

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting of September 7, 2022
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

Commissioners Present: Chair John Shafer, Vice-Chair Dan Dorran, and Commissioner George Murdock

County Counsel Doug Olsen

Guests Present: Elaine Howard, Consultant to City of Hermiston; Mark Morgan, Hermiston Assistant City Manager; Jimmy Doherty, owner of EO Waste Management, Pilot Rock.; Bob Waldher, Planning Director; Brandon Dahl and Kevin Miracle, District Manager, Sanitary Disposal, Hermiston; Bureau of Land Management: Sandra Tennyson, Baker Assistant Field Manager; Wayne Monger, Vale District Manager; Undersheriff Jim Littlefield; Search & Rescue Sgt. Dwight Johnson; Rachael Reynolds, A&T Director; Tom Fellows, Public Works Director; Mark Tanner, Facilities Manager; Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer

Video link or Calling in: Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director; Joe Fiumara, UCO Health Director (+*see list of attendance, copy on file*)

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Shafer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He reminded all that the meeting is a public forum and there is a call-in option provided. There is time on the agenda to provide input (or for hearings) to provide comment. The meeting is being video and audio recorded and minutes will be taken. Also, meetings are now live-streaming. Comments will become part of the meeting record. If persons wish to speak before the Board, please 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

Awards/Correspondence/Recognitions. – None.

Minutes – Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the minutes from Board meetings of 7/28/22, 8/3/22, and 8/17/22. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Additions to Agenda – None.

Public Comments – (*for other than items on the business/action agenda*). Commissioner Dorran introduced Vale BLM District Manager, Wayne Monger, and Sandy Tennyson, BLM Baker Field Office. The BLM district covers a huge area. A recent situation at Hermiston (Sunshine and Joy Lane) came to a successful resolution with BLM’s assistance. Mr. Monger advised the BLM Region-Vale, covers 5.1 million surface acres in Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and Washington with one law enforcement officer. Quarterly reports provide good information. He handed out a current report and encouraged contact if needed. Sandy Tennyson reported about the South Fork Walla Walla environmental process – Forest Service, NOAA, ODFW and Tribes + others (agencies – federal only). Collaboration of decision-making process are next steps for that area. In response to Commissioner Dorran’s question about property owners, she advised they weren’t involved at this time, but would be included in a different/future meeting. He urged landowners being part of the process when it is the proper time.

Discussion turned to flooding, damage assessments, scoping-coming up, etc. Commissioner Dorran commented that the county's Harris Park is a gateway to Forest Service and BLM land; concern that the gate has been closed and there's need to focus on resolution. Ms. Tennyson advised a pre-scoping meeting with the public will be held this November – it's in planning stages now.

Regarding fires, Mr. Monger noted luck with no or small fires – this season has been manageable. Willow Creek fire was 1,200 acres, which is fortunate in this area. Lower temperatures are forecast. Regarding land transfers, Commissioner Dorran spoke about the slow government process with roadblocks, and asked for Mr. Monger's view on that. Mr. Monger responded he didn't see the process getting faster with large resource management plans to consider – they are a 20-year period foundational document. A first step is to identify parcels in that plan, then move forward to lands and realty actions. Every 10 years, plans are evaluated; the last one was from 1989. Ms. Tennyson added this was an internal evaluation process, with review/findings from there; there is no public input on that process. Both Mr. Monger and Ms. Tennyson shared their backgrounds and how they came to Oregon. The Board thanked them for the attendance at the meeting and the information provided.

Business Items

1. **Tourism Grant.** Presented by Chair Shafer. In June, the Board approved setting aside funding to support tourism programs in Umatilla County for people with disabilities. An application for a grant for the funding has been received by the county, which will be utilized to create videos of local establishments showing their accessibility. It will be available on Chamber's website and Travel Oregon. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the grant and authorize payment of \$25,000 to Mobility Matters. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**
2. **Pendleton-Pilot Rock Enterprise Zone Expansion.** Presented by Doug Olsen. The City of Pendleton is seeking to expand the boundaries of the Pendleton-Pilot Rock Enterprise Zone. The expansion would include three parcels near the Pendleton airport. Approximately 565 acres would be added to the zone. The County is a co-sponsor of the zone, along with the Cities of Pendleton and Pilot Rock. All sponsors have to approve the expansion. The matter is before the Board for consideration. **Commissioner Dorran moved to adopt Order No. BCC2022-048. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
3. **Southwest Hermiston Urban Renewal Presentation.** Presented by Mark Morgan, Hermiston Assistant City Manager. The City of Hermiston is in the process of developing an urban renewal plan for property in southwest Hermiston. City staff is before the Board to present the project and answer any questions regarding the plan. The purpose of the urban renewal district would be to extend public utilities to the site and provide infrastructure to the development. He showed a PowerPoint presentation, and followed by Elaine Howard, consultant, who also showed a PowerPoint presentation. Commissioner Dorran remarked on the vision and great presentation. Chair Shafer thanked them for presenting this exciting project.
4. **Umatilla River Bridge MOU.** Presented by Mr. Morgan. He talked about background/history. In August, 2021, the county agreed, along with the Cities of Hermiston and Umatilla, to jointly fund the cost for a preliminary engineering report for a potential bridge that would span the Umatilla River as an extension of W. Elm Avenue or W. Punkin Center Road. Anderson-Perry has completed the study report. The report concluded that the better option is W. Punkin Center Road. There are tradeoffs as to which of the two places works best for a bridge. This is long-range, tying together Hermiston and the City of Umatilla and commercial services will stay in Hermiston. There's need for a connection to grow together. The three entities want to document a consensus of the option. A Memorandum of Understanding for that purpose is before the Board for consideration. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Chair to sign. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock.** He asked, how far is the distance from Punkin Center to Elm? Mr. Morgan advised it is about a mile. He feels traffic flow will also be helped at the preferred Punkin Center option. **Carried, 3-0.**

5. City of Umatilla Annexation. Presented by Mr. Olsen. As part of the PATH project (homeless facilities), the City of Umatilla is seeking to annex a County Road and county owned property into the city limits. A portion of the property currently is leased for aggregate stockpiling, with the north two acres to be utilized for the PATH project. The consent to the annexation is before the Board for consideration. The property will be rezoned to light industrial after the annexation. The current use would be allowed as a non-conforming use. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to approve consent to annexation of Lind Road and the County owned parcel. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Solid Waste Rate Increase – Hermiston. Presented by Bob Waldher, Planning Director. He introduced Kevin Miracle (District Manager) and Brandon Dahl, Sanitary Disposal in Hermiston. Commissioner Dorrان expressed concerns about missed routes, some waste at transfer station not moving, and he’s been getting calls from Hermiston residents with concerns that things aren’t getting recycled. He understands this is new ownership. Mr. Miracle noted old equipment is broken down and there have been supply issue problems. A rate increase will be mainly for employee costs to come to a livable scale. He explained reasons of back-log and he’s still working on taking over old facilities. They are working on improving, updating, and streamlining the operation/systems. Commissioner Dorrان talked about the importance of responsiveness to calls. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to adopt Order No. BCC2022-050. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Solid Waste Rate Increase – Pilot Rock. Presented by Jimmy Doherty, owner of EO Waste Management, Pilot Rock. He was available for any questions regarding the request for rate increases for collection services. The rate increase request was submitted to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and on July 12, 2022 the recommendation was approved to forward to the Board for consideration. **Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Order No. BCC2022-051. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Solid Waste Franchise. Presented by Mr. Waldher. This is for renewal for a solid waste franchise to Quality Compost LLC. The SWAC moved to approve the recommendation for renewal at its July meeting. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to adopt Order No. BCC2022-049. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Rescue Litter Purchase. Presented by Dwight Johnson, Sgt., Search & Rescue. Working with Union County, approval is requested to purchase a rescue litter (projected on the monitors). It is titanium (light) with skids as well as a center tire. This is for one additional litter; two other litters are in use at this time. The amount is \$5,951 to be purchased from Cascade Rescue. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to approve the purchase from Cascade Rescue. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Vehicle Purchase. Presented by Tom Fellows, Public Works Director. Authorization is requested to purchase one 2022 F150 pickup. Vehicles have been difficult to acquire with supply chain issues and less manufacturing, plus prices on delivery are more expensive. There is need to upgrade the pickup fleet and this pickup is on the lot in Bend (Kendall Ford), available under the state contract in the amount of \$47,506.07. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
11. Vehicle Replacement. Presented by Mr. Fellows. This is for replacement of a service truck (bridge crew) involved in an accident that totaled it. Insurance paid \$45,000. This is for one F250 service body pickup on the state contract for \$64,113.13 from Northside Ford. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
12. Elections Payable – Envelopes. Mr. Olsen presented. This is a usual expense for an election – ballot secrecy envelopes. It is before the Board due to the amount. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the payable to CENVEO in the amount of \$9,002.40. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**

13. Maintenance Payable – Electrical. Presented by Mark Tanner, Facilities Manager. Approval is requested for the bulk/last of interior electrical items in an amount of \$10,435.12 for the new maintenance shop. In response to Commissioner Dorran’s question about more expense of outside lighting coming, Mr. Tanner advised there is more to come, and also separate electrical for the parking lot. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the payable to Double S Electric. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
14. Maintenance Payable – Community Corrections. Presented by Mr. Tanner. This is for the move to the old VFW Hall by Community Corrections in Hermiston, for doors. It is before the Board due to the amount of \$5,829.20. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the payable to E&S Hardware & Supply. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
15. Jail Kitchen Air Handler Contract. Presented by Mr. Tanner. The County issued a request for proposals for a new makeup air handler unit for the jail kitchen. Only one proposal was received, although four started the process. HMS Commercial Service proposal is for \$73,473 for installation of the new makeup air handler. The department recommends approval. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the contract to HMS Commercial as outlined. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
16. Creation of Position - Public Health. Presented by Joe Fiumara, UCo Health Director. A new position is before the Board for approval. This position is dedicated for tobacco areas with an equity focus. The new Community Health Systems Developer position will coordinate with a number of community organizations, supported by funding from OHA expected through future biennia; there’s no general fund impact. Position costs are estimated at \$116,762 (Range 23, 1 FTE). **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve creation of the position. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
17. Creation of Position - Environmental Health. Presented by Mr. Fiumara. The request is for a new position in the environmental health program. This position would be located in Hermiston – an administrative aide for EH, effective immediately. In November, the health department will begin expanding operating hours in Hermiston after the move to the new location. Funding is from modernization funds, which are expected to continue beyond this current fiscal year. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve creation of the position. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**
18. Creation of Position – Environmental Health Specialist. Presented by Mr. Fiumara. Another position is requested to be added to the environmental health program. This is also for the Hermiston area – the individual would provide technical assistance regarding groundwater/well water testing information and overall public water side in the LUBGWM Area, effective immediately. Funding is from modernization; multiple funding requests have been submitted to the legislature hoping to support it in the future. At this time, funds are somewhat limited – down the road changes in funding would be needed. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve creation of the position. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran, adding the position can’t be filled soon enough. Carried, 3-0.**
19. Public Health Payment. Presented by Mr. Fiumara. Malheur County is a participating member of HOME (Healthy Oregon Modernization East). This is a regional collaborative for which UCo Health is the fiscal agent. Malheur County is sponsoring a Health Equity Summit, and the collaborative agreed to support this summit fiscally with \$20,000. These funds come from OHA Regional Modernization funding that is specifically to be used in a regional format. In part, these funds will be used to support staff from various counties to attend this event. Board approval needed due to the amount. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the payment. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

20. Furniture Purchase. Presented by Mr. Fiumara. This is for the purchase of new office furniture for the Hermiston office (at the new Hermiston City Hall) discussed previously with EH office positions. A quote from Frazier Office Supply is \$17,171.04 (10 new chairs, 8 new sit/stand desks, 8 sets of drawers, and 8 bookcases). Cost allocation for this expenditure is budgeted. This does include some programs that utilize general funds. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

21. Personal Property Tax Abatement. Presented by Rachael Reynolds, A&T Director. The request before the Board is to abate some personal property taxes that staff has determined to be uncollectible. Some businesses are no longer in business for a number of years and, also, manufactured homes are now either not in the county or have been destroyed or have no value. The county needs to get them off the tax rolls. **Commissioner Dorran moved to adopt Order No. TX2022-04. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

In addition, Commissioner Murdock asked Ms. Reynolds to elaborate about the A&T department for the record. She advised that Maria Garcia and David Mitchell have worked hard on this. Maria previously collected debts (in the auto world), which she applied to her position here. As of last week, 42% had been collected from manufactured homes, personal property, 33%, and businesses, 18% of real property (headed into foreclosure). They collected 100 out of 212 accounts. This is a huge accomplishment equating to cost savings to county. Ms. Reynolds noted costs for \$92/warrant + \$7/each certified notice + time to do all the paperwork.

22. Trail Grant Application. Presented by Mr. Waldher. Approval is sought for the county to apply for a trail grant. This is a fairly new program through ODOT. Federal and state funds are used to develop trails, mainly off system (out of public right-of-way). This is for phase 1 of the Umatilla River Trail, which would ultimately connect Umatilla and Hermiston. The Implementation Committee with support from the Planning Department have been working with Merchant McIntyre (consultant) for the pre-application to the Oregon Community Pathways Program with approximately \$6 million available), hoping for invitation to apply in 2023. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock.** Commissioner Dorran thanked Megan and Bob plus the committee for their great work. Mr. Waldher hopes this initial step will give a boost to moving forward with next phase and beyond. **Carried, 3-0.**

23. State Agreement – DA Support. Presented by Mr. Olsen. The State of Oregon is willing to assume the child support enforcement program from the District Attorney. The state will continue the program and will transfer two county employees with the program. The transfer agreement with the State is before the Board for review and approval. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the agreement and authorize the Chair to sign. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

24. Board Payable. Presented by Mr. Olsen. Approval is sought for a payable for dues and assessments for the Eastern Oregon Counties Association. The payable is before the Board for approval due to the amount of \$20,000. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the payable. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

25. Livestock Losses Payables. Presented by Mr. Olsen. Previously, the county Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee reviewed and approved payments for 2021 confirmed depredations and missing livestock. A requested state grant was not fully funded; payments for depredation were fully approved, but payment for missing livestock only allowed 50% loss payments. The payables for the four producers to compensate for depredations and missing livestock for 2021 are before the Board for review and approval. Commissioner Murdock declared a conflict. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the grants and payable for four producers for livestock losses. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 2-0. Commissioner Murdock abstained.**

26. Position Reclassification. Presented by Chair Shafer (liaison commissioner to the Economic Development department). Permission is requested to reclassify the Economic Development Coordinator position to a newly created Community and Business Development Coordinator position at Range 34. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve reclassification. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
27. Department Ordinance Amendment – Public Hearing. Chair Shafer called the public hearing to order at 10:36 a.m. Doug Olsen presented. The first reading of the ordinance to update the county department organization ordinance and organizational chart was held 8/17/22. There have been no additional changes. This is the second reading of the ordinance. Chair Shafer asked for public comments. There were none heard; there were no questions from the public. He closed the public hearing at 10:37 a.m. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-10. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
28. Van Purchase. Presented by Mr. Olsen. As part of the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding for the Agape House, a van purchase was authorized. Authorization to issue a request for proposal for a cargo high roof van is before the Board for discussion and possible action. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to approve and authorize issuance of request for proposals. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
29. Board Meeting Schedule. Presented by Mr. Olsen. Due to the upcoming AOC conferences, the second Board meeting in November will not have a quorum available. There is a quorum available on November 30, 2022. The rescheduling of the first meeting in November is also proposed (from November 2 to November 9). **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve rescheduling meetings as outlined. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**

Executive Session – none.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Murdock: nothing

Commissioner Dorrان: nothing

Commissioner Shafer: Regarding CCS (Community Counseling Solutions), for the record, in 9 months -- from February 2021 through November 2021-- total assessments of mental health, CCS saw 1,094 (compared to 600 assessments previously in 9 months by former provider). He noted comments/concerns of delays in assessments; in that regard, he spoke to Kimberly Lindsay who told him CCS is hiring numerous individuals to handle increases in clients/evaluations.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary – Board of Commissioners