

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of July 5, 2017
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Members and Guests Present: Byron Smith, EOTEC Chair; Carol Speed, GOBHI - CJBH Manager; Jennifer Blake, County H.R. Director; Tom Fellows, County Public Works Director; Micaela Cathey, Lifeways Director; Rick George, Lifeways Director; Tammy Sundin, County Community Corrections Office Manager; Dan Lonai, County Administrative Services Director; Harry Geller, CHI-St. Anthony Hospital President; Gary Blonde, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe attorneys; Ron Dillon, Nitro in Blues motorcycle hill climb promoter

CALL TO ORDER

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Elfering.

Chair Givens 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. If persons wish to speak before the Board, please come to the podium, identify yourself and state where you live for the record.

Awards/Correspondence/Recognition.

Employee of the Quarter /Employee Excellence. Commissioner Elfering read the nomination letter for Tamara Partney, District Attorney’s Office. Tami has worked for the County 10 years – she goes above and beyond and is always willing to help where needed and leads by great example with an amazing attitude. Thank you and congratulations to Tami Partney! A picture was taken and balloons and candy were presented to her. Commissioner Elfering also noted she will receive one paid day off and a reserved parking spot at the courthouse.

Recognition: Commissioner Elfering talked about Search and Rescue Unit – Sheriff’s Office, which has made news a few times in the last couple of months. In part, they use drones in searches to rescue people as well as to help identify emergency issues. He noted a recent truck wreck on I84 near the Sheriff’s Office where hazmat was called.

Minutes of Previous Meeting. None.

Additions to Agenda. None.

Public input for those items other than on agenda Chair Givens advised this is the time for public input (for other than a scheduled item on the agenda). There was nothing today.

Presentations. Nitro in the Blues (Ron Dillon - not present at that time).

Business Items:

1. **CHI Bond Issuance.** Chair Givens called the public hearing to order at 9:07 a.m. He asked for the staff report. Mr. Greg Blonde, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, Portland, attorney representing Catholic Health Initiatives, presented. CHI-St. Anthony Hospital will benefit from bond proceeds to finance improvements – in a principal amount not to exceed \$85 million. Non-profit entities use tax exempt financing through a municipal entity – in this case a Colorado entity which will use tax exempt financing to benefit many facilities including St. Anthony Hospital. Commissioner Elfering clarified: the County is giving limited approval for tax exempt bond issuance, but the non-profit takes the responsibility. Chair Givens noted this process has taken place over the years. He asked for public comments. None were heard. He closed the public hearing at 9:10 a.m. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. BCC2017-041. Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**

2. **EOTEC Update.** Byron Smith, EOTEC Chair, noted construction has been underway a while -- he went through pictures projected on the monitor. There has been a lot of site-work at the rodeo arena; sod and landscaping; parking area was disked to break up big pieces -- work will continue into the end of July. Applications for a General Manager for EOTEC have been received and interviews will occur soon. Chair Givens commented about the old CSEPP trailer is hoped to be moved from behind the Stafford Hansell building to the EOTEC facility to be used by the Fair office. Mr. Smith also advised he brought documents for a “bridge loan” to first be reviewed by Mr. Olsen as County Counsel and then to be signed by the Board of Commissioners’ representative.

3. **Westfield Additional Road Repair.** Tom Fellows, Public Works Director, presented the staff report. Over the last 3-4 years in this area (public road, not a county maintained road) property owners asked Public Works to help with some maintenance, which would be reimbursed; this is a usual process – they have always reimbursed as invoiced. Costs for repairs is estimated at \$2,500. Mr. Olsen noted this action needs Board approval since it is not a County Road; a similar request was approved in 2012. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. RD2017-05. Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**

4. **Used Paint Truck.** Mr. Fellows noted this equipment was not on the list for planned purchases, but it became available and at a good price. He has used Morrow County’s paint truck at a cost of \$8,000-\$10,000. The cost varies if their operator is used. Although the cooperation of Morrow County is appreciated, Oregon State surplus has a used 2001 paint truck for \$8,500. It came from Bend and it was viewed earlier this year. Comment was made about use of a loaned truck – it seems repairs have to be made; it is a good idea for the County to own the equipment. Mr. Fellows added the truck is ready to go and comes with about \$10,000 worth of new parts/equipment. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve authorization to purchase the used paint truck as outlined. Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**

5. **Change in Classification** – Harris Park. Mr. Fellows noted changes in management were made about three years ago. The current Park Manager lives about 15 minutes away from the park so the house at the park is not used as a part of his benefit package. Therefore, he felt the residence should be considered a separate benefit. In review of overall compensation and based on the job duties, he worked with Mr. Olsen, Jennifer Blake in H.R. and the Finance office. It was determined that fees have increased and the park is profitable with revenue generation plus savings from the current budget year. In addition, the current Park Manager is a conservative spender. Mr. Fellows is asking for a 3-phase program to get the

manager up to a level equal to a lead person at the Road Department as long as the revenue stream pays for it (which he anticipates). Currently, he asks for a \$500 increase per month in salary. Then, two subsequent adjustments of approximately \$500 to bring the position to parity with a Maintenance Lead position at the Road Department. In response to Commissioner Elfering's question about the house, Mr. Fellows advised it doubles as the office (1/3 of the house) and that will continue. Primarily it will be used by park staff. Mr. Fellows advised there is a camp host and also a seasonal employee plus the park manager – coverage is at the park as necessary. Chair Givens added he has received numerous positive comments about the park over last two years; the operation has really improved. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the step class adjustment for the Park Manager position as outlined. Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**

6. School-Based Mental Health. Jennifer Blake, H.R. Director, presented in Amy Ashton-Williams' absence. Board approval is sought for this mental health program at the Hermiston School District, which requested a program similar to the County run CARE program. With the approval of funds from GOBHI (minimum of \$300,000), the RISE program will be created. The contract will include a program manager and three service providers. The program will only continue with adequate funding is secured through GOBHI. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve Human Services' request to approve the four positions for the RISE program at Hermiston School District. Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
7. Post PERS Employment. Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director, presented. Bev Reid who worked as the law librarian, part-time in the records office, purchasing and back up in IT, retired on 6/30 and is requesting to return to work as a post PERS employee. She will help in the office in Milton-Freewater and will back up the Records Department and computer purchasing, which includes floating to fill in at vacation times. She will be a half-time employee and will monitor her hours to the limit of 1,039 hours per requirements. In response to Commissioner Elfering's question about budget, Mr. Lonai advised this is savings of about \$35,000. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve hiring a PERS retiree effective 7/1/17 to 6/30/18. Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
8. Transfer of Property. Mr. Olsen presented. Authorization is sought to transfer this unimproved lot in Stanfield, which was foreclosed for delinquent property taxes. It is in the flood zone and is in the middle of the park. Stanfield was unsuccessful in a previous attempt to acquire the property from the owner. Due to foreclosure, they are now requesting to obtain it from the County. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the transfer and adopt Order No. BCC2017-042. Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**

Presentation by Ron Dillon - Nitro in Blues Hill Climb. He came from Boise this morning. This is 2nd year of Oregon's only motorcycle hill climb. The 1st year held during Pendleton Bike Week was successful with great local cooperation – Jim Whitney is the landowner and great to work with. Mr. Dillon advised he has applied for the required temporary zoning permit for the event and insurance is in the works. He commented about the wonderful dirt in Umatilla County – the racers call it chocolate cake! They use irrigation and there is no erosion – they reseeded it last year after the event and it is ready to go again this year. The hillclimb will run July 21 -23 (finals are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.). This year they have added “Thunder in the Blues” – the first motorcycle flat-track race in Pendleton Round Up arena since 1940. That event runs Friday, 7/21, 3 pm to 10 pm, in compliance with Pendleton's laws regarding noise. It is an AMA sanctioned race – if it goes well and continues next year, it could be a full-blown national event. This is part of Pendleton Bike Week with a lot of buzz this year. These events are bringing in more and more tourists more times during the year.

Commissioner Elfering commented that Umatilla County is well situated in proximity to Boise, Portland, Seattle and Spokane. It was also noted about the importance of infrastructure to handle the influx of thousands to handle these big events.

Mr. Dillon also noted in addition to insurance and permits, he is working out the plans for safety and security. He noted no one was injured last year and is proud of his promotion of over 230 events with a fun and safe history.

Other. Rick George, Lifeways, introduced Carol Speed, GOBHI, and Micaela Cathey, Lifeways. He noted they were in attendance just to be kept in the loop -- there was nothing specific on the agenda to comment about. He advised Lifeways and GOBHI have about 180 employees in the county.

There was no executive session.

Commissioner Reports.

Commissioner Givens will be out the rest of this week and all next week on family vacation. He won't be available by cellphone or text (out of the country).

Commissioner Elfering will also be out the same amount of time on family vacation, but he will be available by cellphone, text and email. He commented on economic development bringing businesses to the county – there is a lot of information sharing and building relationships – it is very exciting to see what is in store in the next five years with over 1,000 new employees anticipated to be hired. He commented about infrastructure as noted earlier by Ron Dillon. He also noted a housing shortage and there is need to spend a good deal of time working on that.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners