

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Meeting of October 19, 2016  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon

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

**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen

**Members and Guests Present:** Susan Bower, Eastern Oregon Business Source Manager; Christina van der Kamp, EOBS/Pendleton School Dist. School to Careers Coordinator; Joseph Fiumara, UCo Health Environmental Health Supervisor; Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer; Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director; Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director

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**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Commissioner Givens.

Chair Murdock reminded those present that the meeting is a public forum. It is being video and audio recorded and minutes will be taken. Comments will become part of the meeting record. Please sign in on the visitor's sheet. If persons wish to speak before the Board, please come to the podium, identify yourself and state where you live for the record.

**Awards/Recognitions/Correspondence.** None today.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Commissioner Givens moved to approve minutes of the 10/05/16 Board of Commissioners' meeting and land use hearings on 9/28/16 and 10/12/16. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.

**Additions to Agenda.** Elections payable.

**Public Comments.** None.

**Presentations:** Susan Bower, EO Business Source, presented School to Careers; she referred to the presentation board which highlighted the program. She introduced Christina van der Kamp, School to Careers Coordinator through the Pendleton School District. She was hired in June for the 2016-17 school year – a 1-year assignment. Ms. van der Kamp continued the presentation. Pendleton School District was awarded a large grant that enabled it to upgrade the old West Hills Elementary school to classrooms for connecting students to career related experiences while in high school. Goal is to serve high school students in Pendleton to allow them to explore skills and build community contacts upon graduation to hit the ground running. This will also serve the community to grow the workforce here regardless of profession, providing a way to build mentorships in the community. Over 200 students have expressed interest in the concept. A kick off for local businesses has occurred in the last 2 weeks with hopes of placing kids over the next 2 weeks in the community in various types

of career interests. Career and speaker day is planned in the near future. In response to a question about what types of careers, Ms. van der Kamp noted interest in just about everything – medical/nursing, sci fi movie work , agriculture, counseling, child care, human services and also technical and technology, as well as a lot of interest for careers in police, fire, criminal justice and education. Commissioner Givens asked if anyone expressed desire about working in energy production facilities (i.e. wind turbine careers). She responded not that specifically but there is interest in engineering -- engineering systems and design is a big interest. Those skills lend themselves to the wind turbine field. There are new business contacts calling her about other ideas for careers including vet techs and veterinarians.

Commissioner Elfering commented about the growing awareness that some students are not going on to four more years of education; this program is a way to provide technical job opportunities. Four-year college usually has a big debt to pay back vs. technical schools (for example, an electrician, journeyman can be earning a living in four years).

Ms. van der Kamp talked about mentoring in a broad range of careers with a variety of ways to share knowledge. Chair Murdock commented about transforming conversations that post-high school is a broad array vs. a 4-year degree (the biggest challenge is for parents with this concept). Ms. van der Kamp added a CTE revitalization grant awarded to PSD will get the word out that in addition to college degrees, many jobs look at apprenticeship programs and on-job-training. Career experiences allow kids to see a working environment. Mentorships open minds and it starts the conversation and the plan how to get there. Chair Murdock pointed out the demand for Bachelor degrees has changed toward technical degrees – community colleges have a lot of people with Bachelor degrees getting more education. Ms. van der Kamp added kids start interest in some areas and do not stop at graduation -- two years after graduation they are still in the “arc” to more training and on to a career. There is a statewide push to get kids past high school graduation.

Commissioner Givens talked about education to parents about this type of training and not looking at a huge debt with this type of concept. Ms. van der Kamp noted Eastern Promise is instituted during high school – this is a connection in high school for after graduation. There is need for ongoing conversation with parents. The “new” West Hills building (which houses the culinary arts program with a commercial kitchen and catering space in addition to other technical careers) will be opening in January and will be a great part of the conversation to pass this message on.

Ms. Bower added that she will be making a presentation at the County Senior Manager meeting next Wednesday and will have the display available. Chair Murdock encouraged her to leave the display for more sharing (in the courthouse lobby).

### **Business Items**

1. Fee Ordinance Amendments. Chair Murdock called the public hearing to order at 9:20 a.m. Doug Olsen advised this is the second reading of the ordinance; it is for the On-Site Septic program. There are no changes at this time. And, no comments were made. Commissioner Elfering noted he attended a meeting last night about the program and questions were raised about fees; it was noted the County fees will be the same as the State charges. In response to a question from Commissioner Givens about any feelings about how the program and process will work, Joe Fiumara as Environmental Health Supervisor for UCo Health answered it is mainly about the procedural pieces – what may change or be different. His impression was people are relatively accepting of the County taking over the program with hopes that timelines/responses will be improved (currently, the State has a huge area to cover and it may take weeks for an evaluation and another 1 week to actual inspection causing back logs). It is hoped waiting times are reduced as well as streamlining the processes. One improvement is there will not be a fee charged to obtain records as did the State. Commissioner Elfering also

noted paperwork and information gathering will be available online and payments by credit cards will be set up eventually. Mr. Fiumara added some of that will take a bit of time to set up.

Regarding a question about state staff attending the meeting, Mr. Fiumara noted there were two DEQ representatives (local inspector and one other), seven from the Planning Department, a City Planner from Hermiston and seven area contractors.

The timeline for transition of program take-over and projects in process. The contract is in the process of signing by DEQ and the Board of Commissioners. As DEQ does evaluation this week, the contract will include a list projects in mid-process -- listed as "frozen" or wrapped up and the On-Site Septic program will transition to Umatilla County shortly thereafter. All are hoping for a seamless transition. Regarding staff numbers, Mr. Fiumara advised, after a system in place, it will be him and in the near future two staff trained (certifications are required) -- he is qualified now and the other two will eventually be able to do pre-cover inspections. Only two people covered eight counties in the current State septic program and after take-over, it will be only 1 county and after a time, Morrow County will be included.

The Commissioners discussed the State's (DEQ) gratitude for Umatilla County taking over this program. It is night and day different from a couple of years ago where another state agency was trying to hand-off another program (building codes) to the County to take over -- there were big problems (staff, budget, process) and it never worked out. Chair Murdock closed the hearing at 9:30 a.m. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-10. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

2. On-Site Septic Inspection Enforcement Ordinance. Chair Murdock called the public hearing to order at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Olsen advised in order to implement the on-site septic program an enforcement mechanism will need to be in place. This ordinance will incorporate the State's regulations as defined now and will allow enforcement by the County. The program will have the ability to cite violators under the existing enforcement ordinance whereby violations, if not abated, can go through the court process (similar to code violations). Commissioner Givens asked if Code Enforcement would be involved. Mr. Olsen responded enforcement would be through Environmental Health and, if a violation is not corrected, could have the county counsel go through the court process. At this time, it is not planned to go through Code Enforcement. Joe Fiumara will be lead of this septic inspection program and will initiate the enforcement piece when needed. There were no more questions. Chair Murdock closed the hearing at 9:33 a.m. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-11. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

3. Courthouse Improvements. Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director, provided background. He visited with architect Mr. Kontz out of College Place who recently redesigned the local FBI headquarters, so he has credentials in doing some security work. Mr. Kontz has looked at the front main entrance of the courthouse and estimates about \$3,200 for the design phase for security improvements. Suggestion was made to include a "not to exceed \$5,000" provision. Improvements would likely consist of a glass enclosed area with handicapped access, bringing out the floor where the steps are to make it flush and parking would need to be marked for handicapped. The front sidewalk is in need of repair, so this will work with the new concept. The idea of the project is to allow only one entrance to the building for screening and security for all areas of the courthouse as well as discouraging those with bad intentions getting into the building.

Discussion turned to budget and where would the money come from? Mr. Lonai advised money is available from maintenance budget -- \$3,200 is available at this time. Chair Murdock pointed out other agenda items (4 --roof replacement RFP and 5 --painting maintenance shop, support of which will be incumbent for those funds; the fiscal aspect will be further discussed. According to Mr. Lonai, the courthouse improvement fund is about \$16,000. Chair Murdock preferred to not go back to courthouse facilities funds. Commissioner Givens pointed out the AOC and the legislature are looking at funding for courthouse security. And, Chair Murdock

pointed out the vast difference of a huge upgrade (i.e., Multnomah County Courthouse) compared to what our County is researching. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve request and direct Mr. Lonai, Administrative Services to pursue the design phase at \$3,200 and up to \$5,000. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.** Chair Murdock suggested that he, Mr. Lonai and Mr. Pahl discuss all three maintenance items. He noted there is about \$15,900 available in courthouse improvements which is not earmarked at this time.

4. Roof Replacement on Maintenance Shop. Mr. Olsen presented. This is for maintenance shop across Court street not including the part for archiving storage (that roof was replaced a few years back). It amounts to about \$20,000 per section (two sections). Currently, the roof leaks onto maintenance equipment and there is no insulation. This is to request issuing a Request For Proposals for roof and an insulated layer (which qualifies for Energy Trust incentive of .60/sq. ft.). The RFP could request 2 different bids for cost comparison. Proper building maintenance makes for a long period of use. Unlike the courthouse's tar roof, the maintenance building is a membrane roof. No capital construction is anticipated. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

5. Painting Maintenance Shop. Mr. Lonai presented. A couple of quotes were requested; one has been received (verbally) for under \$10,000. The other quote is to come in Thursday. The timeframe to paint before bad weather is limited. The building is stucco and metal, so it can be done with decent weather. Maintenance budget is available for not to exceed \$10,000. It will be an improvement visually. Separately, there will be lighting for security to keep people safe and also keep people from trespassing. In addition, maintenance is looking to turn an old light pole into a flag pole - including painting. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve acceptance of project and to authorize expenditure up to \$10,000 for the painting of the building. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering.** Chair Murdock expressed appreciation for appearance improvement in this part of town. In addition, a few other businesses have improved these few blocks. **Carried, 3-0.**

6. Authorize Purchase of Vehicle – Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Elfering noted this is for replacing his old vehicle. He reviewed all three bids submitted (Hubbard Chevrolet, Tom Denchel Ford and Sherrell Chevrolet). The low bid is from Sherrell Chevrolet for a 2017 Equinox, \$28,902.85. **Commissioner Givens moved to authorize purchase of the vehicle as outlined. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

7. Approval for On-Call Worker – A&D. This will be handled in Executive Session. **Chair Murdock moved to put this item at the end of the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

8. Authorize Sale of Property. Mr. Olsen presented. After two different auctions for this property in Echo, no bids were received on this foreclosed property. Now, a bid of \$100 was received from Jeffery Huffman, which meets the 15% statutory allowable limitation. Staff recommends accepting the offer. The Board looked at the map projected on the monitor for location. The property is a small piece. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve and adopt Order No. BCC2016-077. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

9. Appointments to Adams Community Benefit Plan Board. Mr. Olsen presented. The terms of Board membership have expired; all four public members are willing to serve (M Dane Holmes, Amos I. Bechtell, III, Michael Odman and Ellyn Johnson) as well as Commissioner Elfering serving as the County representative. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve and adopt Order No. BCC2016-075. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

10. Approve Grants for Adams Community Benefit Grants. Two grants have been recommended by the Adams Community Benefit Plan Board. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve and adopt Order No. BCC2016-076 (City of Adams = \$1,770 and Adams Public Library/City of Adams = \$1,125.23). Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

11. Purchase of Batteries for 911 Dispatch. Mr. Olsen presented for Capt. Kathy Lieuallen, 911 Dispatch Manager. Funds are available in the budget for back up batteries. Commissioner Givens asked if there is more than 1 vendor; Mr. Olsen responded he was not provided that information. The Board felt it should be determined if there is more than one supplier to get a better (competitive) price. **Commissioner Elfering moved to postpone decision until the next meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Givens.** Direction was given to counsel to obtain additional information from Capt. Lieuallen. **Carried, 3-0.**

12. District Attorney Representation. Mr. Olsen advised this is requirement regarding mental health commitments and the ability of the District Attorney to access court records; a Board Order will document the request that the DA continue to represent the State in those cases. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve and adopt Order No. BCC2016-078. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

13. Election Payable. Mr. Olsen advised this is a yearly routine expense -- \$25,000 for postage. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve. Commissioner Elfering seconded. Carried, 3-0.**

Chair Murdock called for an Executive Session at 10:04 am. Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a,b,h) for the purpose of discussing employment matters. *[separate minutes were taken]*

Back to regular session at 10:14 a.m. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve on-call employment for an On-Call Employee in the Alcohol & Drug Treatment Program; and, if there's any expansion of the position to come back to the Board for consideration. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried 3-0.**

### **Commissioner Reports.**

Commissioner Givens will attend a Water Resources Department meeting next Monday night at the Milton-Freewater Community Building. Commissioner Elfering noted the Tea Party had some erroneous information about water issues. He advised he will attend the repeat meeting of WRD on Tuesday morning. Chair Murdock added that representation by the Board is critical in OWRD and water issues.

On Thursday, he will participate in conference call with EOCA where he will advise the group that Umatilla County, in the future, is not willing to pay for those counties not wanting to pay their fair share. This will be presented forcefully to the group.

On Friday, he will attend a meeting of the Department of Agriculture at the Forest Service office, Pendleton, regarding the Blue Mountain Forest Plan.

Commissioner Elfering met on Tuesday with the North Highway 395 group where ODOT presented good information on traffic roundabouts; they have been found to be safer and are less expensive than traffic lights or intersections with stop signs. He felt that roundabouts could work on county roads.

At a recent CDA (Columbia Development Authority) meeting there are still problems with water rights. The Oregon Guard and CDA had agreed on a solution for water, but when the BRAC circulated it to their agencies, the National Guard Bureau objected and felt they should have a larger proportion of the water based on their percentage of property. Commissioner Elfering also noted the BRAC had their own consultant provide a water use analysis and it was thought water rights were resolved; apparently not yet.

On Tuesday, he met with the Columbia Blue Mountain RC&D for their last meeting. The group will dissolve as of 12/31/16 and assets will be distributed to area non-profit entities per agreement.

He has been working on Water Resources and county commitments statewide to focus on funding levels and a formula for budget going into the next fiscal year.

He has also been working on a recreational trail from Echo to the Columbia River focusing on the initial concept and possible funding.

Chair Murdock hopes to have a recommendation soon for a new Public Health Director after recent interviews. He continues to serve as interim Health Director until a new director is named.

He noted the county is looking at possibly weaving the mental health discussion into the fold of LPSCC to perhaps find a home there. He has had a request from a member of the Umatilla Behavioral Health Advisory Committee to consider alternatives since they have been looking at the committee's scope and intent for a while now.

### **Other**

Jennifer Blake advised she received a call from Mike Ladd at OWRD about staffing to fill vacant positions in the Watermaster office. Commissioner Elfering, as liaison to Watermaster, has some questions for Mr. Ladd and will discuss that and other things with him. Replacements would likely be paid out of the County budget. However, there is discussion about State vs. County hiring and budget. Ms. Blake expressed concern about filling as county position knowing it may not be a County job or it may be a State job, which makes position(s) difficult to fill; in addition, recruiting may not be successful due to limited duration. There is need to consider budget as well. Mr. Olsen advised the County would have to recruit for a position to end 6/30/17 (end of fiscal year). Ms. Blake noted a hydrologist position and an assistant watermaster are vacant. Chair Murdock asked if the State could achieve the desired service level by bringing in State employees through 7/1. Chair Murdock suggested if the State could send an employee to Umatilla County like a contract, the County could reimburse the State for that plus it would not be a County employee. Commissioner Elfering advised he will follow up with Mike Ladd and also with Tom Byler at OWRD regarding the discussion today and will report back.

Commissioner Givens noted his schedule in December where he plans on taking vacation from 12/18 to return to the office on 1/9. He would like to host the Board staff this year for a Christmas party at Whitehouse Crawford in Walla Walla on Friday, 12/16. Melinda Slatt will check the calendar so reservations can be made.

Upcoming Board meetings schedule. Chair Murdock directed Ms. Slatt to check the calendar for quorums at Board meetings December through March. For the first meeting in January (1/4/17), he and Commissioner Elfering will be present, but Commissioner Givens will be out.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt,*

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners