

Local

County: Commissioners make several appointments, new road off Salmon Creek Road planned



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Baker Valley Vector Control District Manager Matt Hutchinson.

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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The Baker County Board of Commissioners held its second, regular session of the month, on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at 9 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse.

Present from the Board were Chair Bill Harvey, Commissioners Mark Bennett and Tim Kerns, and Executive Assistant Heidi Martin.

Attendance also included Baker County Planning Director Holly Kerns, Baker County Planner Kara Harris, Baker County Road Master Jeff Smith, Baker County Weed Master Arnie Grammon, Baker County Parks and Recreation Department Director Karen Spencer, Baker County Administration Services Director Christena Cook, Blue Mountain Community College Small Business Development Center (BMCC SBDC) Advisor Jeff Nelson, Baker County Museum Commission Chair Steve Bogart, Baker Valley Vector Control District Manager Matt Hutchinson, Megan Adams and David Lindley of Guyer & Associates CPA, Ken Anderson, Art Sappington, Cynthia Long, John and Ramona Creighton, and Tork and Wanda Ballard.

The session was called to order, and the optional Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Harvey.

Citizen Participation included Sappington, Ramona, Hardt, Wanda, and Nelson, with the notable mention from Nelson that he intends to run this election season for the position of County Commissioner, a spot which will be left vacant by Kerns, whose resignation will take effect at the end of 2016.

The minutes from the regular session on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 were approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns.

Adams and Lindley provided the Board with a 2014-2015 audit review,

including a copy of a 140-page Report On Audit Of Basic Financial Statements And Supplementary Data, and a copy of a 10-page Report On Requirements Of The Single Audit Act Of 1984 And OMB Circular A-133.

The summary of findings and questioned costs included the following statements: "Report on financial statements of the County as of June 30, 2015 and for the year ended is unqualified; No reportable conditions in internal control are disclosed in Part II of this report; The audit did not disclose instances of noncompliance which are material to the County's financial statements; No reportable conditions in internal control over compliance over the District's major programs were identified; The auditor's report on compliance for major programs is unqualified; The audit disclosed no other findings that are required to be reported under OMB, Circular A-13, Section 510; The County's major programs are as follows: National Forest-Dependent Rural Communities including Title I and Title II CFDA 10.655; The dollar threshold to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs described in OMB, Circular A-133, Section 520(b) is \$300,000 of expenditures. There was one Type A program; and The County qualifies as a low risk auditee under OMB Circular A-133, Section 530."

Harris introduced a second public hearing, in the matter of Order No. 2016-104, Naming A Private Road "Pine View Road," Located Along The Western Boundary Of Tax Lot 900 In Township 9 South, Range 39 East, Section 4 W.M., Baker County, OR.

The Baker City/County Planning Department received an application from Baker City, owner and applicant, to name an approximate 1,600 foot long new road, off of Salmon Creek Road.

Harris and Holly Kerns discussed this matter with the Board, and the order was approved, with

a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns. The dedication was also approved, with a motion from Harvey, and a second from Kerns.

Smith discussed with the Board a pre-approval for the Baker County Road Department to bid on a couple pieces of equipment. The pre-approval, for a 980C front end loader, not to exceed the value of comparables, and a 257B skid steer loader, not to exceed the value of comparables, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns. These items were expected to have been bid on during an auction held on Thursday.

Grammon discussed with the Board Order No. 2016-112, Referral Of Weed Control Local Option Tax For Four Fiscal Years: 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, To The Baker County Weed Control District Electorate. The order was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns. The order states that the four year local option tax will be \$90,000 per year, and that the four year levy will be referred to the electorate at the May 17, 2016 election.

Hutchinson discussed with the Board Order No., 2016-113, Referral Of Vector Control Local Option Tax For Four Fiscal Years: 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, To The Baker County Vector Control District Electorate. The order was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns. The order states that the four year local option tax will be \$140,000 per year, and that the four year levy will be referred to the electorate at the May 17, 2016 election.

Order No. 2016-114, Appointing Members To The Baker County Wolf Depredation Compensation Advisory Committee, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns. Martin Arriola, and Tom Van Diepen were appointed as the business representatives, their terms set to expire

on September 1, 2018, and September 1, 2017, respectively, and Mike Colton was appointed as the livestock representative, his term set to expire on September 1, 2018.

Order No. 2016-15, Appointing Members To The Western Heights Special Road District, was approved, with a motion from Kerns, and a second from Bennett.

Cliff Schoeningh, his term set to expire on December 31, 2016, Jane Bohn, her term set to expire on December 31, 2017, and Paul Dolan, his term set to expire on December 31, 2018, were appointed.

Spencer discussed with the Board Order No. 2016-1001, Authorizing The Baker County Parks Department To Apply For Land And Water Conservation Fund Assistance From The Oregon Parks And Recreation Department For Rehabilitation Of The Public Water System At Hewitt And Holcomb Parks, and Order No. 2016-1002, Authorizing The Baker County Parks Department To Apply For Local Government Grant Funds For Assistance From The Oregon Parks And Recreation Department For Rehabilitation Of The Public Water System At Hewitt And Holcomb Parks.

Spencer said the project's estimate is around \$80,000, for an ultraviolet light system. Both orders were approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns.

Harvey noted that the Economic Development Council (EDC) meeting originally scheduled for Thursday, February 18, had been canceled.

He also mentioned the next Baker County Weed Board meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, at 1 p.m., in the old Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) building, as well as the next Baker County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (BCNRAC) meeting, to be held the same day, at 3 p.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse.

Huntington's colorful history event



Eileen Driver / The Baker County Press

Top: A celebratory cake. Below: Bill Burley gives a unique overview of Huntington's history.

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The Baker County Historical Society held a special evening of interactive learning and celebration of the History of Oregon at the Baker Heritage Museum located at 2480 Grove Street in Baker City on Monday evening at 7 p.m. The event had a special emphasis on the importance of the City of Huntington in the settlement and growth of Baker County and the state as a whole.

This was a celebration of the 157th Birthday of the State of Oregon on February 14th and the 125th Birthday of the City of Huntington on February 18th.

The guest speaker for the evening was Bill Burley, a retired railroad worker and long-time resident of Huntington with a passion for the History of this area. Burley gave a lively presentation, entitled, "Why are we here and not over there?" lasting approximately an hour, complete with costume changes and a slide show of actual historical photos and maps of the area.

Burley took viewers through the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Oregon Trail and history of Farewell Bend, the history of the Indian relations good and bad, including the Van Ornum Massacre and the historic joining of the railroads in Huntington. Bill completed his presentation by answering the title question, saying, "We are here because of the vision and hard work of the explorers, pioneers and entrepreneurs who came before us. Their drive to better themselves and their communities are what we enjoy today."

Burley loves to talk about Huntington's history and can usually be found at the Caboose in Lion's Park during Pioneer Days the second weekend in August in Huntington. He would welcome anyone with an interest in history to stop by for a chat.

The City of Huntington would like to invite all of you to help them continue their Birthday Celebration by joining us on February 20 for a pool tournament at Grady's Tavern at 4:00 p.m. with a \$5 buy-in and a first place prize of \$125 and a Birthday Dance to the sounds of Big Blue Johnson at Howell's Cafe and Streamliner Lounge at 8:00 p.m. with food and door prizes provided.

Hal Huntington, Museum Commission Chairman and Lea Gettle, Museum Manager, were on hand to show off and talk about the beautiful and historical museum exhibits. While the museum will not be officially open for the season until Saturday, March 19, those at the presentation had the privilege of walking back through time with some of the amazing exhibits. They would also like to invite everyone to attend the annual museum fundraiser "Night at Old Auburn Casino" on Saturday, February 27 at the museum. According to Steve Bogart of the museum commission, "Everyone always has a great time during this fundraiser. So come join us."

Cake, brownies, coffee and punch were served to the attendees.