can protect the County public water resources (both quantity and quality), bring money back to a county that generated it, and offer solutions to county residents who are not sure you support them. It would redound to your benefit, and costs you nothing more than some letters and phone calls.

I make this Citizen Request of you; please make this written request to OSU Extension this week. As a member of the Josephine County Rural Planning Commission, a watershed scientist, former university professor and organic farmer of 15 years, I'd be pleased to be of help to you in every way I can. Thank you for your early attention to this matter,

Christine Perala Gardiner PhD

Exhibit A
WBS
3/2/16



Josephine County Board of Commissioners
Cherryl Walker, Commissioner

February 26, 2016

Governor Kate Brown
State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE 160
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 1532

Dear Governor Brown:

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners want to take this opportunity to strongly encourage you to not sign into law Senate Bill 1532. We previously submitted testimony to the Oregon Legislature in opposition to the Senate Bill. We believe this law to be unconstitutional according to **Article 1 Section 20 Equality of privileges and immunities of citizens.**

“No law shall be passed granting to any citizen or class of citizens privileges, or immunities, which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens.”

We further believe this to be an “unfunded mandate” on local governments as it will have an effect on budgets that already are stretched very thin. Local governments and school districts will have few options when dealing with this mandate; either raise taxes and fees or cut more services and employees.

Enactment of this law will prove disastrous to both Josephine County’s, as well as Oregon’s economy. The increased minimum wage will be a job killer; some research estimates as many as 67,000 Oregon jobs lost. The hardest hit will be small businesses in hospitality and agriculture, and teen employment. Inevitable across-the-board increases in everyday essentials will hit fixed-income seniors, working families, and college students especially hard.

Oregon traded sector businesses will be at a severe competitive disadvantage from other states with much lower minimum wages. It will inhibit businesses from relocating or expanding in Josephine County and the rest of Oregon and encourage existing businesses to relocate to more business-friendly locations, just when we are starting to see some economic improvement. The minimum wage in Oregon significantly surpasses the Federal minimum wage. Increasing the minimum wage will have multiple detrimental effects on all sizes of businesses; small, medium, and large.

Other “unintended consequences” could mean a reduction in hiring, cutting employee work hours, and reducing benefits. With wage increases come increased payroll taxes and employments costs. All of which will create one of two scenarios: (1) the customer will pay the cost in increased prices to cover these new expenses (more inflation), (2) the business will close, due to the lack of ability to pencil it out.

In summary, the Josephine County Board of Commissioners do not support this Bill and ask that you do not sign it into law.

Sincerely,


Cherryl Walker, Chair

JOSEPHINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COURTHOUSE

500 N.W. Sixth Street, Dept. 6, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Phone: (541) 474-5221 Fax: (541) 474-5105

Exhibit B

WBS

3/2/16