

Economic Development Contract Renewed

By Emily Braswell

Snow Fence Discussion

Baker County Commissioners unanimously stood their ground on behalf of Baker County citizen property rights during last week's regular Commission Board Session. As three officials from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) introduced prospective plans to restructure a short section of snow fence along the west bound lane of I-84 at milepost 291, the commissioners focused on the project's potential effect on the livelihood of affected property owners.

The ODOT project entitled I-84: WB Snow Fence at Culley Lane, Phase 1, was completed back in 2013, with a cost of over \$425,000 to complete the three mile long project. Portions of the fence have not had the expected results and so a Phase 2 project was created.

According to Roadway Designer Mark Kightlinger, "We didn't have enough money to build it all, and we're gonna' add 1900 more feet to it."

The maps showing Phase 2 of the project were provided to the Commissioners and they clearly showed ODOT's proposal to move the snow fence from the current 70 feet back to 130 feet from the edge of the pavement. This would place it 85 feet into the adjacent property owner's field.

ODOT Area Manager Craig Sipp communicated, "With site 2, we haven't had conversations with the property owner since about a year ago, but they are aware of the project, and they are aware that we're looking at a snow fence and that it will require additional property acquisition."

Sipp's statement immediately prompted Commissioner Mark Bennett to ask, "So you're not coming here asking us for condemnation, right? Because this Commissioner will not participate in that, let me make that very clear from the beginning."

Sipp quickly replied with a no, it was not ODOT's intention to acquire property by condemnation. They are instead looking at a piece of Right of Way (ROW) property which belongs to the county.

"Our objective would be for the county to vacate that back to us, and once we have the property, let us work the process with the property owner from that ROW," Sipp explained. The ROW in question was granted to the County by ODOT several years ago.

The Commissioners questioned many of the project's aspects, but the one they continually came back to was if the property owner was going to be properly, and fairly, reimbursed. Bennett made it very clear that he wanted to see the type of negotiations being made with the landowners, and stated, "I'm not interested in participating if they can't work out an amicable deal for their land."

Commissioner Bill Harvey asked that ODOT do the best they can to work out the best deal with the land owners before they come back to the County. Commissioner Tim Kerns concurred and added, "Mark had mentioned this too, that we're still a little 'ouchy' about that property, that you had it valued too high. We're both government agencies so we should be working together, and we don't feel like we've been getting that."

The officials ended their presentation with a promise to not land lock any of the parcels and that the County would be the first to hear about the negotiations with the property owners when they are initiated. The project will move forward starting in 2016 with the installation of digital signs which can be adjusted with the weather conditions to warn drivers of any hazardous road conditions.

Approve Purchase of Semi

The Commissioners approved the purchase of a semi-truck for the road department after a presentation by Roadmaster Jeff Smith. The 2006 Kenworth T800 will be purchased from Keith Bowman of Bowman Trucking, Inc., and will be replacing a 1990 International as the new belly dump and low boy hauler. The International will continue to be used in the fleet as a dump truck.

Auto cars are fairly rare anymore and so Smith also took the opportunity to rally the Board to allow for the purchase of one for \$15,000 from GSA. The purchase price is within the Road Department's budget and is an item that will be well utilized. The Commissioners gave their unanimous approval for its purchase.

Two-year Contract Renewed

The second item during contract review board was a professional services agreement with Gregory Smith & Company, LLC. The Economic Development Committee had previously voted on and approved this contract, which will facilitate implementation of Economic Development within Baker County.

With regard to the contract payments, Commissioner Harvey highlighted, "The contractor is basically the services of a company, not an individual. We're not paying \$96,000 a year to one person. He's providing staff, an office, and an office person who is there from 9-2 p.m. everyday."

The funding for this contract comes from the Transient Room Tax pool and both Harvey and Bennett feel they are getting a lot for the money put into it. A strong emphasis to help the businesses that are already here has been put into this year's contract agreement.

Commissioner Kerns excused himself for a short period of time to allow for the second reading of an ordinance to change a parcel of land owned by Tom Kerns from Exclusive Farm Use to Timber Grazing. It was approved for both readings, and so adopted. Kerns did not vote.

Kerns was present to vote for the order to appoint Kathy Thompson to the Baker County Weed Board and the order to re-appoint Aletha Bonebrake to the Baker County Cultural Coalition. Both Orders were approved unanimously.

See the
R-C
website:

theronline.
com

News of Record

Arrests

July 16- Alicia Nichole Ferguson arrested for Possession of Methamphetamine and on an out of state warrant for Probation Violation.

July 17- Roderick Joseph Gagnon arrested for Probation Violation.

July 18- Travis James Sprague arrested for Assaulting a Public Safety Officer and Resisting Arrest.

July 18- Melissa Renee Covarrubias-Sandoval arrested for Possession of Methamphetamine.

July 18- Aimie Katherine Grove arrested for Disorderly Conduct.

July 19- Tonia Lee Sullivan arrested for Burglary II, Criminal Mischief II and Theft III.

Baker County Circuit Court

July 9- State of Ore. v. Lucinda K. Winters regarding DUII, misdemeanor.

July 9- State of Ore. v. Daphne Lee Johnson regarding Contributing to the Sexual Delinquency of a Minor, misdemeanor.

July 14- State of Ore. v. Dylan J. Steele regarding Telephonic Harassment, misdemeanor.

July 14- State of Ore. v. Kimberly Dawn Stevens regarding Harassment, misdemeanor.

July 14- State of Ore. v. Lola Rhea Bennett regarding Criminal Trespass, misdemeanor.

July 14- State of Ore. v. Cassandra Lee Ann Lopez regarding Forgery 2, misdemeanor.

July 14- State of Ore. v. Justin Ray Page regarding Possession of Methamphetamine, felony.

Police Notify Community of Predatory Sex Offender

On July 20, 2015 the Baker City Police Department was notified that 43 year old Travis Scott Jones had moved to Baker City and was currently residing at 1769 Valley Avenue.

Jones has multiple sex related convictions, which include:

Offense Name: SEX ABUSE 1-FEL
Conviction Date: 02/26/1996
Offense Name: AT SEX ABUSE 1-MISD
Conviction Date: 12/16/1987
Offense Name: SEX ABUSE 1-FEL
Conviction Date: 10/08/1986
Offense Name: SEX ABUSE 1-FEL
Conviction Date: 10/08/1986

Jones's victims were reported to be females between the ages of 8-12 that were not known to him.

Baker City Police Chief, Wyn Lohner stated the following, "I received information this afternoon that Jones's personal items have been removed from 3010 Elm and moved to 1769 Valley, where he is registered. The family member who lives at 3010 Elm said Jones will not be staying there anymore. Based on that information we will submit a report to the District Attorney to establish whether or not any crime(s) are prosecutable, with regard to his registration and living arrangements in Baker City."



Travis Scott Jones

Woman Sentenced to Seven Years in Prison

On July 17, 2015, Emily Munsell, born Aug. 17, 1990, of 1356 Dewey Ave., Baker City, was sentenced to seven years in prison. Munsell pled guilty to one count of Criminal Conspiracy and one count of Solicitation to Commit Murder. Munsell will be on three years of post prison supervision following her release from prison.

Munsell was charged with soliciting a family relative to try to find someone to murder her ex-boyfriend on Dec. 26, 2014. That same evening, Munsell agreed with Detective Jay Lohner, acting undercover as a truck driver, to pay Lohner to murder her ex-boyfriend. Munsell was arrested later that night.

She was sentenced to two years in prison on the solicitation count and five years in prison on the conspiracy. Both counts ran consecutive for the seven year sentence. Munsell had filed a notice of intent to rely on a plea of guilty except for insanity at trial; however, that plea was later withdrawn and she entered guilty pleas to the charges.

As part of the plea agreement, one count of Solicitation and one count of Attempted Aggravated Murder was dismissed.

"We ultimately determined that the Conspiracy and Solicitation counts best fit what Munsell did in this case. The victim was pleased with the result of the case and the sentence Munsell received," said District Attorney Matt Shirliff.

Property Transactions Within the County

Baker City

Bowers Properties, LLC sold 675 L Loop to Douglas and Lori Lien for \$259,500 on April 17.

Robert and Norma Russell sold 3060 Grove St. to Greg and Patricia Brinton for \$97,500 on May 11.

Patricia Lang sold 2650 Main St. to Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC for \$92,600 on June 3.

Richard Herron sold 1295 D St. to Dustin and Katie Newman for \$193,000 on May 5.

Thomas and Kathleen Fisk sold 1305 Church St. to Kenneth and Margaret McGuire for \$110,900 on May 26.

Xchange Solutions Inc. sold 1667 Washington Ave. to Dennis Ray and Sheila Merrill for \$0 on April 23.

Danielle and Michael Lunyou sold 1245 Valley Ave. to Eric Skidgel for \$89,000 on April 24.

Annabelle Maartense sold 2345 Chestnut St. to Marion Morton Price for \$75,000 on May 4.

Delores Kissire sold 1154 Church St. to Kyle and Ronda Kissire for \$95,000 on May 20.

Ryan Davilla sold 710 Valley Ave. to Justin O'Neal for \$85,000 on April 27.

Rod Wright sold 2609 6th St. to Mary K. Grove Armstrong et al for \$210,000 on June 5.

Richard Nase sold 2700 Campbell St. to Dennis Ray and Sheila Merrill for \$75,000 on May 7.

Kevin and Karen Webb sold 2536 5th St. to Tom Kerns for \$30,000 on June 1.

Edward and Janet Steinmetz sold 2310 A St. to Chelsea McLagan for \$81,000 on April 30.

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC sold 2190 Campbell St. to Sec Housing and Urban Dev for \$149,594 on April 3.

Bonnie Kemry sold 2205 15th St. to Mairi and Joshua Nielsen for \$131,100 on May 18.

Michael Fraijo sold 2804 Washington Ave. to Susan Erickson for \$11,100 on May 13.

David and Alyssa Henry sold 2406 4th St. to Richard Mills for \$100,000 on May 21.

Federal Home Loan Mortgage sold 2210 8th St. to Stanley Gibson for \$39,900 on May 7.

Roy R Jr Slater sold 2018 8th St. to Chad and Corinne Mills for \$79,000 on June 3.

Greg Brinton sold 2525 Court Ave. to Vivian and Melanie Rhodes for \$189,900 on May 5.

Marcia and William Winter sold 1995 17th St. to Alyson Rino et al for \$135,000 on May 4.

Daniel Moore sold 1408 Dewey Ave. to Judy Ann White for \$189,900 on June 5.

Rustin and Sue Ann Smith sold 3510 Indiana Ave. to John Argyle for \$240,000 on April 30.

Betty Green sold 915 Quail Ridge Ln. to Roger and Lindy Petrik for \$345,000 on April 20.

TJR Investments, LLC sold 903 Hillcrest Dr. to Shaylin Sells for \$109,900 on June 5.

Gary and Barbara Warner sold 2332 Miller St. to National City Mortgage for \$72,000 on May 13.

Verlynda Hurr sold 1609 Cherry St. to Stephen Doran for \$122,400 on June 1.

Sherry Swafford sold 1381 Walnut St. to Jessica and Charles Keys for \$67,000 on June 5.

Michael and Brenda Wellman sold 1769 Estes St. to Norman Kralman for \$49,000 on June 2.

Peggy Moreno sold 2610 Clark St. to Damschen, LLC for \$53,000 on May 22.

William and Frances Lovelace sold 2035 2nd St. to Veronica Johnson for \$140,000 on March 20.

Judy Beymer et al sold 3408 15th St. to Adam and Kimberlee Shelton for \$92,000 on May 22.

HSBC Bank sold 1735 7th St. to Barry Nichols et al for \$18,800 on June 9.

Jeffrey and Toni Smith sold 965 L St. to Jay Boman for \$125,000 on May 5.

Landmar Construction, Inc. sold 1340 D St. to Thomas and Alexandra Jury for \$170,000 on May 15.

Ramona Draper sold 1716 Auburn Ave. to Anita Handyside for \$30,000 on May 1.

James and Penelope Camarata sold 2250 Wabash Ave. to One West Bank, Fsb for \$72,500 on May 6.

Ardelle Churchill sold 2040 8th St. to Ginger Finn for \$52,000 on May 6.

See PROPERTY on page 5

Baker County Parole & Probation Most Wanted



McBride, Steven Michael

DOB: 11/24/1981
Sex: Male Race: White
Hair Color: Blonde Eye Color: Blue
Height: 5'10" Weight: 190

Convictions: Coercion

The person above has criminal warrants. If you see this person, do not attempt to apprehend them yourself. If you know where this person may be, contact Parole and Probation at 541-523-8217 or your nearest police department. You may also e-mail parole@bakercounty.org

FIGHT FOR WRIGHT



Benefit Dinner & Auction

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND

4:30pm Tri Tip Dinner \$25 per person or
6:00pm Live Auction \$75 per family

Entertainment & Games
to follow

Auction Items & Prizes Include:
Gift Baskets
Leupold Scope
Fountain by ACE
Coffee Corral for a Year
Springfield XD .45 cal pistol
Indian Summer Print by Terri Axness

Thomas Angus Barn

42734 Old Trail Road, Baker City, Oregon

Join us as we fight for an amazing family. Dennis Wright a long time member of the community was recently diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma. Dennis, his wife Kelli and 3 boys Nathan, Eli and Jake have the courage to fight. As friends of the family we have seen the support they have given to others in our community. We have the opportunity to give back to the Wrights by raising money to help this family with the many expenses related to Dennis' treatment.

Tickets can be purchased at Coffee Corral & Little Pig or call Ali Deputy at 719-244-3034