

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of August 5, 2026
9:00 am, Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

Commissioners Present: Chair Dan Dorran, Vice-Chair John Shafer and Commissioner Cindy Timmons

County Counsels: Doug Olsen, Nicholas Warner

Guests Present: Robert Pahl, Umatilla County Chief Financial Officer; Tom Fellows, Umatilla County Public Works Director; Jason Jensen, CFO; Bob Waldher, Community Development Director; Valorie Tomren, Pendleton Fire Department; Dakota Kennedy, UC Public Works (several other PW staff were present for the Awards/Correspondence/Recognition section); Charlet Hotchkiss, Planner; Captain Paul Wolverton, UCSO; Megan Davchevski, Planning Manager; Lieutenant Justin Russell, UCSO;

Video link or Calling in: Jennifer Blake, UC HR Director; Griffin Beach, Elkhorn Media; Lieutenant Josh Roberts, UCSO; Sage DeLong, UC Emergency Manager;

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dorran called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. 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 and ask that they be three minutes or under. 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 - led by Chair Dorran.

Awards/Correspondence/Recognitions – Chair Dorran began with a thank you to Doug Olsen for 27 years of dedicated service with Umatilla County! This is his 650th Board of Commissioners’ board meeting. Additional gratitude and appreciation was expressed and a round of applause for the soon to be retiree.

Employee of the Quarter was awarded to Deputy Trevor Limburg. The nomination letter from peers was read aloud. His sound expertise, swift action and correct application of life saving efforts, resulted in a recent gunshot victim surviving his injuries. His actions are not only a model to others in the law enforcement personnel but display courage and heroism. Congratulations on a job well done.

Valorie Tomren, Pendleton Fire Department recognized Umatilla County employee, Dakota Kennedy, for going above and beyond his job duties at a recent emergency scene. The call was for a rollover vehicle accident with multiple patients, and a vehicle fire that created a grass fire. Mutual aid was not available. A Umatilla County water tender appeared and was more than willing to help and handled the task just as needed, allowing the fire department crews to finish their tasks. On behalf of the Pendleton Fire Department Dakota was awarded a Challenge Coin expressing the department’s appreciation and acknowledging Dakota’s dedication, he was applauded. Chair Dorran also thanked the Pendleton Fire Department for their response. Additionally, he thanked Dakota and commended his efforts.

Minutes - None

Additions to Agenda – Item #4 was added at the last minute, but is included on both the online and printed agendas.

Public Comments and Recognition of Visitors – None

Business Items

1. **Property Reconveyance** – Presented by Nicholas Warner, Deputy County Counsel. Authorization is sought for the sale of property foreclosed on for delinquent property tax - Tax Lot 4N2811-BB-3500. The county received a request to sell the property back to the record owner. As provided under Oregon law, the Board has the ability to sell property back to the record owner for an amount not less than the taxes owing at the time of deed, plus interest. The amount on this account would be \$804.17. The county has received the funds for the purchase. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. TX2026-04. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**
2. **West Umatilla County Enterprise Zone** – Presented by Bob Waldher, Community Development Director. Umatilla County Community Development staff and Port of Umatilla officials have been working together to form the West Umatilla County Long-Term Rural Enterprise Zone (LTREZ) on portions of the former Umatilla Army Depot property. Approval of the LTREZ application by Business Oregon requires adoption of a resolution from each co-sponsor. The required meetings have been held and coordination with the Hermiston School District resulted in a request for a 15% school support fee. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2026-039. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**
3. **UCSO Purchase – Virtra Add-on** - Presented by Captain Paul Wolverton, UCSO. In December, 2024, UCSO was awarded the Virtra Training Simulator system, which was a significant addition to our Agency training program capabilities. The system came with basic software and equipment. We are seeking to expand the functions and capabilities of the system by purchasing specialized add-on equipment for the system, that will benefit the overall training for both Criminal and Corrections Divisions of the Sheriff's Office. This initial purchase will be part of an incremental expansion of the Virtra system over time as budgetary considerations allow. The purchase cost of this equipment will be shared between the Corrections and Criminal Divisions. We hope to supplement our training programs including our required firearms training. Over time, this may allow us to reduce overall expenditures such as ammunition and overtime costs. A \$5,000 grant through CIS is being applied for to assist in offsetting the initial cost. This add-on allows for the system to simulate the feel of the recoil, without firing live ammunition. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the purchase of a new Virtra Training Simulator add-on equipment listed in the attached quote in the amount of \$12,031.00. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**
4. **UCSO Purchase - Aurelian** – Presented by Lt. Justin Russel, UCSO. Sundridge Systems is the provider of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software called RIMS that is used in the Dispatch center. This software is used to enter calls for service for Police, Fire and EMS services, as well as tracking of units as they respond to calls. RIMS has the ability to interface with Aurelian, the AI phone answering system that was approved by BOC in June. Sunridge is requiring the purchase of an API license to develop the API connection between RIMS and Aurelian. The cost is \$5,600. Aurelian has agreed to pay \$1,800 of that, leaving a balance of \$3,800. Sunridge has indicated that they do not bill 3rd party vendors, so we are requesting approval to pay the full amount of \$5,600

and then invoice Aurelian for their portion of \$1,800. This amount is still within the approved budget amount for the overall cost of the Aurelian system. **Commissioner Timmons moved to approve payment of \$5,600 to Sunridge for the API, and invoice Aurelian. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

5. Emergency Management Purchase - Catering – Presented by Sage DeLong, Emergency Manager. Approval is sought for payment for breakfast, lunch, and dinner provided to personnel supporting continuous 24-hour Emergency Operations Center operations from July 19 through July 25, 2026. Meals were necessary to sustain assigned staff and agency partners working extended operational periods during the emergency activation. The invoice includes 210 breakfasts, 210 lunches, and 210 dinners, plus the applicable service and operational fee. This bill will be included in the request for reimbursement but reimbursement is not guaranteed. **Commissioner Shafer moved to designate this as an emergency procurement because of current fire conditions and to approve payable in the amount of \$11,592.00 to Pendleton Catering Company for emergency incident feeding and EOC operational support. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Public Works Purchase – Steel Bridge - Presented by Tom Fellows, Public Works Director. The bridge on Sams Road was destroyed in the Dry Creek fire. The Public Works Department is seeking authorization to issue a Request for Proposals for the purchase of a prefabricated modular steel vehicular bridge to replace the destroyed bridge. Commissioner Timmons asks how this bridge can be replaced in a shorter timeline than others. Mr. Fellows explains that it is a temporary bridge, the existing foundation will be used, it will not be rated for large vehicles, there is no permitting required and it does not involve any stream work. **Commissioner Timmons moved to authorize issuance of request for proposals for the purchase of a prefabricated modular steel vehicular bridge. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Fee Waiver Request – Presented by Megan Davchevski, Planning Manager Cunningham Sheep Company has recently submitted a permit application for the Nolan Hills renewables project and is asking that a portion of the fees be refunded/waived. Under Section 152.768 of the County Code of Ordinances, a land use filing fee may be waived by the board for good cause at the request of an applicant, by the Planning Director where the strict application of this chapter would result in the payment of a double fee for a single event, or where an application has resulted from an apparent staff error. Jennifer Drake 303 SE 3rd, Pendleton, OR, General Manager of Cunningham Sheep Company. She expressed appreciation for Ms. Davchevski and the Planning staff. Today she is before the Board on behalf of Cunningham Sheep Company to respectfully request a partial fee waiver of the fee for impacted tax lots. The project encompasses approximately 100 tax lots, which would result in a fee of around \$50,000. They were unaware of the fee until shortly before submission of the application and the fee remains unbudgeted. Chair Dorran commented that substantial tax abatements have been granted to this project through the SIP program. He suggested possibly tabling the discussion until it is known where/who the abatement will flow to. Commissioner Shafer struggles with allowing a waiver for one project and not approving a waiver for the next project. Commissioner Timmons also recommended tabling the discussion until some of the unknowns are confirmed. Ms. Drake added that they are working with Umatilla Electric to determine where permitting responsibilities lie. **Commissioner Timmons moved to table the requested action. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

8. UCTAC Appointment – Presented by Charlet Hotchkiss, Planner. The Umatilla County Transportation Advisory Committee (UCTAC), currently has four vacant positions. Jose Garcia (Director – New Horizon Program) has applied for reappointment to serve on the UCTAC for another four-year term. If approved his term would begin August 1, 2026 and end August 1, 2030. This appointment is now before the Board of Commissioners for consideration. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2026-038. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**
9. UCF Purchase – Temporary Fencing - Presented by Nicholas Warner, Deputy County Counsel. Temporary fencing is needed for set-up across the grounds. Commissioner Timmons questions why the County does not purchase the fencing and store it when not in use. – It is estimated to be more expensive to setup and teardown each year. There is also the issue of storing it when not in use. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve payment to American Fencing in the amount of \$5,000.00 for temporary fencing. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 2-1.**
10. UCF Purchase – Equipment Rental – Presented by Nicholas Warner, Deputy County Counsel. Equipment is needed for set-up across the grounds. The equipment list was verified and adjusted according to the Fair Board needs and bids were requested. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to approve equipment rental from United Rentals in the amount of \$7,634.70. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
11. UCF Contract - HHS - Presented by Chair Dan Dorrان. Hermiston High School (HHS) Band has been the annual garbage service crew during Fair Week. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve payment to HHS Band for garbage service during Fair Week in the amount of \$8,000.00. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**
12. Foreclosure Publication – Presented by Nicholas Warner, Deputy County Counsel. The annual foreclosure case for delinquent property taxes will begin in the near future. One of the statutory requirements is to publish a notice in the local newspaper. The order designating the newspaper is before the Board for consideration. There was continued discussion involving using a different newspaper or other form of publication. Commissioner Shafer will explore this on a legislative level. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. TX2026-03. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**
13. Walker Road Contracts - Presented by Doug Olsen, County Counsel. In May, 2025, the Board authorized proceeding with the Walker Road Supply Project, which is phase 3 of the Central Water Project. To proceed with the construction of the additional pipeline and water recharge portion, there are a number of requests before the Board. The contractor for phases 1 and 2 of the project, Tapani, has submitted a proposal to complete this phase. Additional fiberglass pipe is necessary for this phase, and a proposal has been received from Future Pipe Industries. The easements for the pipeline from the current end point to the recharge site have been prepared and approval for the easements are before the Board. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2026-40. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0. Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2026-41. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0. Commissioner Shafer moved to approve easements and payments for easements and authorize Chair to sign. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**

14. Executive Session – Employment/Real Property – ORS 192.660(2)(a,b,e,h) – None

Commissioner Reports: None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Dorran at 9:53 am.

Kelsey Bailey

Executive Secretary – Board of Commissioners