

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of August 4, 2014
9:00 a.m., Rm 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

** ** ** **

Commissioners Present: Bill Elfering, Chair; George Murdock, Vice-Chair; and Larry Givens, Commissioner

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Members and Guests Present: Jeffrey Maffuccio, Idaho Power; Bob Levy; Daniel Primus, D.A.

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Chair Bill Elfering reminded all present that the meeting was a public forum.

Pledge of Allegiance. Those in the room stood, saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Awards/Recognitions/Correspondence. None at this time.

Minutes. None at this time.

Additions to Agenda. None.

Recognition of Visitors/Public Input: Visitors can provide info at this time. There were none, other than on regular agenda.

Chair Elfering asked if anyone wished to address the Board and no one responded.

Agenda

1. **Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project.** Jeff Maffuccio, from Idaho Power presented information through a hand-out. He provided a brief update and introduced himself as the representative from Idaho Power in Umatilla County and neighboring counties. BLM is to have a report out in October. No additional routes are suggested. Once the environmental impact statement (EIS) is out, the BLM will hold public meetings. Idaho Power can have meetings for public input at subject counties as requested. There is a 90-day comment period for BLM. Anticipated date for comments to the Department of Energy is spring of 2015 – the route submitted will be the preferred route recommended from the BLM and any other county segments (he referred to the map projected on the monitors, depicted with a yellow line). He noted review and approval will be coming after that time. Chair Elfering asked about the process and the routing of subject properties. Mr. Maffuccio responded that once the draft EIS is issued, the BLM will hold public hearings in November and December. The meetings will provide public input and then on to the final EIS with any major route changes required based on those findings. He noted at this time it is not anticipated changes are forthcoming, but public hearings will

ultimately decide what to submit to the BLM. In Umatilla County, there is only one primary route submitted through the process of scoping and siting a number of years ago.

Commissioner Givens noted there is a landowner present (Bob Levy) who could address the group when the time comes. Commissioner Givens voiced concerns on the route and has questions about the process. He noted the County Planning Department and Planning Commission has discussed corridors identified that are already pre-existing. It would be the least amount of impact to landowners to use them. He inquired about the map and routes noted. He further noted that Bob Levy has worked with Idaho Power, BLM and other involved agencies. He noted the route and problems with BLM not wanting to meet with landowners until after the EIS is made. He discussed the proposed route between Union and Umatilla Counties – he feels there are issues from that point and on to the dryland farming area. He feels the route in the Blue Mountains is of concern esthetically. Landowners are concerned about the corridors and long-term values of Umatilla County. He has worked closely with Tamra Mabbott in Planning Department about the entire project. He also noted studies about land in Hermiston area -- there are a lot of power lines in the area and feels it would be best to keep existing corridors not change the route.

In addition, Commissioner Givens asked about the routing around the Reservation (as depicted on the map shown). Mr. Maffuccio noted he was not part of the siting process at that time (he has only been at IP for 3-4 months). He noted IP is working closely with Union, Umatilla and Morrow Counties. Meetings are being conducted to coordinate with all involved parties. He said he can provide more specific maps. He noted loss of agricultural land is heavily considered. Chair Elfering asked for specific properties and Mr. Maffuccio replied that is in the process, but easements would still need to be obtained.

Commissioner Givens urged IP to work with the landowners, in particular at the county boundary line at Union and Umatilla (near Mt. Emily). The least impact on irrigated agricultural land is to keep the existing corridor. It is important to keep in mind lines in air space (for spraying), and breaking up property resulting in loss of production. Mr. Levy noted it also affects food processors. Cumulative impacts will be from power lines and substations in Umatilla and Morrow Counties. Commissioner Givens suggested possibly adjusting the line to near I-84.

Commissioner Givens asked Tamra Mabbott, on behalf of the Planning Department, to comment. She noted the Oregon Department of Energy siting council appointed the BCC as the entity to make an official public comment as a collaborating agency along with the BLM. Ms. Mabbott asked Mr. Maffuccio about the map not showing the energy corridor through the federal forest land. He replied he did not have that map(s) today, but could provide them at a later date. Commissioner Givens noted this has been a 6-year process and personnel changes in various agencies during the process have made moving forward difficult. He also commented on the 20-year process regarding the Blue Mountain Forest Plan and hoped the Boardman to Hemingway project happens much faster.

Commissioner Murdock asked for a quantifiable statistic of property affected. Ms. Mabbott said the corridor is about 1,000 ft. but will be narrowed to about 250 ft. It is a big footprint. Commissioner Givens said the impact is still there to operation of ag circles, moving equipment and etc. Mr. Maffuccio talked about easement agents who work with landowners about their

land. Discussion included right-of-way vs. easements and what about tower spacing? Mr. Maffuccio said, depending on varying terrain, it is about an average of 500 to 600 ft. Mr. Levy and Commissioner Givens noted average ag circles are about 1750 ft. radius.

Chair Elfering asked Mr. Levy if he wished to address the Board. He advised he would plan to come back to the BCC in about a month (or more) with more specific items to discuss about the Boardman to Hemingway project.

2. Community Corrections positions. Dale Primmer, Assistant Director of Community Justice, presented the staff report. He and Mark Royal, Director of Community Justice, have been working with staffing and budgeting. They have discussed priorities and caseload growth. Since 2008 there is increasing need to replace some positions. He presented a graph of caseload showing increases. There is a need to sustain programs and staffing based on budget and financing. He noted the process to determine caseload and staffing. With budget increases coming in and supervised population growing, the allocational share will be increased and available. Funds are available via State Grant in Aid funds. They are in the process of providing a supplemental budget to the BCC that will increase available budget for years 2014-15 in the sum of \$191,860. This was due to increased carry-over not previously identified. They feel comfortable with sustainability of budget. Position cutbacks in the past were due to diminished overall share of budget and supervised population.

Mr. Primmer referred to the charts (projected on the monitor) showing trends of steady growth for about last 1 ½ years. He discussed staff responsibilities of intake are greater and greater and a supervisor was handling some of those duties to get things done. With approval of an additional position, the supervisor can get back to those duties. Commissioner Murdock commented on looking at the chart, it appears 855 are under supervision as of today; Mr. Primmer agreed. Mr. Royal noted he feels comfortable with the process, which is mostly the same since 1996, and numbers as they appear. Statewide meetings show more workload to the community side, confirming the process.

Commissioner Givens moved to approve the request in community corrections for new position as Probation/Parole Officer 1 or 2 (depending on qualifications) and to post the position. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

3. District Attorney Software Purchase. Dan Primus, DA, presented. Numbers show 205 more felony cases this year and are on paced for the coming year – 1,035 compared to 830 last year. A software purchase is requested to allow the new Karpel data entry/records management system to interface with the new law enforcement RIMS program. The interface allows ease of transfer of information to the records system saving time and eliminating error. The cost for the interface is roughly \$13,000. They will be looking at line items to budget the estimated \$13,000 cost that Sun Ridge Systems, Inc. is planning to charge. Mr. Primus noted the reason for the request is that the process in entering data to determine assignment to DA, if a person is already in the system and shared to be auto uploaded in the system. There would be savings of time, money and efficiency of records management/data entry. The real benefit is to go to Karpel and the functions of the software. There is need to use technology and be efficient in the long run. Commissioner Murdock noted the need to look at capital purchases and supports this action.

Commissioner Givens moved to approve the purchase of Karpel DA interface in the amount of \$12,940 and to authorize the BCC Chair to sign the contract. Seconded by Chair Elfering. Carried, 3-0.

4. Fair Board Appointment. Doug Olsen noted this is the second term for Lucas Wagner's position on the Fair Board, set to expire 12/31/14. Mr. Wagner is willing and eligible to be appointed for another term (4 years). In addition, Don Miller's term will expire and will be dealt with prior to expiration. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve reappointment of Lucas Wagner pursuant to Order No. BCC2014-055. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

For discussion regarding the Fair, Commissioner Murdock noted as a point of information, yesterday the sewer backed up into food booths. The established emergency process/plan was used and everything was properly cleaned up and taken care of. He noted Melissa Ney, Environmental Health, worked with Dan Dorran for emergency procedure to clean up and coordinate and get things taken care of to move forward with the County Fair opening. Commissioner Givens noted good beforehand setting up by many for the Fair opening.

5. St. Anthony Hospital Contribution to School Based Health Center. Commissioner Murdock reported he and Jenna (Hogan) Lorenzen recently met last week with Gloria Larson, Vice-President of Patient Care Services at St. Anthony Hospital. In years past, St. Anthony Hospital has contributed funds to the County to help support the School Based Health efforts. The hospital has agreed to continue support of \$52,800 per year for 2014 through 2017. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the agreement and sign the contract to approve and sign the contract with SAH. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Road Orders. Doug Olsen reported about roads to be legalized to current location. These are, for the most part, to set hearings for legalization of County Roads specified as follows. Each order was approved separately. **Regarding Order RD 2014-09, Birch Creek Rd., County Road No. 550, Commissioner Givens moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

Regarding Order RD 2014-010, East Highland Extension, County Road No. 1198, Commissioner Givens moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Regarding Order RD 2014-011, Initiating proceedings to vacate portions of deeded right of way lying adjacent to East Highland Extension, County Road No. 1198, Commissioner Givens moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Regarding Order RD 2014-012 (setting hearing on legalization) Eastside Rd., County Rd. No. 575, Commissioner Givens moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Regarding Order RD 2014-013 (setting hearing on legalization) Kosmos Rd., County Road No 1172, Commissioner Givens moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Regarding Order 2014-014, setting a hearing on the transfer of County Roads to the City of Umatilla, Commissioner Murdock moved to approve. Second by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.

Commissioners' Reports.

Commissioner Murdock asked about next Board meeting -- Mr. Olsen noted it would be 08/20/14.

1. Advertising for Community Corrections Director. Commissioner Murdock talked about the letter from Mark Royal for his retirement. For the record, since Commissioner Murdock will be gone until 08/22, what is the process for search of replacement since Mr. Royal plans to retire in January? Mr. Olsen noted Mr. Royal's position is a county position and advertising will go out probably in October. Adequate time is needed for him to train after the first of the year or in February until 06/30/15. Mr. Olsen noted the only Board action at this time is regarding advertising. This will be accomplished at a later meeting.

2. Commissioner Givens:
 - a. Commissioner Givens noted he has received a number of calls regarding the Blue Mountain Forest Plan – from citizens inquiring about the process of hearings (which have been held at about 6 different locations in the region). The Forest Service came up with five alternative plans. He noted Umatilla County has paid dues to EOC and a consultant (Lobbyist, Roger Lord) has put together a 17-page brief outlining issues and incorporating comments from industry, business, private landowners and private citizens on the effects of the plan. The EOC met Friday in John Day where federal issues were discussed; 13 dues paying members were present. The vote was unanimous to reject all five alternatives from the Forest Service because when they used one alternative, they took something away from another alternative (in all five alternatives presented). A letter will come from the EOC to meet the 08/15/14 deadline, including EOC comments and additional private citizen comments and requesting that the Forest Service start the process over again and include cooperating counties in a collaborated effort to create a plan more reflective of local input. Commissioner Murdock talked about environmental and fire issues, the more restrictive the rules, the worse the dangers are (creating fuels). Commissioner Givens noted cattle do a tremendous job of clearing with grazing, in turn helping to mitigate ground fire.
 - b. Commissioner Givens noted the EOC group also talked about PILT and the desire to get it reauthorized for a multi-year system; hoping for \$450 million. At the Congressional level there are a lot of pro-PILT supporters. He referred to SRS, which is viewed more as entitlement than PILT (more acceptable). Other federal issues include water. Jay Sullivan (who also attended the EOC meeting) heads the lobby group out of Washington, D.C. regarding the PILT program. Commissioner Givens feels he is a better advocate for the Western U.S. There will be strong efforts regarding PILT.
 - c. Work Plan – This is expensive and concerns have been voiced with fee/dues structure. There is a Sage Grouse issue – many areas are identified for their habitat, but none in Umatilla County yet. The proposal is to make the area a 60 ft. perimeter, which is a negative impact for agricultural areas, taking up a huge amount of ag land to protect Sage Grouse. It is starting with Sage Grouse, but will probably move onto other wildlife species.

Commissioner Murdock asked for clarification of the dues issue. Commissioner Givens responded there is a process to determine county fees and felt there is a great need for EO counties to stick together with united front or go down separately. He suggested meeting with staff and needing to figure out a work plan by making an executive board of directors (five members) to be a governing body to receive issues that can be submitted jointly for discussion. EOC will deal with the federal issues east of the cascades, but a county will not be shut out. If another area wants to pay dues and be included, they would be open to that process. AOC handles statewide issues separately. Example, in Umatilla County, the PILT cap is \$15,000. Commissioner Givens talked about county dues and costs for a lobbyist.

The Executive Board voted in at the Friday EOC meeting consists of Mark Davidson, Commissioner from Baker County; Larry Givens from Umatilla Co.; Morrow Co. would be Terry Tallman or LeeAnn Rae (probably LeeAnn); Mike Hayward from Wallowa County (he believes would be a representative). Likely, Mark will be the Chair. No other meeting has been set at this time.

Further discussion included dues and how they are assessed – assessment would be equally shared. Commissioner Murdock asked Mr. Olsen about authority of BCC to appoint Commissioner Givens as a representative to that Executive Board. Mr. Olsen was directed to prepare an order for action at a future a BCC meeting.

- d. Regarding the MPO, Commissioner Givens gave some background and history as to representation / limitations of the organization. He noted the regional concept, including City of Walla Walla, City of College Place and Walla Walla Valley Transit. He further discussed funding, joint agency history in Walla Walla and limitations of membership. Walla Walla County now wants to pull out of the MPO, causing problems about the director, federal funding and the need to have a named sponsor. Things are in flux at this time. Umatilla County may be asked to jointly sponsor the MPO with Walla Walla County. Discussion included joint sponsorship, legalities, funds, process of sponsorship, etc. Commissioner Murdock talked about grants and how they tie in with joint sponsorship (i.e. who would administer any grant(s) received?) and staffing. In addition, Commissioner Givens spoke about control and financial issues to consider. He asked the Board about the ability to negotiate with Walla Walla County about possible co-sponsorship of MPO – are there legal issues? Mr. Olsen said no. Commissioner Givens also talked about part-time collaboration of planning between Walla Walla County and Umatilla County. He talked about Benton County MPO as a similar concept. He asked the BCC to verbally support moving forward with a possible joint collaboration regarding the MPO as discussed today.
- e. Milton-Freewater Cemetery Roads. Commissioner Givens recently toured the cemetery. He noted the County Road Department would be involved with the cemetery district. Careful consideration needs to be made about contracting for the work by the Road Department. He will continue to work with the Road Department on the cemetery roads issue. He suggested this item should go to the next (or near future) board meeting for action.

- f. Harris Park. Commissioner Givens went to Harris Park to see how things are working there. He said Stan Gilman (Park Manager) showed him the finished yurts (three of them) for overnight campers. Chair Elfering spoke to Hulette Johnson (Economic Development Director who oversees Harris Park) and asked him to talk to Stan Gilman and the camp host to report back with an update to the Board. Camp hosts rotate for short periods of time (two weeks) to keep up the park. Commissioner Givens also noted signage, upkeep is good, perhaps adding anchored tables/benches to an area where there is a huge willow tree, and ways to work with reserved and rental fee areas. Another suggestion is for the park to purchase a chipper. In addition, it might be wise to put in a turn-around on the main roadway for larger RVs so the road is not blocked. Commissioner Givens will talk to the Road Department about that idea.

Commissioner Givens asked Mr. Olsen about the park board and their bylaws. Mr. Olsen noted members are appointed (by the BCC). He suggested need for revisiting the bylaws, including membership, operation in general. There is a need to clean up the operation and make things consistent. He suggested that Chair Elfering, Doug Olsen and Hulette Johnson discuss park activities and the bylaws.

3. Chair Elfering

- a. He reported he recently met with Robb Corbett, City of Pendleton, about the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) issue with 911 Dispatch. A \$100,000 request for payment from dispatch – he talked about the process of billing and paying. This large amount is not typical and needs to be clarified about the situation and pre-authorization for anything over \$25,000. Also, the IGA needs to be updated to the process used currently.
- b. Umatilla Basin Water Commission. At a recent meeting there were two new members installed. Chair Elfering took Dennis Doherty's place. A resolution is being drafted to close the Commission; a Request For Proposals is to be sent out for the end of August in order to review the authorization, to go to member bodies and to ultimately be shut down. J. R. Cook, now with NOWA, has moved on from Umatilla Basin Water, but he is helping with the closing process. Discussion included the Tribe, boundaries, landowner easements and the project being transferred to another entity (Westland). Commissioner Givens talked about the history, consensus for closing the program and if consensus is not reached, there is a different process – this can be problematic, but there is the need to move forward.

There was no further business.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt
Executive Secretary
Umatilla County Board of Commissioners