

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting of August 5, 2020
9:00a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon
Public Call in #: 541-728-0275

Commissioner Present: Chair John Shafer
Commissioners calling in: Vice-Chair George Murdock and Commissioner Bill Elfering
County Counsel: Doug Olsen
Attendance: Sheriff Terry Rowan; Joe Fiumara, UCo Health Director
Calling in: Tom Fellows, Public Works Director; Nick Bower & Susan Bower, EO Business Source; Matt Kenny, Public Works – Survey Supervisor; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Supervisor; Riley Wortman, Administrative Services-IT + more as noted in minutes (those who spoke).

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Shafer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He reminded those present that the meeting is a public forum and there is a call-in option provided. The meeting 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, 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

Awards/Correspondence/Recognition. None.

Minutes–Commissioner Elfering moved to acknowledge the Board minutes from the meetings of 7/1/20, 7/15/20, and 7/22/20. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Additions to Agenda – none.

Public Comments – for other than agenda items. None.

Business Items

1. **Leadership Academy Report.** PowerPoint presented by Susan Bower & Nick Nash from EO Business Source. Co-developer of the leadership program; this is the second leadership academy in Umatilla County. A great place to live, work, and play. Leadership Academy is good for recruitment of new positions and also a good to supplement new employee orientations. Ms. Bower then turned it over to Nick Nash to present the press release. 11 employees completed the 6-month program. Participants are not currently managers, but are looking to promote to positions of leadership. COVID restricted the way things were normally done, but a remote system was used and was very successful. Participants were: Jon Salter, Assessment & Taxation; Kerri Roberts, Sheriff’s Office, Samantha French, CDDP; John Williams, Youth Services; Carre Sincleir-Biegel, Human Services; Tierney Cimmiyotti, Land Use-Planning; Kari Gibson, Sheriff’s Office; Neena Kik, Community Justice; Ana Escalante, Community Justice; Riley Wortman, Administrative Services; and Linsey Ware, UCo Health.

Riley Wortman remarked it was a great opportunity – although half way through changes needed to be made due to COVID restrictions.

Power Point (due to some difficulties...) Mr. Wortman continued – the group project was different audio clips. At the end of six months, he felt the program offered meaningful life impacts, more confidence, as well as being more aware of their own personality traits, all in all – 11 participants have achieved skill sets for professional and personal development. Organized culture is Umatilla County Leadership – thank you for this opportunity. Ms. Bower offered congratulations to all participants. Chair Shafer added a thank you to all for their efforts -- Susan and Nick as well as all 11 students/employees.

2. Stance Against Racism Resolution. Presented by Commissioner Murdock – this resolution is before the commissioners for action – it speaks for itself. Chair Shafer read the resolution in its entirety: Order No. BCC 2020-058, in the matter of the Board’s Stance Against Racism, Discrimination and Social Injustices in Umatilla County. **Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt the Resolution, Order No. BCC 2020-058. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

Doug Olsen suggested this is the time for the public calling in to comment if they would like.

Natasha Stiles, representative for the coalition who submitted an order to the Commissioners, 319 NW 11th St., Pendleton. She believes there is anti-racism from leaders – it will be impactful for the life of people of color, both economically and for health. She was encouraged by the Board’s order as read – the language will be beneficial for progress in the public. She was previously concerned about racism, but is encouraged by this order and future engagement to create better quality of life for all in our county. She looks forward to working with leaders, this board, and the community. She believes the Commissioners are working with and are listening to the conversation. Thank you again for this order. And, she very much looks forward to regional engagement.

Chair Shafer thanked Ms. Stiles for her comments. He too looks forward to working together moving forward.

Jackie Linton, 111 W. Birch Avenue, Hermiston. She also is pleased with the order today.

Nolan Bylinga, 1193 SW Theta Ct., Pendleton. He thanked the Commissioners for the resolution and also agreed with Natasha’s comments. With history going in the wrong direction, he now feels with this local resolution, we are going in the right direction. Thank you.

Andrew Morris, 42 Walla Walla St., Umatilla. He noted he sent a PowerPoint (Health Disparities) for presentation to the board (it was posted with the agenda), wherein it has data points about disparities within our county and also some data points at the federal level, as well as examples of the Trump administration trying to reduce health disparities and the desire to provide opportunities to people of color. He encouraged viewing the PowerPoint (link is on-line). In particular, in Umatilla County: 56% Hispanic adults/Latinos don’t have health insurance coverages (2018 is the newest data) as compared to 7% of the rest of the population in the county. There is other relevant data as well in the PowerPoint. It is important to note the disparities. He also thanked the Commissioners for the resolution. Chair Shafer noted he had viewed the informative presentation. Mr. Morris also agreed with Natasha and others and encouraged follow-up – he has 20 years in the health care policy field and would be happy to engage.

Donna Averitt, 1420 NW 11th St., Hermiston, Community Organizer for Black Lives Matter Eastern Oregon Alliance. She also thanked the Board for the order today. She then read a prepared statement. She believes the order passed today is very encouraging and is hopeful the words turn to actions. She asked, how did the order come to be? It is reminiscent of previous remarks of white privilege – maybe unintentional detriment to people of color. She added it would be good to be more conscious about things

around us. Again, thank you very much for the actions of the order and she looks forward to working together.

Jaime Madrigal, 114 Naches Ave., Umatilla. He thanked the Commissioners for the resolution today. It has been troubling about comments of being against protesting/demonstrations. He felt protests were needed and that the Commissioners could have been helpful at the beginning. Moving forward the order suggests more clear thinking and getting a sense of what's going on and listening to injustices. He mentioned demographics – around 30% Latino population in the county. He believes people of color are not in positions of leadership/power and wished more could be done in that regard; he suggested reaching out to communities to learn more. He feels we are moving in the right direction – with hindsight, it is more clear.

Chair Shafer addressed his comment about the protest – he noted the EO misquoted him (it wasn't in its entirety). He was proud of peaceful protests in Pendleton and Hermiston. What he has found disturbing was other protests where people are looting and spraying graffiti on monuments. Again, he felt protests in Umatilla County were proper.

Commissioner Elfering suggested people call Commissioners about articles in the EO to discuss for clarification. He welcomes comments/conversation.

Donna Averitt (again) – asked, how did the order come about? It was different from the first order. Commissioner Murdock felt the first order had some comments that were reflected inaccurately in the newspaper. However, this Board had no difficulty in preparing this resolution – it doesn't represent anything other than fundamental beliefs. Today, in his making the motion to adopt [and the white paper], and also his beliefs from 10, 20, or 30 years ago. Not a bit of coercion about what is said in this document. It reflects what is necessary to get the message to people of color in our county and the need to provide reflection – accurate – of what we need to do moving forward in making a difference. In particular, the awakening has been extremely valuable – but we must make positive changes moving forward in Umatilla County and also for the entire life of our communities.

Amber Henderson, 1209 SW Theta Ct., Pendleton. She has reached out to the Commissioners after original order was written, content of this new order is encouraging. She encouraged reaching out to the Commissioners – this is small community and it is easy to have a conversation with leaders. Thank you for this order – it gives her and other people of color a sense of support from leadership in this county.

Chair Shafer noted a letter received today before the meeting, which he read in its entirety, from G. Glenn Youngman.

Saad Workbook was linked to the agenda. Commissioner Murdock commented it is important after reading it, as was pointed out many times in the workbook, it isn't intended to reflect on others but only to review the workbook to reflect on one's individual/own beliefs. Commissioner Elfering also commented it is a different point of view and he acknowledged it. Chair Shafer also noted he had read the workbook and appreciated the information. It was enlightening to him as well. Thank you to whomever delivered it to the Board of Commissioners.

3. Umatilla Enterprise Zone Amendment. Presented by Doug Olsen. Commissioner Murdock noted this is the proposal based upon a meeting in which he participated with the City of Umatilla. Mr. Olsen noted this is before board to become co-sponsor of the Greater Umatilla Enterprise Zone, at the city's request; also requesting to have the county agree with the boundary adjustment within the UGB for the enterprise zone to have additional property to be available to provide tax incentives within the expanded zone designation. In response to Commissioner Elfering's question about the boundary area (depicted on the monitors as all of the striped areas), Mr. Olsen noted there are one or two parcels are within the city that are to be included. **Motion**

was made by Commissioner Elfering to adopt Order No. BCC2020-060. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

4. Drilling and Blasting Contract. Presented by Tom Fellows, Public Works Director (via phone). A request for proposals was issued for drilling and blasting of a quarry site near Stanfield (Ransier pit) for 30,000 cubic yards of material. Two proposals were received (one from Aggregate Industries and one from RYNO Works). He is recommending the Aggregate Industries bid for \$2.43/CY (the lower bid) and to move forward with the drilling project. **Motion was made by Commissioner Elfering to approve the contract with Aggregate Industries. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Survey Order. Presented by Matt Kenny, Public Works – Survey Supervisor (via phone). The proposal is part of a project to legalize portion of Alkali Canyon Road between Highway 74 and Warner Road, 1.5 miles in length – no records exist for this portion. Access to windmill operations raised the issue; this action by the Board is to initiate the legalization process and request the survey to begin. **Motion was made by Commissioner Murdock to adopt Order No. RD2020-13. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Plotter Purchase. Presented by Mr. Fellows. This is to authorize the purchase of equipment. This is equipment to cut sign materials – fairly unique. The current plotter/cutter is 30 years old and can no longer be fixed. The sign department uses this sometimes (particularly for some small signs). Quotes were received from DencoSales for two machines. At this time, he is requesting approval for purchase of the equipment including software. In response to Commissioner Elfering’s question to clarify quotes, Mr. Fellows noted the 48” size is not really needed at this time and it is expensive. So, it is not included in his recommendation. **Motion was made by Commissioner Elfering to authorize purchase of the Graphtec Plotter in the amount of \$9,337.29. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Laptops Purchase. Presented by Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director. This is to approve purchase of 10 laptops for the UCo Health call center, dealing with COVID-19 contact tracing. He sought to purchase from a local vendor, Price Computers in M-F. The total amount is \$10,440. Due to the emergency need, purchase was already made. Chair Shafer commented this is a good vendor; he thanked Mr. Lonai for buying local. Mr. Lonai noted the numbers were compared to the state contract and it is competitive pricing. **Motion was made by Commissioner Elfering to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Roofing Contract. Presented by Mr. Lonai. This is replacement roofing bid for the juvenile department building (the area above the “cells”-- now offices). Request for Proposals was issued and two proposals were received, Palmer Roofing bid of \$39,600 and Spokane Roofing for \$87,000. He recommended Palmer Roofing at the low bid. **Motion was made by Commissioner Murdock to approve contract with Palmer Roofing in the amount of \$39,600. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Creation of Position - Dispatch. Presented by Sheriff Rowan. This was presented during budget process – as part of increased 911 revenues -- first quarter payment shows this. A new position in Dispatch is appropriate. It will help with quality service. The 911 center is also switching out radios. Chair Shafer pointed out with the day’s first presentation (Leadership Academy), two dispatch employees were part of the program. Upon Commissioner Elfering’s request, Sheriff Rowan commented about 911 increased fees and sustainability. His information shows that revenue increases have exceeded expectations; therefore, he feels there wouldn’t be reduction in funding in coming months and they should be sustainable for the foreseeable future. **Motion was made by Commissioner Elfering to approve new dispatcher position. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Creation of Position – Public Health. Presented by Joe Fiumara, UCo Health Director. He is asking for creation of new epidemiologist position – never had before. Regional funding from COVID response is

coming available. There is no one on staff at this time to assess critical data. Position would take over this duty from him. It is short term funding at this time, but hopes the state continues it moving forward. It needs to be a permanent position. Commissioner Murdock noted state funding is woefully short in health concerns – now, the incidence of COVID-19 makes it clear the state needs to invest in public health with appropriate funding moving forward. Mr. Fiumara also added this would be the only epidemiologist position in this part of the state – the closest is in Bend. Chair Shafer thanked Joe and all staff for the incredible job they are doing. Mr. Fiumara remarked that staff is performing above expectations. **Motion was made by Commissioner Murdock to approve the new position. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

11. Sale of Property. Presented by Mr. Olsen. This is before the board for approval to sell a parcel acquired for delinquent property taxes in the Milton-Freewater area. The auction was in May, where no bid were made. A neighboring owner has just now submitted a bid within minimum requirements to purchase [\$6,001]. **Motion was made by Commissioner Elfering to adopt Order BCC2020-058. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

12. Hermiston City Hall. Mr. Olsen presented. This is for approval to participate in construction of the new Hermiston city hall. The source of funding is a portion of Lamb-Weston enterprise zone funds. It would include investing funds as a contribution for the county to utilize a portion at the new city hall for county programs. In addition, the old Sam Cook building in Hermiston previously used for some county offices won't be needed any longer. Those funds would also contribute to the new facility. Commissioner Murdock commented he has met with city officials as well as the architect who is designing the building as well as county department heads (to assess needs of county staff). He spoke to the agreement for use of enterprise zone funds in areas of the county where growth is encouraged and funds are being generated. Great opportunity to partner with Hermiston to benefit the city with growth anticipation, but also county staff would get a better and more useful facility. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. He commented it is a good use of funds moving forward. Carried, 3-0.**

13. Eurus Community Benefit Plan Grants. Presented by Chair Shafer (as committee member). After the recent committee meeting to work with a total of \$25,000 and 13 applications, it is recommended to divide the amount available among those who met criteria -- nine grants (listed in Order No. BCC2020-061). **Motion was made by Chair Shafer to adopt Order No. BCC2020-061. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. He commented it is great that the company continues beyond agreement to put funds into the communities in the area. Chair Shafer concurred. Carried, 3-0.**

Executive Session – none.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Elfering: He met with the Sheriff and Undersheriff about legislative short sessions of concepts that affect Sheriff operations. In the future, may need commissioner support for appropriate legislative concepts. Commissioner Murdock asked about the idea of uniforms being the same across the state. Commissioner Elfering commented it is important to identify individual agencies with departments – in addition, this would be unfunded mandate. Commissioner Murdock noted it would be \$30,000 mandate to this county. It is very important to quickly determine who is on the job. He feels the OSP uniforms are for the state to handle. However, Umatilla County can determine its own uniforms to identify county employees. Chair Shafer also commended about uniforms – he feels it would be going backwards with one uniform for all.

Commissioner Murdock: he visited with Governor Brown wherein she asked what could she do to help? He feels at this time, we need better and quicker testing – it is ludicrous to wait for test results – that is not helpful. Proper testing and all necessary pieces (reagents, etc.) are needed. Time lag is an issue. He passed that on to the Governor and the state health office – we must have better supply for reagents. Also, cartridges are a quick test and that

would be helpful as well. We must have supplies for better protection for our citizens – it is a problem without those supplies.

Commissioner Shafer: Thank you to IT department for working with the late notice of zoom meeting today – sorry about the technical difficulties. He applauds their efforts in getting all together.

The meeting adjourned 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners