

Business / Agriculture

County drafts B2H letter, talks about Senate appointment

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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The Baker County Board of Commissioners held its first, regular session of the month on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 9 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse.

Present from the Board were Chair Bill Harvey, Commissioners Mark Bennett and Bruce Nichols, and Executive Assistant Heidi Martin. Attendance also included Baker County/District 8 Water Master Rick Lusk, Deputy Water Master Nathan Petrucci, Deputy Water Master Luke Albert, Baker County Road Master Jeff Smith, Baker County Health Department Director Nancy Staten, Chuck Rouse, and John Creighton.

Harvey opened the session, provided the Invocation, and led in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was adopted, with one noted change, with a motion from Nichols, and a second from Bennett.

No comment was offered for Citizen Participation.

The minutes from the Wednesday, November 1, 2017 regular session were approved, with no noted corrections, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

A public hearing was held in the matter of an application for a 2017 Community Development Block Grant from the Oregon Business Development Department, for the Eagle Valley Rural Fire Protection District Facility, which will be located in the Richland Elementary School Gymnasium, 42008 Moody Road, Richland. The project is estimated to benefit at least 638 people, 51.6% of whom will be low- or moderate-income.

Testimony in favor included Rouse and Creighton, and there was no noted opposition stated. The hearing was continued to Wednesday, December 20, 2017, 9 a.m., with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

As part of a departmental update, Lusk discussed stream flow and other details. He said that overall, snow pack for the area is at about 48-50% of normal, for this time of year, so, he's not concerned for now.

He said that Thief Valley's capacity is sitting at about 33%, lower than normal (due to a stuck gate); Phillips and Unity reservoirs are right at, or slightly above, the normal capacity currently.

Among other details, Lusk said that District 8 is "the best District," noting issues with other regions, including lawsuits, environmental issues, etc. He voiced praise for the staff here, as well as for the farmers and ranchers the Department works with. Lusk, Petrucci, and Albert provided other information, using a slide show presentation.

A Professional Services Agreement, between the County and Monte Anderson, Physician Assistant, for the services of Mid-Level Provider at the Baker County School-Based

Health Center (SBHC), was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols. The agreement covers the period of August 31, 2017, through June 4, 2018, and the County will pay Anderson \$60 per hour.

A Professional Services Agreement, between the County and Gina Glaubke, Physician Assistant, for Provider Services at the Baker County Health Department's (BCHD) Family Planning Clinic, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

The agreement covers the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2019, and the County will pay Glaubke \$60 per hour. A Professional Services Agreement, between the County and Eric Lamb, M.D., for the services of Baker County Health Officer, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

The agreement covers the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2019, and the County will pay Lamb \$825 per month, with a total not to exceed \$9,900 for the term of the agreement.

A Medical Services Agreement, between the County and Baker School District 5J, for the operation of the SBHC, by the BCHD, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

The agreement covers the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2019, and the County and the School District will secure funding for the SBHC, and assign the funding to BCHD.

County Road Department request for the purchase of a 2015 Caterpillar 420F Backhoe Loader, for \$83,083.83, from Western States Equipment, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

There is sufficient funding in the Department's budget for the purchase, and the new backhoe will replace two 1978 Case Backhoes at the end of their expected life, which the Department recently sold.

Three other quotes were received: \$92,500 from Wagner Equipment; \$90,000 from CAT Financial; and \$90,000 from CAT Financial.

The first public hearing was held in the matter of Order No. 2017-172, Adopting A Baker County Fee Schedule (copies of the proposed 2018 County Fee Schedule were provided to the Board). The Board discussed some proposed changes to the Schedule, mostly increases, and the hearing is continued to Wednesday, December 20, 2017, 9 a.m.

Order No. 2017-165, Authorizing The Sale Of County Foreclosure Property By Private Sale, for property located at 2130 9th Street, Baker City, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

The minimum bid was set at a 15% reduction, from \$8,500, to \$7,225, with the stipulation that the structure be removed within 60 days (with a potential for an extension).

Order No. 2017-166, Authorizing The Sale

Of County Foreclosure Property By Private Sale, for property located at 1440 13th Street, Baker City, was approved, with a motion from Nichols, and a second from Bennett.

The minimum bid was set at a 15% reduction, from \$9,500, to \$8,075, with the stipulation that structure be removed within 60 days (with the potential for an extension).

Order No. 2017-167, Appointing Members To The Transient Lodging Tax Marketing Committee, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

Carly Annable and Raean Van Arsdall were appointed, their terms set to expire on March 1, 2019.

Order No. 2017-168, Appointing Members To The Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Local Community Advisory Council, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

Ronald Thompson and Alicia Bates were appointed, their terms set to expire on February 1, 2020.

Order No. 2017-169, Directing The Baker County Sheriff To Make Sale Of County Property; Fixing The Minimum Price And Providing A Portion Of The Conditions And Terms Of Sale, was approved, with a motion from Harvey, and a second from Bennett.

The property is described as a 5,950 square foot lot, in Sumpter, Map Reference No. 16414.

The minimum bid was set at \$8,500, and the auction is scheduled for Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 10 a.m., on the steps of the Baker County Courthouse.

Order No. 2017-170, Directing The Baker County Sheriff To Make Sale Of County Property; Fixing The Minimum Price And Providing A Portion Of The Conditions And Terms Of Sale, was approved, with a motion from Harvey, and a second from Bennett.

The property is described as a 6,938 square foot lot with a building, in Sumpter, Map Reference No. 5125. The minimum bid was set at \$9,500, and the auction is scheduled for Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 10 a.m., on the steps of the Baker County Courthouse. Order No. 2017-171, Directing The Baker County Sheriff To Make Sale Of County Property; Fixing The Minimum Price And Fee Schedule (copies of the proposed 2018 County Fee Schedule, was postponed, with a letter to be sent to interested nearby landowners, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols. The property is described as a .17 acre lot, in Durkee, Map Reference No. 6925.

A letter regarding the proposed Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Transmission Line Project, drafted from the Commission to affected landowners in the County, was approved to be sent, with a motion from Nichols, and a second from Bennett.

The letter reads as follows:

"As you are probably aware, the Bureau of Land Management has recently released the Record of Decision (ROD) of their

preferred route for the proposed Idaho Power Corp. Boardman to Hemingway power transmission line.

"From the onset of the project, Baker County has maintained the position that the line does not directly benefit the citizens of Baker County, and should therefore not be constructed on agricultural lands within Baker County.

"The County has also maintained that, if the line is approved through Baker County anyway, it should not negatively impact the private landowners with the routing or associated activities (such as access roads, etc.) In keeping with this position, the County has diligently met with all parties in an attempt to come to an arrangement with the various landowners to establish a 'tolerable' route.

"The project has now moved into review by the State of Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council. The County is committed to continuing the fight for equity for our landowners specifically, and the County at large. Please feel free to contact us at any time with your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns, or ideas in this ongoing process.

"A constant suggestion made by landowners during this lengthy progression has been for the County to assume the lead in discussions on property acquisition for the line by Idaho Power, should the line be approved. The reasoning for this is multifaceted:

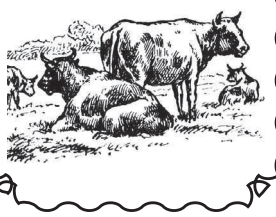
"Strength in numbers; Ability to negotiate for annual payments vs. one time lump sum; Negotiate for improved micro-siting line placement in specific areas; May provide a strong tool to limit the ability to utilize 'Eminent Domain' to force the landowner into undesirable outcomes; Minimize undisclosed negotiations that pit neighbors against neighbors.

"Baker County would retain legal counsel to assist the County and the landowners in this process. In the event that we receive significant interest in this idea, we will schedule a meeting of the potentially impacted landowners, in order to formalize the option..."

SEE COUNTY
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PASTURE! for the 2018 grazing season

Pasture in Bridgeport area, 2400 +/- excellent grass and water all summer long. Will accommodate 75 animal units. Must secure by February 1, 2018. Call 541-519-5035 for more information.



— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, December 1, 2017 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady in a limited test. Retail/Stable type hay remains the largest demanded hay. Many hay producers have sold out for the year. Recent and upcoming holidays have and will continue to slow movement.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa Small Square Premium	50 170.00-170.00	170.00

Timothy Large Square Good/Premium	30 170.00-170.00	170.00
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USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, November 29, 2017
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 2,492

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 171.00-208.00	Top 217.50
400-500#	Bulk 146.00-191.00	Top 192.50
500-600#	Bulk 145.00-168.00	Top 171.00

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 164.00-183.00	Top 185.00
400-500#	Bulk 138.00-174.00	Top 178.50
500-600#	Bulk 137.00-149.00	Top 150.25

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 141.00-157.00	Top 160.50
700-800#	Bulk 132.00-156.00	Top 156.75
800-900#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk 109.00-119.00	Top 124.00

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 128.00-143.50	Top 143.75
700-800#	Bulk 123.00-143.00	Top 144.00
800-900#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	41.00-53.00
Butcher Cows	56.00-67.00
Butcher Bulls	48.00 - 65.00
Stock Cows	N/A
Younger Hfrts.	72.00 - 89.00
Stock Cows Young	N/A

ProducersLivestock.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: \$1,269.00

Silver: \$16.13

Platinum: \$916.40

Palladium: \$986.88

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$353.75/bu/USD

Wheat: \$432.75/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$1008.50/bu/USD

Oats: \$254.50 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$12.33/cwt/USD

Canola: \$509.70 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$120.53/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$147.78/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$70.50/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com