

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of March 20, 2019
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

Commissioners Present: Chair Bill Elfering, Vice-Chair George Murdock and
Commissioner John Shafer

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Members and Guests Present: Robert Pahl, County CEO; Tom Fellows, County Public Works Director;
Kim Weissenfluh, County Developmental Disabilities Program Manager; Dale Primmer, Umatilla County
Community Justice Program Manager; Jim Whitney, Pendleton; Teresa Smith and Tony Andreas, NW Nitro
Nationals; UCo Health: Joe Fiumara, Director; Alisha Southwick, Deputy Director; Linsey Ware; Robert Rankin;
Mike Stensrud, Megan Linhart, Samantha Marlock; Bob Waldher, County Planning Director; Gail Nelson,
County Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Chair Elfering welcomed all.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Shafer.

Chair Elfering reminded all it is a public meeting with minutes being taken as well as video recorded. He asked those who wish to speak to the board to come forward to podium.

Awards/Correspondence/Recognition - Employee of the Quarter. Commissioner Murdock noted he asked Public Health employees to come to the meeting for an announcement. The Excellence Committee received nominations for Gloria Corona, who has worked for the County for over 20 years. He read the nomination letters. Congratulations and thank you to Gloria for excellent customer service. She was presented with a certificate, candy and balloons and a photo was taken.

Minutes. none

No additions to agenda.

Public comments – for items other than on the agenda -- there were none.

1. **Hill Climb Event.** Bob Waldher, Planning Director, gave the staff report. The country received an application for a hill climb event. It is for an “outdoor mass gathering” in EFU zones; a permit is obtained and the plan is reviewed. The event is on Jim Whitney’s property – Taylor Lane (outside Reith). Events were held in 2015 and 2017. Mr. Waldher introduced Tony Andreas (Dry Creek Recreation, 4015 Englewood Yakima WA) and Theresa Smith, Kennewick, EA. Previously Ron Dillon was the coordinator – they serve on the same board. A similar event is attracting between 8,000-9,000 people in Yakima (for an off-road vehicle park). This event is nationally televised event. They are looking at property here, hoping it will be on the circuit. May 3-5 is when they hope to have the event.

Commissioner Shafer noted when he worked at UCSO a lot of work was done with Mr. Dillon on the hill climb events. This is a NAHA (west coast) sanctioned points motorcycle hill climb. He noted importance of law enforcement and medical safety for all. Ms. Smith noted 9 years of this type event in Yakima; she

provided Commissioners with a detailed plan, which would be the same type to be used for the local event (and submitted with a permit).

Jim Whitney, 101 SE 3rd St, Pendleton. His property is for a back-up if the event in Yakima doesn't work out. He feels good about bringing people to town (3,000-5,000). He also talked about other uses for his property – wetlands, fish runs on the Umatilla River. Application is in process for near future. He responded to Chair Elfering's question about the hill, preparation before and re-established after events. Great ground! Doug Olsen noted no action is needed by the Board today, it is for information purposes only. Commissioner Murdock noted two years' experience shows it is a good event and Chair Elfering added he hopes the event will happen here if Yakima doesn't work out.

2. Census Proclamation. Presented by Mr. Waldher. This proposal is to proclaim 4/1/19 as the 1-year countdown to the 2020 Census. Complete Count Committee is to be established. The potential federal impact of \$675 billion equates to about \$2,500 per County resident in federal funds. He will also be working with all communities in the coming months. Chair Elfering read the proclamation, **Order No. BCC2019-017. Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the Order. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
3. Complete Count Committee. Presented by Mr. Waldher. The list of members is included in Order No. BCC2019-018. People who live here know our communities best to make sure the count is complete. Commissioner Murdock added this process has been ongoing for a few months. There is value in a complete count. He attended many census events at the National Association of Counties conference in February. Nationwide there were less than 10 including Umatilla County that have been working months and have established a CCC. The impact is huge. He applauds Bob Waldher and also Robb Corbett (Pendleton City Manager) being active in getting this off the ground. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve Order No. BCC2019-018. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
4. AWERE Grants. Presented by Mr. Waldher. He went through the projects, totaling \$153,000, proposed by the AWERE Committee. Commissioner Shafer talked about completed projects – Weston McEwen High School track and the Athena pool -- the program is great for the communities. In addition, Commissioner Murdock commented it is important to have county directors involved in their communities (Mr. Waldher is an Athena resident.) **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve Order No. BCC2019-016. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Position Reclassification – CDDP. Presented by Kim Weissenfluh, Community Developmental Disabilities Program Manager. This is to follow up after Board action several months ago to create the specialist position. Work is caught up and she feels duties warrant position reclassification of these positions to service coordinator. The hope is to bring in more revenue as well as case management. The office assistant is unique work and duties -- it makes sense to temporarily change the position based on the individual in the job. The request for this reclassification is temporary. All funds are non-general fund; budget is available and plans are in line with the mission. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve (reclass two Program Specialists to Service Coordinator and temporary reclass of Office Assistant III position to half OAI and half Program Specialist). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Purchase of Vehicle. Dale Primmer, Community Justice Director, presented. This vehicle has been budgeted over the last two years. Based on individuals in the positions (taller people), he is looking for a used SUV possibly from the Sheriff's office; however, it wouldn't be available for at least one year. He requests an SUV properly equipped with a cage. \$30,000 is budgeted for a used vehicle with less than

36,000 miles. No general fund impact. Mr. Olsen noted the request would go through the Fleet Management Committee. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the request for proposals as outlined. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

7. Harris Park Vault Toilet Purchase. Tom Fellows, Public Works Director, presented. This is to authorize purchase of an additional vault toilet for Harris Park; it is follow up from a grant through Oregon State Parks a couple of years ago. A grant was received from Wildhorse Foundation. Now funds are available to complete the project; in the amount of \$16,979 (on State contract). No general fund impact. There is already one vault toilet at the park, but increase of use shows need for another. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve purchase of item and payment of \$16,979.77. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

8. Motor Grader Purchase. Mr. Fellows presented. This is for a new grader to be purchased through Sourcewell contract = \$541,447. After contract and also a trade-in, the total expenditure will be \$177,779. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock.** Commissioner Murdock asked for his comments about working during recent winter storms. Mr. Fellows advised starting February 5 (after Groundhog day), they put to work nine motor graders, six plow trucks + more equipment for snow removal. Everything was out five days/week or more with one storm after another - - snow + wind. Very unique event and hard on equipment. Staff did excellent job. Commissioner Murdock commented plowing is an issue, but the scope of the fleet and presence on a large number of roads is important to note. Chair Elfering added his appreciation to Tom and his staff for a job well done. Commissioner Shafer advised he received a lot of good comments as well. **Motion Carried, 3-0.**

9. Property Auction. Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director. This is for annual auction for property foreclosed on for delinquent property taxes. The process takes seven years from delinquency to sale. Order No. TX2019-01 lists the annual surplus property for auction. Mr. Olsen advised all are new properties. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve Order No. TX2019-01. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

10. Workforce Summit Sponsorship. Commissioner Murdock noted the County's Leadership Class is putting on a regional workforce summit on May 23. County Economic Development is proposing to be a premier sponsor at a cost of \$7,500, which is before the Board for approval. Josh Davies, a nationally recognized speaker will be in attendance at this major event. It will be a 2-day event with training as well as a luncheon and the guest speaker (Mr. Davies). We are looking for 400-500 people to attend. The Pendleton Rotary Club changed its regular meeting date that week to be part of the event. This will be a first for this scope of attendance. He recognized Kim Weissenfluh, part of the leadership team, here today. He also noted the event will be a huge contribution to the community of Pendleton. But it is way more than that as about 15-16 counties are planned to participate. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the payment of \$7,500. Seconded by Shafer. Commissioner Carried, 3-0.**

11. PERS Solutions Coalition. Chair Elfering presented. A bipartisan group of public service advocates is urging lawmakers to adopt solutions to the rising costs of the PERS system and its unfunded liability. The PERS Solutions coalition is proposing cost-sharing and debt-reduction reforms including some pending legislation. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve joining the coalition. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

Executive Session none.

Commissioners' Reports.

Commissioner Shafer attended a hearing Friday evening of the Ways and Means Committee. He thanked Roy Blaine, Susan McHenry, Department Heads, Joe Fiumara, Amy Ashton-Williams, Sheriff Rowan, and Commissioner Elfering who all testified at the hearing. He feels testimony was well received. He also noted he heard good comments about how well attended the event was and about great local support.

Commissioner Murdock commented about Public Works – “unsung heroes”. He feels a big thank you may be in order. A few years ago there was a BBQ with Commissioners involved as appreciation for a lot of extra duties in bad hours and in bad weather. He noted the liaison Commissioner is John Shafer. All agreed it is a good idea and we should move forward on the plan.

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary Umatilla County Board of Commissioners