

Wheeler County Court Community Meeting on Road Department Issues

Overview:

Wheeler County maintains 260 miles of road. 77 miles are oil or asphalt or a combination of both. The county is mandated to maintain roads for safe public travel.

Background: In 1908 the Federal Government made an agreement to support local schools and roads through receipts from timber sales on federal land within the county, because those lands would never be on the public tax rolls (Secure Rural Schools Act). While timber harvest and processing played a significant role in the economic health of Wheeler County, these funds fully supported roads and schools. With the shut down of Kinzua, our economy has suffered, and timber receipts continued a drastic decline through the 1990's. In 2000 Congress passed The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. 75% of the funds goes to support roads, 25% goes to the county school fund. This program was reauthorized three times, extending payments from 2006 to 2012.

No Plan for the Future: Wheeler County has been facing projected loss of SRS funds since 2006. SRS funds were intended as a bridge for counties to transition from dependence on federal timber revenues. Wheeler County has maintained a road department budget between 850k-950k with no significant plan for reduction / adjustments of services or personnel levels. With annual reauthorization of the federal funds providing diminishing payments, Wheeler County Court held meetings to discuss options, but no action was taken to plan for future sustainability of road department service levels.

Current Conditions: In 2012 it became apparent there would be little chance of reauthorization by Congress of SRS funds to counties. Our congressional delegation continues to work on our behalf for one final reauthorization of SRS and to increase revenues from timber receipts on Federal Lands in eastern Oregon counties.

In January 2013, the Wheeler County Court faced the reality that the road department could no longer afford to maintain the current staffing levels and operate at current service levels. Any reserves remaining in the department fund had been spent down over the course of several years, to complete projects and maintain staffing levels. In March 2013, management of the Road Department was taken over by the County Court.

In June 2013, based on a drastically reduced revenues forecast and a responsibility to fulfill obligations for Unemployment benefits and pay out of accrued PTO to current employees, a determination was made that the county could afford two full-time employees to maintain a basic level of service for county roads.

We welcome your comments and/or ideas for the future of Wheeler County Road department operations.

Contact Information:

Wheeler County Court 541-763-3460

Or mail comments to:

Wheeler County Court, PO Box 447, Fossil, OR 97830

Wheeler County Court
Road Department—Community Meetings
July 9, 10, 11, 2013

Historic Revenue: Roads & Schools

Federal Forest Timber Receipts:

1992	\$ 1,642,068
1993	\$ 1,561,685
1995	\$ 842,869
1998	\$ 66,145
2000	\$ 62,605
2001	\$ 28,424

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (2000): Assist communities traditionally funding roads /schools with timber receipts, for a period of six years, as the counties transition to adjust and support those services from other sources. Expired December 2006. Reauthorized for one year in 2007, four years in 2008, and one year in 2011.

Year	Revenue	change	% change	% from high	reauthorize	Wheeler County Road Dept. annual operating Budget
2002	\$ 715,781					\$850,000 - 950,000
2003	\$ 721,370	\$ 5,589	0.78%			
2004	\$ 730,127	\$ 8,757	1.21%			
2005	\$ 739,692	\$ 9,565	1.31%			
2006	\$ 757,100	\$ 17,408	2.35%*			
2007	\$ 764,603	\$ 7,503	0.99%		1 year	
2008	\$ 763,093	\$ (1,510)	-0.20%		4 years	
2009	\$ 687,636	\$ (75,457)	-9.89%		*	
2010	\$ 618,925	\$ (68,711)	-9.99%		*	
2011	\$ 557,786	\$ (61,139)	-9.88%		1 year	
2012	\$ 463,360	\$ (94,426)	-16.93%	-39.28%		
2013	\$ -	\$ (463,360)	-100.00%	-100.00%		

2013-2014 Road Department Revenue (Projected)

Interest	\$ 12,500
Road Work, Private Equipment, Rent	\$ 1,500
State Motor Vehicle Registration Fund	\$137,270
Building Rent (Mitchell)	\$ 700
Forecasted Timber Receipts	\$ 27,000
Total Projected Receipts	\$178,970

Current Liabilities (owed to Employees)

Paid Time Off	\$140,956.91
Unemployment Benefits (6 FTE)	\$219,366.00
Total Liability	\$360,322.91

Emergency Reserve Fund

Catastrophic Road Fund	\$570,941.09
Equipment Reserve	\$157,168.28

2013-2014 (Present)

Projected Income (Revenue)	\$ 178,970.00
Expenses (2012-13 level)	\$1,077,553.65
Operating Loss	-\$899,000.65
Operating Loss	\$ 899,000.65
Current Liabilities	\$ 360,322.91
Total Operating Loss	-\$1,259,323.56
Money in LGIP *(bank)	\$1,366,388.00
(includes \$200,000 equip replace)	
BEO	\$60,000.00
Operating Loss	-\$1,259,323.56
Balance to Operate Road Dept.	\$ 167,065.56

*Local government Investment Pool

ROAD DEPARTMENT REVENUE REPORT

MARCH 2013

HISTORIC REVENUE

TIMBER RECEIPTS

1992 - \$1,642,068.00
 1993 - \$1,561,685.00

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS FUNDS

2002 - \$ 715,780.97
 2003 - \$ 721,370.00
 2004 - \$ 730,127.17
 2005 - \$ 739,691.91
 2006 - \$ 757,099.64
 2007 - \$ 764,602.93
 2008 - \$ 763,093.12
 2009 - \$ 687,636.00
 2010 - \$ 618,924.77
 2011 - \$ 557,785.73
 2012 - \$ 463,359.51

Wheeler County maintains 260 miles of road, which 77 miles are oil or asphalt or a combination of both.

CURRENT ROAD DEPARTMENT REVENUE (KNOWN)

Interest \$ 12,500.00
 Road Work, Private Equipment, Rent \$ 1,500.00
 State Motor Vehicle Registration Fund \$ 137,270.00
 Building Rent \$ 700.00
 Forecasted timber Receipts \$ 27,000.00

\$ 178,970.00

	Forecast FY 2013	Forecast FY 2014	Forecast FY 2015	Forecast FY 2016
Baker	\$43,747	\$40,231	\$40,326	\$40,013
Benton	\$9,455	\$9,330	\$9,506	\$10,207
Clackamas	\$209,730	\$215,697	\$234,386	\$248,971
Clatsop	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Columbia	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Coos	\$15,543	\$13,509	\$14,040	\$14,944
Crook	\$52,253	\$57,802	\$63,454	\$60,564
Curry	\$109,711	\$86,528	\$91,439	\$96,624
Deschutes	\$356,270	\$369,762	\$368,165	\$379,191
Douglas	\$554,760	\$517,709	\$513,105	\$560,607
Gilliam	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grant	\$142,211	\$130,072	\$137,768	\$142,154
Harney	\$48,710	\$49,642	\$54,677	\$55,192
Hood River	\$85,971	\$88,055	\$95,683	\$101,630
Jackson	\$184,554	\$163,947	\$174,366	\$189,594
Jefferson	\$60,917	\$63,250	\$63,185	\$65,160
Josephine	\$62,252	\$49,760	\$52,635	\$55,814
Klamath	\$415,516	\$353,248	\$341,731	\$360,988
Lake	\$142,822	\$155,695	\$161,161	\$164,679
Lane	\$803,577	\$812,554	\$856,940	\$915,275
Lincoln	\$107,553	\$107,892	\$111,443	\$119,656
Linn	\$281,989	\$289,541	\$310,039	\$329,921
Malheur	\$256	\$236	\$239	\$239
Marion	\$111,203	\$114,291	\$122,842	\$130,657
Morrow	\$21,885	\$19,532	\$19,046	\$17,765
Multnomah	\$32,026	\$32,804	\$35,646	\$37,862
Polk	\$185	\$182	\$186	\$199
Sherman	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tillamook	\$53,099	\$52,397	\$53,387	\$57,322
Umatilla	\$59,155	\$52,844	\$51,558	\$48,169
Union	\$49,618	\$45,250	\$44,707	\$43,273
Wallowa	\$56,232	\$53,956	\$52,982	\$43,269
Wasco	\$88,150	\$93,246	\$101,318	\$107,617
Washington	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Wheeler	\$21,684	\$22,670	\$24,212	\$22,993
Yamhill	\$14,761	\$14,566	\$14,841	\$15,935

\$4,195,792 \$4,076,199 \$4,215,011 \$4,436,488

Salary and Benefits

Per hour	FICA	WC	Insurance	Life ins.	Retirement	total	per month	per year
16.18	1.24	0.45	5.86	0.12	1.94	25.79	4,470.18	53,642.16
23.44	1.79	0.66	5.86	0.12	2.81	34.68	6,011.08	72,132.96
20.68	0.79	0.29	3.26	0.06	1.24	26.32	2,281.03	27,372.36
24.58	1.88	0.69	5.86	0.12	2.95	36.08	6,253.75	75,045.00
16.99	1.30	0.48	5.86	0.12	2.04	26.79	4,643.51	55,722.12
26.05	1.99	0.73	6.83	0.12	3.13	38.85	6,733.87	80,806.44
19.72	1.51	0.55	5.86	0.12	2.37	30.13	5,222.43	62,669.16
23.46	1.79	0.66	5.86	0.12	2.82	34.71	6,016.28	72,195.36
							41632.13	499,585.56

Unemployment

per week	x 26 wks	x 63 wks	Amount	FICA	Ret	Total
420	10,920.00	26,460.00	5,290.11	404.69	634.81	6,329.61
529	13,754.00	33,327.00	24,377.60	1,864.89	2,925.31	29,167.80
529	13,754.00	33,327.00	25,563.20	1,955.58	3,067.58	30,586.36
433	11,258.00	27,279.00	17,669.60	1,351.72	2,120.35	21,141.67
529	13,754.00	33,327.00	20,508.80	1,568.92	2,461.06	24,538.78
513	13,338.00	32,319.00	24,398.40	1,866.48	2,927.81	29,192.69
529	13,754.00	33,327.00				140,956.91
	90,532.00	219,366.00				

PTO 1040 hours