

WEEKLY BUSINESS SESSION – March 16, 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; Terri Wharton, 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. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS IN CONSIDERATION OF:

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

- a. Approval of Order 2016-006; In the Matter of Authorization of Execution of Lease Agreement with United Community Action Network, Josephine County Food Bank, for Lease of County Property; and Lease Agreement (One original Order and Lease Agreement filed with the County Clerk and one original Lease Agreement returned to Legal)**

Commissioner Heck advised the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) would be renting the Juvenile Justice facility for five weeks to provide housing for a youth group between the ages of 18 and 23 years old to provide community service at the Josephine County Food Bank. NCCC will pay the County \$100 per week and leave the facility neat and clean.

- b. Approval of Request for Seasonal Position Addition for Sheriff's Department (Motion only – no documents)**

Commissioner Walker explained the request was for a seasonal position for a Deputy Sheriff that would be funded by a Forest Service grant to handle cases in the rural forestry areas for a period of six months. Commissioner Hare shared his concerns regarding the purchase of a vehicle for this seasonal position when there are other departments that need a new vehicle. Commissioner Walker explained when cutbacks were made many of the Sheriff's Office vehicles were sold and the vehicle for this position would be incorporated into the Sheriff's fleet after the six months.

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

Ray Smith, Cave Junction, discussed Law 753 Public Safety and asked the Board to oppose this legislation.

Dale Matthews, Grants Pass, discussed what he felt was an illegal conversation among the Board.

Sandi Cassanelli, Merlin, discussed her dissatisfaction with Elected Officials and Department Heads.

Greg Walter, Cave Junction, spoke in support of Law 753 Public Safety and submitted **Exhibit A – Cave Junction Crime Spree**

Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger, Grants Pass, asked what the long term effects would be with Law 753 Public Safety.

Mark Seligman, Selma, suggested the Sheriff Deputy that is contracted for Cave Junction work the night shift.

Board Discussion and Action – Agenda Item 1(a)

Commissioner Heck made a motion to approve Order 2016-006; In the Matter of Authorization of Execution of Lease Agreement with United Community Action Network, Josephine County Food Bank, for Lease of County Property; and Lease Agreement, 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 1(b)

Commissioner Heck made a motion to approve a Seasonal Position for the Sheriff's Department, seconded by Commissioner Hare. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 3-0; Commissioner Hare – yes, Commissioner Heck – yes, and Commissioner Walker – yes.

3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes (Draft minutes are available for viewing in the Board's Office)**

Weekly Business Session – February 10, 2016

General Discussion – February 16, 2016

County Administration Workshop – February 25, 2016

General Discussion – February 29, 2016

- b. **Amendment #1 to Lease Agreement with Illinois Valley Baptist Church for Lease of County Property** (*One original Amendment filed with the County Clerk*)
- c. **Order 2016-007; In the Matter of Authorization of Execution of Intergovernmental Office Space Lease Agreement with Department of Environmental Quality; and Lease Agreement** (*One original Lease Agreement returned to Legal for full electronic execution*)

Board Discussion and Action:

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

- 4. **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.”)

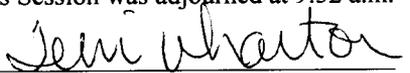
None reported.

5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Heck encouraged everyone to read the article in the March 11, 2016 Daily Courier titled “Business Pulse in Josephine County” saying it was a very positive report showing growth in the County.

Commissioner Walker discussed the increase of jobs in the County over the past couple of years, and how several of the businesses featured in the Business Pulse article were assisted by Josephine County through the Small Business Development Center.

Weekly Business Session was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.



Terri Wharton, Recorder

Entered into record:

Exhibit A – Cave Junction Crime Spree

EXHIBIT A
3/16/16
WBS

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners of Josephine County;

March 15th, 2016

This is a letter from our business in Cave Junction that has witnessed around us the unending crime spree including our own residence and for the past three years this has been an endless digression with so many businesses broken into, vandalized or burglarized. This has also occurred on our churches, schools, family resource center and library here. These learning centers and community centers are being assaulted to the point where kids are unsure of their safety, including places like Jubilee Park. People wonder who will get hit next, causing a mental trauma in all sectors of our community. It also has affected our commerce and psychologically affects how we conduct our business lives wondering when we will suffer from this crime spree and the preventative measures we are forced to take. There is a cost associated to this, both direct and indirect that exceeds what we would otherwise pay if our tax rate was higher.

Therefore, I want to thank and support Commissioner Walker in stepping forward on requesting help from the state found in the provisions of HB 3453 to declare an emergency within the county and bring assistance in law enforcement for an eighteen month duration. This is a short term solution and though many seem wary of having a stronger police presence out here in the county, that they will catch the speeders and the like and not go after the criminals that are causing so many of the problems here, we are left with little choice at this time other than working closely with the police to affect the greatest impact. This will also involve a strengthening of our citizens patrols to serve as the point people that know who is causing the criminal activity here, but they need backup and law enforcement to finish the task at hand. Once again, these short term solutions without a doubt will require longer term solutions.

Our reliance on an increase of timber harvests to pay for our public safety will not bring the desired results until they re-instate (or un freeze) the timber harvest tax and the forest management follows the full intent of that O&C Act and the applicable laws that protect watersheds, carbon storage and overall forest health. These are values that are now calculable and can no longer be ignored. These lawsuits can also be costly and in the end, go nowhere, leaving us right back where we are currently with no public safety and no jail space available.

Our businesses, families and children deserve better and the community would prosper, which in turn increases commerce if we get the needed help. We are a gateway community to an expanded national monument and our visitor appeal and safety should be held in the highest regard and everyone in the region benefits from this. Please let me know how I can be of further assistance in moving this forward and if a broader constituency needs to be brought into this, I want to help.

With all sincerity and for our kids and community in Cave Junction, Oregon,

Greg and Mary Walter

Jefferson State Financial Group

P.O. Box 1668, Cave Junction, Or 97523