

Business / Agriculture

County: Sheriff's Office to get new security camera system

• SEVERAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS MADE, WOLF DEPREDATION COMPENSATION SPURS DEBATE

BY TODD ARRIOLA
Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The Baker County Board of Commissioners held a regular session on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 9 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse, which included, among other topics, a Proclamation of May, 2017 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the County.

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

Attendance also included New Directions Northwest, Inc. Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Coordinator Jane Chandler, Baker County Assessor Kerry Savage and Assistant Assessor Shawn Berry, Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, Baker County Technology Director Bill Lee, Baker County Emergency Management Manager Jason Yencopal, Baker County Administrative Services Coordinator Christena Cook, Ed Hardt, Ken Anderson, Gary Dielman, and John Creighton.

The meeting was called to order, and Harvey provided the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was adopted, with an addition of an Oregon State University Extension Service Intergovernmental Agreement discussion to be held later in the session, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols. There was no comment offered for Citizen Participation.

The minutes from the Wednesday, April 5, 2017 regular session were approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

Order No. 2017-120, Appointing A Member To The Northeast Oregon Economic Development District Board, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols. According to the order, Rosemary Abell was appointed, her term set to expire on December 31, 2019.

Order No. 2017-121, Appointing Members To The 911 Consolidated Dispatch Oversight Board, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols. According to the order, Diane Arvey, and Robert Gentili were appointed, their terms set to expire on November 1, 2018, and November 1, 2019, respectively.

Order No. 2017-122, Appointing Members To The Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care (EOCC) Local Community Advisory Council (LCAC), was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols. According to the order, Tamyra LiKeller and Jane Chandler were appointed, their terms set to expire on February 1, 2020.

Order No. 2017-123,



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

County IT Manager Bill Lee and Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash explain a new software and camera system purchase request for the Jail.

Appointing A Member To The Baker County Compensation Board, was approved, with a motion from Nichols, and a second from Harvey. According to the order, Larry Pearson was appointed, his term set to expire on January 1, 2021.

Order No. 2017-124, An Order Designating A Sole Source Provider For Mason Dam Consultation In Completing Draft Final Biological Assessment And The Final License Application, was approved, with a cap of \$7,500, with a motion from Harvey, and a second from Bennett. Prior to approval, Yencopal discussed the order with the Board, and Nichols opted out of the discussion, as he declared a conflict. According to the order, EcoWest Consulting, Inc. has been working on various reports for the Mason Dam Hydroelectric project, the Project Manager is pleased with those services, total compensation for these services may exceed \$5,000 in fiscal year 2016-2017, and the exemption will not encourage favoritism or diminish competition.

Savage and Berry provided an Assessor update, which included a discussion of a 2017-2018 Property Tax Program Grant Application, that was approved to be submitted to the Oregon Department of Revenue, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols. According to the application, \$956,242 was submitted as the total expenditure amount for consideration, in order to participate in the County Assessment Function Funding Assistance (CAFFA) annual grant program.

A Special Transportation Fund (STF) Contractor Agreement, between the County and Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc., for the purpose of providing flexible, coordinated, and reliable transportation to seniors and people with disabilities, and a similar agreement, between the County and Step Forward Activities, Inc., were approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

Prior to approval, Cook discussed the agreements with the Board. According to the agreement, the County will allocate funds

provided by the Oregon Department of Transportation Rail and Public Transit Division (RPTD) each fiscal year, beginning July 1, to Community Connection, in consideration of these services.

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Wolf Compensation And Financial Assistance 2017 Grant Agreement No. ODA-3966-GR BAKER, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

According to the agreement, a total award of \$23,219 was granted to the County, for the year 2016, broken down as follows: \$0 for compensation for injury or death of livestock or working dogs, resulting from wolf depredation; \$6,599 for financial assistance for implementing methods that limit wolf-livestock interaction; \$495 for reimbursement for qualified expenses incurred by the County, for implementing the County program; and \$16,125 for compensation for missing livestock or working dogs, resulting from wolf depredation.

Though the total amount received is much less than the losses incurred, Bennett nonetheless expressed praise to Martin for her efforts in submitting County applications, and in acquiring funding through this program, and he said that the funding the County did receive is more than he expected.

Hardt said, "When this wolf program was getting started ... the Defenders Of Wildlife was paying for animal kills, and then, when the wolves got established, then, they quit. Why can't we still bill them?"

Harvey said he wasn't sure, the organization shifted the burden to the State, and he doesn't have complete information regarding the full agreement, but he agrees with Hardt's concept, since livestock losses are far greater now.

Dielman said, "An obligation under the law would be a base for billing them...They're not part of the government. How would you expect them to continue something they didn't want to continue doing, if they're a private organization?"

Harvey said, "Just for the sake of saying, 'You agreed to this...' We're not going to get anything, we

understand..."

Dielman said, "I don't agree with that. That's just mean-spirited."

Harvey said, "That's okay—so is killing their livestock... so is asking livestock producers to take a loss for something they did..."

Dielman said, "Sure, but the State has taken that over."

Harvey discussed the shortfall in funding provided for livestock losses, and Dielman and Harvey further debated the subject, including the role of the State and legislation.

Harvey said the communication would most likely be in the form of a protest letter to the Defenders of Wildlife.

A Baker County Sheriff's Office Jail Camera Security System purchase request, for new Avigilon cameras and software, provided by Alpine Alarm, for \$30,151.66, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

Prior to approval, Ash and Lee discussed the request with the Board. According to Ash, funding for the project was previously approved, and the current system is 15-18 years old, is outdated, and is prone to failure.

Three bids were received, and while not being the lowest bid, Lee said the Avigilon system is more reliable, and can be upgraded.

A Baker County Proclamation for May, 2017 as Mental Health Awareness Month, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols, who, along with Harvey, expressed great concern and interest in the subject of mental health throughout the County.

According to the Proclamation, the Board calls upon government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools "...to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding mental health conditions, reducing stigma and discrimination, promoting appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions."

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— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, April 14, 2017 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady in a limited test compared to week ago prices. Most demand lays with the retail/stable hay. According to some producers, horse owners prefer lower sugar, higher protein hay. Many producers are sold out for the year.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa — Large Square Utility	50 45.00-45.00	45.00
Orchard Grass — Large Square Utility	50 45.00-45.00	45.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1,141

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	153.00-178.00	Top	179.00
400-500#	Bulk	151.00-167.00	Top	169.50
500-600#	Bulk	147.00-165.00	Top	165.50

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	142.00-162.00	Top	163.00
400-500#	Bulk	136.00-157.00	Top	159.50
500-600#	Bulk	126.00-146.50	Top	147.00

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk	129.00-148.00	Top	155.00
700-800#	Bulk	122.00-134.50	Top	135.75
800-900#	Bulk	119.00-126.00	Top	127.75
900-1,000#	Bulk	113.00-119.00	Top	122.25

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk	121.00-135.00	Top	136.50
700-800#	Bulk	121.00-132.00	Top	137.50
800-900#	Bulk	113.00-119.00	Top	121.00
900-1,000#	Bulk	97.00-106.00	Top	107.00

Thin Shelly Cows	49.00-61.00
Butcher Cows	63.00-71.00
Butcher Bulls	74.00-87.00
Pairs Older	985.00-1380.00
Hfretts	77.00 - 101.00
Pairs Older -	87.00-108.00
Producers Livestock.com	
541-473-3136	

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Prices are based on the majority of saw mills in Northeastern Oregon and Central Idaho. The prices listed below are a composite prices of various sawmills willing to visit with me about this topic.

Ponderosa Pine—small diameter class 8-11 inches diameter class \$250 per mbf. Only one sawmill was willing to buy small diameter pine at this time.

Ponderosa Pine—medium diameter class 12-17 inches diameter class \$300 to \$350 per mbf

Ponderosa Pine-large diameter class 18 plus inches diameter class \$380 to \$410 per mbf

The Pine prices are still approximately \$40 per mbf below average lumber/log market due to 2017 fire salvage

Doug Fir & Western Larch—\$380 to \$420 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$425 to \$475 per mbf.

White Fir—\$300 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$340 to \$360 per mbf.

Engelmann Spruce—\$350 at one Idaho sawmill, other sawmills including with White fir prices.

In general, the log prices still impacted from 2015 fire season and fire salvage that resulted. Sawmills are starting to get log yard inventory in line with sawmill production needs. With a new Administration as of 1/20/2017, a more normal economic environment should result and hopefully a more healthy housing situation will result in a better climate for Northeast Oregon Sawmill and private forest landowners.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen, Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1,290.90

Silver: \$18.29

Platinum: \$976.99

Palladium: \$774.72

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$367.50/bu/USD

Wheat: \$436.00/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$955.50/bu/USD

Oats: \$218.75 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$10.13/cwt/USD

Canola: \$506.60 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$115.65/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$142.18/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$71.50/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com