

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Administrative Meeting of May 13, 2015  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon

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

**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen

**Members and Guests Present:** Tammy Sundin, Community Corrections Office Manager; Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director; Dan Primus, District Attorney; Tom Fellows, Public Works Director; Robert Pahl, Chief Financial Officer; Paul Chalmers, A&T Director

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. Vice-Chair Larry Givens welcomed all and reminded those present that the meeting was a public forum. It is being recorded and minutes will be taken. If persons wish to speak before the BCC, please identify yourself and state where you live for the record.

**Pledge of Allegiance.** Those in the room stood, saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by District Attorney Dan Primus

**Any public comments?** None.

**Additions to Agenda.** None

**Agenda**

1. **Drug Court Grant.** Tammy Sundin, Community Corrections Office Manager, presented. Community Corrections is requesting approval to apply for a renewal of the grant to fund Drug Court for another two years. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the Drug Court grant application and authorize the Board to sign the application. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
  
2. **Comments to EFSC for Perennial Wind Chaser.** Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, presented. The Perennial Wind Chaser is a 415 MW natural gas project located on Westland Road. She had prepared draft comments coordinating with Public Works. Comments are generally in support of the State staff report. A couple of other concerns are: (1) Traffic. Proposes a development agreement for improvements to the roadway in the future. Fogging and deicing might lead Public Works to increase work. There are no terms at this time, just requesting it be included at this time. (2) Noise. Obligated to comply with the noise standard. County acknowledges the standard but requests that EFSC clarify how the State would enforce compliance. Ms. Mabbott advised comments will be provided to the EFSC for review by the 5/14/15 deadline. Hopefully, they will agree to the request for inclusion of the items as noted. Construction is scheduled for

2016. Mr. Chalmers noted there has not been discussion about Hermiston's Enterprise Zone; they would not receive a tax credit; he also talked about value.

Ms. Mabbott responded to Commissioner Givens' question asked about the road/traffic. During construction there will be a large increase, but when complete, there should only about 8 new employees. Discussion also included a nearby railroad spur used for hauling, so rail transport could be used for this project. The terms of the development agreement could address some of those traffic patterns. There would be temporary changes recommended. Tom Fellows, Public Works Director, noted some roads have been improved by other businesses in that area. He felt that road should be able to handle construction traffic with no problems. He also reviewed the plan and feel things are moving well – the road is a better standard than when the other plant went in. He noted when Fed Ex went in, they put in an additional turn lane and other improvements that helped with future development (like what is happening now). Also discussed was the possibility of business expansion, activity at the Depot and possible expansion, and need for coordinated planning and public works involvement to be proactive. Discussion continued about the Lamb - Walker intersection continuing to be busy. Ms. Mabbott agreed that transportation and traffic need to be reviewed and updated – there are more and more increases and safety and accidents need to be addressed. Commissioner Givens suggested a joint meeting between the Commissioners, Planning and Public Works.

Ms. Mabbott advised if EFSC approves the comments, Mr. Fellows can go back to work with the developer to consider traffic and the need to address it. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the Comments and sign the letter. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 2-0.**

3. Vehicle Purchase – Authorization – Public Works. Tom Fellows, Public Works Director, presented. He requested approval to purchase a new pickup utilizing the state contract. This was originally part of a request for purchase from last spring. He elected to go off of state bid based on the timing. He would like the purchase to be in the current fiscal year. This is a 2015 Ford F-150, half-ton pickup, 4 wheel drive; it is pretty standard without a lot of extras, it meets the specifications, and is in the budget. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve purchase of a new 2015 Ford F-150 from Northside Ford Truck Sales in the amount of \$25,253.38. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
4. Creation of New Position – District Attorney. Dan Primus, District Attorney presented. During the budget process for FY15-16, new positions were created. Approval is sought for creation of two positions – Deputy District Attorney and Legal Secretary to start July 1. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the new DDA and Legal Secretary positions effective 7/1/15 and authorize start of the recruitment process for both positions. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
5. Approve Sale of Property. Paul Chalmers, A&T Director, presented. Approval is sought for sale of foreclosed property located in Reith. A minimum bid of \$11,840 was set at the 2014 auction, but there were not any bidders. Two bids were recently received on the property. The highest bid of \$2,000 was received from Hoot & Maria Royer. **In the Matter of selling to Hoot & Maria Royer Property Acquired as a Result of Delinquent Property Taxes, Commissioner Elfering**

**moved to adopt Order No. BCC 2015-049. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 2-0.**

6. HELP Grants. Commissioner Elfering reported. At the March 9 meeting of the Helix Enhancement Launch Program, the Board approved requests for funding from the program and recommended them to the Board of Commissioners. About \$150,000 is available to be split equally \$77,500 each between the City of Helix and the Helix School District. He went through the list of projects and amounts. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. BCC2015-050. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 2-0.**

There was no executive session.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Elfering reported. He attended CIS (City-County Insurance Services) conference in Savannah, GA the week of May 4-8. It was a very informative conference about insurance pooling and investments. He believes about 250 to 300 attended.

Cinco de Mayo event in Hermiston. He commented it is a growing event. He was in the parade and sat in to judge the horse dancing competition on behalf of Commissioner Murdock who could not attend.

Commissioner Givens reported. He attended AOC meetings on Monday morning, but afternoon meetings were cancelled with late notice. He returned to the County on Tuesday and had office hours in Milton-Freewater.

AOC issues – Bill 948 regarding public/private license plates on public vehicles. In addition, all money bills have come to a halt. With a recent Supreme Court PERS decision, bills will need to be reevaluated. He also talked about proposed new rules banning the use of wood stoves for home use. This issue was discussed at the AOC meeting on Monday. DEQ staff attended and wants extra money from the legislature to propose new restrictions on fireplaces and wood stoves in homes. He will provide updates as they come.

Commissioner Givens had phone conference with DOGAMI on Monday. He referred to an Article in Capitol Insider about DOGAMI issues – they are being addressed by DAS and also the Governor's office. He will go to Portland tomorrow evening to meet with the DAS and the Director of DOGAMI.

He will leave Sunday for NACO's WIR conference in Hawaii. Phone conferences with NACO will occur that day to discuss the agenda for both subcommittee meetings and EELU meeting. He will also attend meetings regarding public lands and transportation. A big topic will be Waters of the US. He will be back in the office on 5/28.

On Tuesday, 5/5, he met with the Walla Walla Basin Water Council to discuss issues of a levy on the Walla Walla River and some irrigation issues. If the Governor approves a drought declaration, funding would be available. In addition, another issue arose about someone living under a bridge in the Milton-Freewater area. He has talked with Tom Fellows about dealing with a health hazard there.

Commissioner Elfering asked about the next EOTEC meeting. Commissioner Givens noted a special meeting was called for on Tuesday, May 19, 9 a.m. He will teleconference to that meeting. The regular EOTEC meeting he believes is set for 5/22, the fourth Friday.

There was no further business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt*

Executive Secretary  
Umatilla County Board of Commissioners