

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Meeting of July 15, 2015  
9:00 a.m., Rm 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon

\*\* \*\* \*\* \*\*

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

**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen

**Members and Guests Present:** Jon Peterson, Pendleton School District Superintendent; Tricia Mooney, PSD Assistant Superintendent; Delbert Gehrke, Echo; Beth Gehrke, Echo; Tom Fellows, Public Works Director; Rick Rambo, MFDA Vice-President, Milton-Freewater; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director; John Fenton, Alabar Construction Owner, Pendleton; Capt. Dave Williamson, UCSO; Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

\*\* \*\* \*\*\*\*

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Chair George Murdock 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 Commissioner Elfering.

**Awards/Recognitions/Correspondence.** Commissioner Elfering read: 1) a note from Lt Holcomb who received a message from Mr. Linn Boast thanking the UCSO for providing excellent service while applying for his Concealed Handgun License. The employees were friendly and on a scale of 1 to 10, he felt they scored a 12! The quick response was appreciated and special thanks went to Kelsey Wrightson for his fingerprinting. 2) Recognition of Tabetha Koehler, Dispatcher, for her help in rescuing a young child at the Ukiah wayside campground on Camas Creek. The child fell in the creek and had literally drowned. She was saved due to quick response. 3) A thank you note was received from the Pioneer Posse for the County's donation towards finishing a lighting system. 4) A thank you note was received from Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation for sponsoring a prize at the Scramble for Scholarships event. Chair Murdock read a thank you from LuAnn Davison, State Farm in Hermiston for employees in A&T. They are kind, eager to answer questions, go the extra mile and feel grateful for their job with the County. He also read three thank you notes for "bumping the price" from 4H and FFA youngsters (Josh White, Luke White, and Jordyn Lambert) who sold animals at the Milton-Freewater Junior Show.

**Acknowledgment of Minutes of Previous Meetings.** Commissioner Elfering moved to acknowledge minutes of the meetings of 6/11/15, 6/17/15, 6/25/15 and 7/1/15. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.

**Additions to Agenda.** None.

**Public Input and Recognition of Visitors.** Chair Murdock asked if anyone would like to address the Board for something other than what is on the agenda. John Fenton, Alabar Construction, Pendleton, came to the podium. He advised he is a member Pendleton's Revitalization Committee. They received a grant for \$400,000 to help end blight in neighborhoods by cleaning up houses in poor repair so that they can be refurbished sold or rented. He is asking that the County consider forgiving back taxes for 1 year (or 2) while dilapidated property is being refurbished as incentive for buying those properties. Chair Murdock asked if he had contacted Paul Chalmers, A&T Director, regarding property taxes. Mr. Fenton responded this was his first contact with the County on the subject. Chair Murdock asked him to give his contact information to Melinda Slatt for follow-up. Mr. Fenton felt property tax forgiveness for a set period of time would be a good incentive to help in purchasing dilapidated property and to put them back on the tax rolls. Chair Murdock noted the County is being more aggressive in getting properties back on the tax roll. He would be happy to have the conversation with Mr. Fenton and Paul Chalmers. Mr. Fenton added that he is also working on properties in Pilot Rock and Milton-Freewater.

### **Agenda**

1. **Petition for School District Boundary Change – Gehrke.** Chair Murdock called the public hearing to order at 9:11 a.m. Mr. Olsen advised Delbert Gehrke petitioned to remove some of his property from the Pendleton School District to the Echo School District. The petition is now before the Board since the petition meets the statutory requirements. Chair Murdock asked for comments. Mr. Delbert Gehrke, petitioner, Echo, came to the podium. He grew up in the Echo area. He is in process of moving from in town to out of town and discovered that area is not in Echo School District. He has served for 8 years on the Echo School Board. That is the consideration.

Chair Murdock asked for any proponents. Raymond Smith, Echo School District Superintendent, came to the podium. He reiterated this is just a portion of the Gehrke's property being requested to move into the Echo School District. He encourages support based on Mr. Gehrke's dedication to the School Board in Echo. Chair Murdock asked for opponents. Jon Peterson, Pendleton School District Superintendent, came to the podium. He appreciates the fact Mr. Gehrke wants to continue serving on the Echo School Board and the fact it is difficult to find quality board members. The Pendleton School District has an interest in petition, although financial impact is not huge, there is one. He is concerned about the precedent being made for the changing of a school district boundary line. Commissioner Elfering asked if the financial impact was known. Mr. Peterson responded he did not know, but acreage would determine the financial consideration. This is the first time he has been in this venue (before the Board of Commissioners) and he is more concerned about precedent of the boundary line. He noted regarding transportation of kids to schools, reciprocal agreements are in place. Chair Murdock asked how many acres are affected. Mr. Gehrke advised it is a little over 1,000 acres. Mr. Olsen clarified it is 1,224 acres and it is EFU zoned. Chair Murdock closed the public hearing at 9:19 a.m.

Commissioner Elfering noted the information is compelling and he understands Mr. Gehrke's desire to stay on the Echo School District Board. He is inclined to support it from that standpoint. He felt the financial impact is minimal and he did not believe it a good idea to consider action based only on financial. Chair Murdock added he did not feel this is "school district shopping." **In the Matter of Approving change in Boundary of Pendleton School District and Echo School District, Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. BCC 2015-053. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**

2. ATV Use Authorization Ordinance. Chair Murdock called the public hearing to order at 9:20 a.m. pertaining to Ordinance No 2015-05. Commissioner Elfering reported. He has been involved in crafting this ordinance. This is the first reading of the ordinance for discussion at this time. It will need to come back for a second reading.

Jesse Shaw, 510 4<sup>th</sup> St., Milton-Freewater, came to the podium. He noted he had done more research about ATVs on public highways since he previously appeared before the Board. There are no more than 3 incidents in a year. The State could give the County a waiver to allow ATVs to run on pavement. However, at this time, he feels only running on county gravel roads would be a good place to start. He is concerned about locked gates since discussion on the topic started. The Forest Service has locked some of its roads and others have too. He would like to see the ordinance passed and to move forward. He does not want to see people breaking the law. He reminded that it is also against the law for farmers to run their ATVs on roads. Chair Murdock asked for any others who wished to speak for or against. None were heard. He closed the public hearing at 9:25 a.m.

Commissioner Elfering advised the ordinance would permit and open two-way gravel roads in a designated area in the County where ATVs are property equipped. It would be open for a 1-year time period to see how it works. It would give an opportunity for ATVs to drive in the NE portion of the County on County roads (East of Hwy 11). Mr. Olsen pointed out that he added a provision about possible restriction of ATV operation when a burn ban is in effect. In addition, it would need to be determined which department would handle the permits – it is left open in the ordinance at this time. Commissioner Elfering felt ATVs and riding are a good tourism/economic draw to the County. It was suggested for the second reading of the ordinance, the department responsible for permitting could be included, if desired, and also a map of the affected area. The ordinance will come back to the Board at the next meeting, which would be August 5, 2015. **Commissioner Elfering moved to set the second reading of Ordinance No. 2015-05 on 8/5/15. Chair Murdock seconded. Carried, 2-0.**

3. Purchase of Vehicle – Criminal Division. Capt. Dave Williamson, UCSO, presented. This is a request for authorization to purchase a 2009 Dodge Durango from the City of Athena at a price of \$8,000 (below low book value) plus \$5,000 for additional equipment (a stock of ammunition, shotgun rifles, and etc.) This vehicle will be put into service for many years. There is a contract with money available and also \$3,000 in carry-over from the prior year's budget. This is for general equipment out of that line item. In response to a question by Commissioner Elfering about the vehicle, Capt. Williamson said it is a detective vehicle and all equipment, complete with a cage and only minor changes are needed for their use. **Commissioner Elfering moved to authorize purchase the vehicle as stated for \$13,000. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**
4. Radio & Data District Payable. Mr. Olsen noted authorization is sought for partial payment to the Umatilla Morrow Radio & Data District for equipment, coming out of Hermiston Dispatch reserve fund. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the payable of \$17,500 to the Umatilla Morrow Radio & Data District. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**
5. Grant Request – Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance. Rick Rambo, Vice-President of MFDA, came to the podium. Randy Grant (President) made a request to Umatilla County Economic Development for matching funds of \$12,500 for Project Discovery, a grass roots planning program. Funds would go towards a SERA Architects' study. The community sees some momentum of

change in Milton-Freewater with some impetus coming from the ROCKS designation, AVA and the area wine industry. The project at hand has been in the works for 12 to 15 years. He noted the Board of Commissioners and County Planning Department have been involved for a period of time. This project was started by the citizens and groups rather than the City or County.

Commissioner Elfering asked about the architect study. Mr. Rambo advised community meetings were held to go over area maps and pictures were sent to the architect to view before on-site visit of the Milton-Freewater area. At a follow-up meeting with the community, the architect presented their vision and previous projects, then more follow-up was made for fine-tuning and to discuss findings and suggestions. In addition, they have worked with the Pomegranate group to discuss facilitation, project planning – all have met community-wide and priorities were set for selection. They are now in the process of finishing community gathering place and on to Project Discovery to begin in the very near future. In response to Commissioner Elfering's question about community participation, Mr. Rambo said it has happened over the last 3-5 years, numbers have matched or exceeded community involvement – close to 80-90 community members have been involved – there is great community participation. And at each meeting there are more and different people – word is spreading. Volunteers are very helpful. Commissioner Elfering is encouraged by the report and believes it necessary for a community to be involved. Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, added that she has attended a couple of meetings and finds it very rewarding to see Milton-Freewater's involvement with vision and focus for their town in and outside city limits. She noted the public comments are very engaging. The effort is there and the Planning Department could be involved in some way. She feels it is very positive and encouraging process.

Chair Murdock commented that in the last year, different groups from Milton-Freewater have made different funding requests to the County and it seemed very disjointed. He is happy to see the coming together to a common goal. Regarding the economic development aspect, Commissioner Elfering agreed efforts are more focused and moving forward. Funds to distribute from the Lottery are limited and it needs to be equal throughout the county. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the payable of \$12,500 to MFDA for the project as outlined. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**

Mr. Shaw who lives in Milton-Freewater asked to speak to this project. He felt the town needs to be cleaned up; the County dumping \$12,500 may be a waste of money. Commissioner Elfering commented that it is a good starting point and may help people want to clean up their property.

6. Election Payable. Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director, noted this is for software related to ballot counting. It is a yearly routine expense for conducting elections. It is budgeted. **Chair Murdock moved to approve the payable of \$6,713.50 to Election Systems & Software. Commissioner Elfering seconded. Carried, 2-0.**
7. Authorize RFPs for Vehicle Purchases. Dan Lonai presented. For FY15-16, three departments were approved for vehicle purchases from the Fleet Management Fund. An SUV or hybrid is needed for Administrative Services and a smaller SUV is needed for the Planning Department. In response to a question from Chair Murdock, Mr. Olsen said funding is available from carry-over. It appears about \$60,000 for three vehicles fits in the program. Discussion continued about type of vehicles to seek. Code enforcement prefers a 4-wheel drive vehicle, but economy is a consideration. Full-size, mid-size, capacity required – all were discussed. In addition, in the next year or 2 a new vehicle will be needed for Code Enforcement and fleet rotation in the Sheriff's

Office may be available at that time. Chair Murdock noted the importance of comfort and economy when people are driving to Salem. Mr. Lonai advised he is looking at a CMAX Ford, a hybrid wagon platform (similar to the Escape). Within the context of discussion about types of vehicles needed for Planning and for Administrative Services, **Chair Murdock moved to authorize the Request For Proposals. Seconded by Commissioner E. Carried, 2-0.**

6. Plan4Health Grant Proposal. Tamra Mabbott presented. A grant is available through the National American Planning Association and National Association for Public Health Officials. It is a competitive grant process for health and planning to merge. The grant is to seek increased access to adequate nutrition and opportunities for physical activity in the County. She talked with Meghan DeBolt, Public Health Director, and a grant proposal has been prepared. Each state chapter can sponsor two or three projects, then they go on to the national level. Last week, Umatilla County was selected to make the short list and a full proposal will now be made at that time. An AmeriCorp volunteer through Public Health also helped with the proposal. About \$11,000 would be available and also another percentage would go for the second year to help sustain an Americorp volunteer. A final letter of support was drafted for Board approval.

Ms. Mabbott pointed out that Umatilla County is the number 1 agriculture producer in the State, but also ranks number high (31<sup>st</sup> out of 34 counties) in teen obesity. She talked about diverse area, planning includes connecting cities and the county to make it a healthy county. The farming community is very generous -- things need to be identified in this "capacity building grant". It would take effect next year, if selected. Chair Murdock talked about someone to do the work; the County does have two great AmeriCorp volunteers to work on this project. He has had preliminary conversations with Fiesta Foods and Columbia Foods to promote healthier eating. This is a great connection and could be a great collaboration for healthier eating. He advised at the NACO conference he attended a year ago there was outlined a great program for healthier eating – another component in the right direction. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the Plan4Health Grant application and letter of support. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**

7. Copier Purchase for Fairgrounds. Mr. Olsen presented. The Fairgrounds is in need of a new copier and the recommendation is to go with bid from Ricoh in the amount of \$6,860.94. The Finance Department has approved the transaction and the capital program could be used for purchase with the Fairgrounds paying back the amount. The old copier is leased. They are getting rid of it as the term is up and they would need to re-up the lease or purchase a new copier. Commissioner Elfering asked if a one-year lease could be obtained. The process of EOTEC and the Fairgrounds needs to be addressed. Chair Murdock advised he would only be in favor of the purchase if the capital program is used whereby the copier would belong to the county. His first choice is to extend lease for one more year if possible; his second choice would be to go through capital program so the copier is county property. **Commissioner Elfering so moved. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**

8. Authorize Property Bids. Doug Olsen presented. Four properties did not sell at auction . After the auction, written bids were received. Paul Chalmers, A&T Director, advised two bids were good, but two were too low. The recommendation is authorize sale of the property in Weston, bid from William Hearn in the amount of \$13,136, and the other from Sam and Donna LaFore in the amount of \$16,000 for property near Milton-Freewater. Both properties are in poor repair. The other two bids received were for properties in Hermiston and in Pendleton (located on SE 4<sup>th</sup> in the amount of

\$7,400). **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the two sales and adopt Order No. BCC 2015-060. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0. Commissioner Elfering moved to approve Order No. BCC 2015-061. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**

9. AWERE Grant – City of Weston. Mr. Olsen presented. The City of Weston is requesting up-front payment regarding the Weston Roof Repair Project prior to the completion of the project. Chair Murdock talked about AWERE Committee discussion and concern about funds not being reimbursed as the grant needs to be. **Chair Murdock moved to approve the request and authorize payment to the City of Weston in the amount of \$40,000 for the AWERE grant prior to completion of the City Hall Roof project. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 2-0.**
10. Appointments to Local Community Advisory Council. Mr. Olsen presented. Approval is sought to appoint three people to the LCAC to the EOCCO. **In the Matter of Appointment of Marci McMurphy, Charity Murphy and Alisha Southwick to the Umatilla County Local Community Advisory Council to Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization, Chair Murdock moved to adopt Order No. BCC2015-058. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 2-0.**
11. Appointment to Umatilla County Housing Authority Board. Mr. Olsen presented. This is to come up to date since the last appointments were made by the Board in 2007. There is one new member to appoint, and the terms for the remainder have expired and formal appointment is needed. **In the Matter of Appointment of Douglas M. Barak, John A. Herrera, Jr., R. Anthony Leggett and Joe Thompson, Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. BCC2015-062. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**

There was no Executive Session.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Elfering: He noted a quiet week in the BCC office. He attended groundbreaking for the Don Horneck Building at the Ag Research Station in Hermiston last week attended by 25-30 people. The County was recognized for contributing \$25,000 to the facility.

Yesterday at the West End Mayors meeting, concern was expressed about marijuana issues in the county and cities. Chair Murdock commented about meeting with Rob Bovett at the NACO Conference earlier in the week. Mr. Bovett encouraged the County to make a recommendation soon (about the moratorium on marijuana). Mr. Olsen reported the Marijuana Committee met on 7/14/15 and had a consensus for a recommendation; it is to be recommended for opt out by the County. Chair Murdock talked about grandfathering and we want to make decision within time allotted.

Regarding Dispatch, Commissioner Elfering continues to work on this – he has researched and has met with small towns about participating in Dispatch. Towns want a consideration other than just population – other things should be considered. Still looking to involve the Fire and Ambulance Districts who also receive services. Chair Murdock asked about Pilot Rock and itsr Police Department. Commissioner Elfering advised they do want their own department, but they do not have money. They have talked with Pendleton Police Department for possible options of coverage and also are looking to contact the Sheriff's Office as well.

Discussion turned to Board meetings being accessed on the County website. Mr. Olsen advised Dan Lonai says the equipment is in place, but the Board must make the ultimate decision. Commissioner Elfering felt it would provide an opportunity to people who might want to follow meetings to do so if they are unable to come to a meeting in person. Chair Murdock agreed. If the capacity is there, it is okay with him.

Chair Murdock: He attended the NACO conference in North Carolina last week and got back today at 1 a.m. He'll prepare a report on events he attended as it relates to the County and what we are doing. One component of domestic violence is not covered in our county – Mark Royal stressed the importance of including this in addition to health, A&D, Mental Health, and others. Chair Murdock advised the County can reshape human services and domestic violence is a topic that fits with many other programs offered. He attended a session at NACO where great presentations were made – he found it extremely useful. However, it was not very well attended. It was basically a one on one for him and great speakers and wonderful guidance as a component for Umatilla County. Discussion continued about Community Justice now being the placeholder for human services. Chair Murdock noted the parties (Dale Primmer, Mike Graber and Charlie Carnes) are heading in the right direction.

Chair Murdock asked about the dumpster location in the back parking lot; wanted to know the status of reconfiguring placement and would like it moved as discussed previously.

Regarding the Veterans WWII ceremony on Nov 11 (the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary), the venue would be at the Convention Center. Lunch will be provided; VFW is solidly behind the ceremony. A Brigadier General will attend, Senator Wyden will attend and others. Outreach money from Veterans will be used. He is looking for about \$1,000 to \$1,500 to help with the event. He would also like to see one of the WWII Veterans be a keynote speaker.

Chair Murdock also talked about AOC summer conference next year in June to be held in Pendleton. Commissioner Givens will be the President of AOC next year. Commissioner Givens advised he would like to charter buses to show off EOTEC during that conference if it is ready. Chair Murdock advised he would like to see Umatilla County host a different type conference when in Pendleton – it should be memorable.

Adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt*

Executive Secretary  
Umatilla County Board of Commissioners