

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of November 26, 2019
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

Commissioners Present: Chair George Murdock, Vice-Chair John Shafer, and Commissioner Bill Elfering
County Counsel: Doug Olsen
Members and Guests Present: Undersheriff Jim Littlefield; Capt. Dave Williamson, UCSO; Mark Tanner, Facilities Supervisor; Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer; Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director; Sherry Muke; Pat Meier; Antonio Sierra, EO; Gail Nelson, Economic Development Coordinator; J. R. Cook, NOWA Director; Sheriff Terry Rowan

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Murdock called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He reminded those present that the meeting is a public forum. It is being video and audio recorded and minutes will be taken. Comments will become part of the meeting record. If persons wish to speak before the Board, please come to the podium, identify yourself and state where you live in order to be heard on the record – also note if you are speaking on behalf of others. He noted there is a point for public input before business items for other than agenda items.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Shafer.

Awards/Correspondence/Recognition. Commissioner Elfering noted: (1) Umatilla County was presented with a 2019 Smart Communities award by Washington State Governor recognizing long-term work on the Blue Mountain River Trails project. In particular, big involvement by Bob Waldher, Planning Director, was noted. (2) A plaque presented for 2018-19 Helping Hands award by OSU/Extension to Umatilla County at the 4H banquet on 11/11 in Hermiston. He also noted many 4H youth were recognized.

Minutes – Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the Board minutes from the meeting of 11/06/19. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.

Additions to Agenda – none (however, some items were rearranged for expediency)

Public Comments – none.

Business Items

1. **Post Retirement Employment.** Sheriff Terry Rowan advised Capt. Dave Williamson is retiring after 30 years of service with an effective date of 12/31/19 then returning as a temporary special employee with restrictions under Personnel Policy 4.7 and with annual review. Commissioner Shafer relayed a story from many years ago about a key card when he was a new hire at the Sheriff's Office. Congratulations, Dave! **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve employment of post retirement employee. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
2. **Dispatch Payable.** Sheriff Rowan presented. This is a payable for the RIMS software for annual support. Funds are budgeted. Payment to Sun Ridge Systems = \$14,721. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the payable. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

3. City of Hermiston SHIP Project. Doug Olsen presented. The City is asking the County to be a participating partner to improve the south industrial area (Kelley Blvd. area) and, if funding isn't attained, they are requesting commitment of a contribution of \$50,000. Chair Murdock added this area has a lot of new businesses. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve (and ratify a letter of support for the funding application). Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
4. RCCP Grant Application (Rural Conservation Partnership Program). J.R. Cook, Director - Northeast Oregon Water Association, PO Box 126, Pendleton. This water project has been in the works a long time. On behalf of NOWA, he expressed appreciation to Umatilla County for support of rural infrastructure. There are growing pains in west county related to water supply. And, the wastewater side is becoming more critical to sustain large industrial capacity. He talked about Morrow County improvements in the same area. This Umatilla County project is called Ordinance Water Restoration. Under the grant language, the qualifying applicant needs to be an irrigation district. Westland Irrigation District has agreed, in partnership with the County, to apply for half the capital costs of the project.

Mr. Cook pointed out two benefits: With WID, contracts can start right away so as to not impact the County general fund. Another benefit is the entire project can be included (more than just the main line as the idea began). This provides for great water conservation and sufficient capacity. This is more cost effective using the partnership. NOWA feels the County is a strong supporter of water infrastructure to fill a gap that has been in place a long time. Also, concept support has been obtained from the Oregon Business Council, NOWA with the Environmental Council (a joint letter) as well as federal delegation support; in addition, the Columbia Development Authority drafted a letter last year and will again support the project. He is continuing to get financial support, but, in the meantime, the County agreeing to be contributing partner is a big initial step.

Mr. Cook noted the project started differently -- consisting of three regional projects to recover aquifer levels that have been in decline. \$15 million state funds were awarded in 2015, which has generated about \$70 million of private and other financial capital. He noted an 80" pipe out of the Columbia River is planned combining three projects together. Commissioner Shafer commended Mr. Cook and NOWA for their hard work over the long-term. In addition, Gail Nelson, County Economic Development Coordinator, has also recently started working with Mr. Cook on this big regional project. The request before the Board is to make an application under the RCCP grant program for funding toward the construction of the waterline. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

5. Elections Results. Doug Olsen presented. This is to accept the results of the November 5 election for the county ballot measures – Charter amendments and Milton-Freewater Valley Ambulance District formation and authorize the Chair to sign the necessary letter of acceptance. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Election Payable – Maintenance. Mr. Olsen presented. This is a request to pay for ballot scanner maintenance to Election Systems & Software in the amount of \$5,570. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the payable. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Charter Amendments – Public Hearing. Chair Murdock called the hearing to order at 9:15 a.m. Staff report was presented by Mr. Olsen. Two ordinances went along with election results (method of election and Sheriff's Office name reference). The ordinances will formally add to the Charter the amendments adopted by the voters in the November 5 election.

Chair Murdock asked for proponents – there were none. He then asked for any opponents – there were none. He then called for public agency comments. None were heard. He asked for rebuttal. There was none. He closed the public hearing @ 9:18 a.m.

Deliberation/discussion. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-11. Commissioner Shafer seconded. Carried, 3-0.**

Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-12. Commissioner Shafer seconded. Carried, 3-0.

8. Milton-Freewater Valley Ambulance District. Mr. Olsen presented. The voters approved the dissolution of the M-F Ambulance Service Area Health District and forming the new Milton-Freewater Valley Ambulance District at the November 5, 2019. The formal approval of the new district is before the Board for adoption. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2019-068. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Vadata Agreement Amendment. Mr. Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director, presented. In 2020, Vadata proposes to construct buildings of 20,000 sq. ft. and less. SIP agreements support full-size buildings; the intent is to put the smaller build-outs fully on tax rolls and not as part of SIP agreements. The request is to amend the agreement to exclude smaller buildings. Upon becoming operational, the build-outs would go on the tax rolls. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the amendment. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Chiller Replacement Contract (courthouse). Mark Tanner, Facilities Manager, presented. This is to replace a failing chiller (second of two) at the courthouse. The estimate was \$100,000, but after contractor did additional analysis, the additional cost is \$41,000 – this would replace pipe – which the Mechanical Heating & Air people advised is needed. The courthouse is now running on one chiller, but two are needed for efficiency. The \$141,000 will include improvements for everything needed -- piping, permits, etc. Life expectancy is 25-30 years of use. A request for proposals was issued, and one proposal was submitted. Mr. Olsen noted this bid is by the contractor who replaced both boilers. Mr. Tanner noted the bulk of work of abatement of asbestos has been done over last few weeks. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve contract with Mechanical Heating for the chiller replacement in the amount of \$141,000. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
11. Weed Control Payable. Mr. Olsen presented. The County received a grant for control of garlic mustard, a portion of which work was performed by the CTUIR. The payable to CTUIR for part of the work was \$9,275. The payable is before the Board due to the amount. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the payable. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
12. Personnel Policy Update. Mr. Olsen presented. The Board approved Personnel Policy 4.17 regarding bilingual incentive pay previously, but the policy needed some minor adjustments to clarify the testing process. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the amended policy. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

Executive Session – none.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Shafer congratulated Commissioner Murdock on his selection by his peers to be the next Second Vice-President of AOC – a huge honor. Congratulations! He will move through the ranks to become President of AOC in the next few years.

Commissioner Elfering congratulated Commissioner Shafer for completing AOC County College as a new commissioner in 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners