

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of September 20, 2017
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Members and Guests Present: Dale Primmer, County Community Justice Director; Debbie Swenson, Elections; Kim Lindell Elections Manager; Bob Waldher, County Planning Director; Dan Lonai, County Administrative Services Director; Steve Churchill, County Records; Israel Agosto, County Administrative Services (Hermiston); Tracie Diehl, County GIS; Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director; Robert Pahl, County Budget & Finance Director; Jolene Meadows, County Administrative Services; Stephanie Barnett, County Human Resources; Lt. Thoren Hearn, County Jail; Jennifer Blake, County Human Resources Director; Patrick Knight, ODOT Senior Planner

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 Murdock.

Chair Givens reminded those present that the meeting is a public forum. He noted our County has a very nice meeting room in comparison to Wallowa County where he attended a recent meeting -- they are in process of remodeling. And, Paul Chalmers added the room/area was formerly the Assessment & Taxation office.

Chair Givens continued – the meeting 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. Commissioner Murdock announced a surprise. The County is taking time to celebrate a special occasion related to Israel Agosto. He read the recognition letter and asked Israel to come forward to receive a certificate of achievement and the letter he had just been read. Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director, also came forward to give a few remarks as well including the fact Mr. Agosto also picks up elections ballots and can now vote as a new U.S. Citizen! He presented Mr. Agosto a voter registration card.

Minutes of Previous Meeting Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2017 Board meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Additions to Agenda. Commissioner Murdock requested adding a formal acknowledgement of service of Dale Primmer and Paul Chalmers as members of the Pendleton City Council.

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) and also for recognition of visitors. There were none.

Business Items:

1. Land Use Hearing – ODOT Meacham Quarry. Chair Givens advised consideration of an application by ODOT for an expansion of the rock pit/quarry at Meacham. He called the hearing to order at 9:09 a.m. for the purpose of text amendment #T16-068; Plan Map Amendment #P-117-16; Zone Map Amendment #Z-309-16; and Variance, #V-348-17. He asked for the staff report. Bob Waldher, Planning Director, presented. ODOT is looking to expand aggregate resource zone at Meacham quarry to add approximately 19 acres to the current amount. Chair Givens asked, for benefit of those not in attendance, what is goal 5? Mr. Waldher answered it is for the natural resources element of statewide planning program for protection of the resource (a rock quarry) into the future. He noted a representative of the applicant, ODOT, is present for additional questions.

There were no conflicts noted by the Board.

Patrick Knight ODOT, Senior Planner, advised he agreed with Mr. Waldher's staff report and added he was mainly in attendance for questions. In response to Commissioner Elfering's question about any problems with dust or blasting, Mr. Knight was not aware of any issues or complaints; he added they try to be a good neighbor. The quarry has been there a long time. In response to a question by Chair Givens, Mr. Knight advised ODOT has coordinated with DOGAMI and with DEQ.

Chair Givens asked for any in opposition. None were heard. He asked for State agencies. None were heard. He closed the hearing at 9:15 a.m.

Deliberation. Commissioner Elfering advised he had read the documents and it appears to be a straightforward question for operation a long time quarry; it is merely an expansion. There was no opposition at the Planning Commission meeting. **Commissioner Elfering, In the Matter of Amending the Comprehensive Plan and Adding Site to Goal 5 Aggregate Resources Inventory for State of Oregon, ODOT for Meacham Quarry Expansion, moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-13. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0. Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the application in full, including all evidence. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

2. Create Position - Jail. Lt. Thoren Hearn presented. He requested approval for a Services Specialist position at the County Jail for the purpose of classes, assessments, and for alternate forms of custody. The jail staff is working with Community Corrections to obtain grant funding. For more explanation, Dale Primmer, Community Justice Director, noted this is continuation regarding Justice Reinvestment Planning. The previous position expired last biennium -- June this year. The Jail wants to maintain services and money has been identified to bridge the gap until October or November for word on Justice Reinvestment funding. Jail population of around 1145 account for felony sentences for period of less than 1 year. Probation is revoked for various reasons. The intent is to have services delivered in the Jail for target population and would also coordinate post-release services. The services have been provided through a contract in the past and has been reviewed with the Jail Commander and Human Resources regrading cross-departmental lines.

Commissioner Murdock noted he has been involved in discussions as well as legal counsel, Capt. Stewart Harp, Dale Primmer and Jennifer Blake. In addition, Mr. Primmer advised he met with his liaison Commissioner Elfering earlier this week. Commissioner Elfering asked what is percentage of the jail population is involved? He knows nationwide it is pretty high (regarding proper treatment of those with mental limitations, which ties to recidivism and lowering costs). Mr. Primmer noted the target population is around 30. He feels the position could handle more based on their assessment. This is one of two positions being considered in the Jail (the other is for clinical A&D assessment). **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

3. Burn Ban. Mr. Waldher presented. This is to remove the current non-agricultural burn ban. Chair Givens noted forest designations were at low or moderate levels (on his trip to Enterprise, Wallowa County for a recent meeting). **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve Order No. BCC2017-063. Commissioner Murdock seconded. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Position Reclassification - Veterans. Commissioner Murdock presented on behalf of the Veteran's Services program director. Officer Assistants take training and can obtain certifications after one year of service. The Veteran's Office is being applauded for the work they are doing – it is running pretty smoothly. In last 3 years, benefits have been raised by \$3 million – maintaining significant impact and good visibility/access in Pendleton, Hermiston and Milton-Freewater. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve/ authorize moving forward with a step increase from Range 17 to 18 once the VSOA obtains certifications. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Chair Givens added that he has heard good positive comments of Veterans connecting with services. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Create Position – Public Health. Commissioner Murdock presented. A grant was received and began 9/1/17 which addresses prescription drug overdoses and coordinates efforts with Counties of Morrow, Union, Baker and Malheur. This is a prevention effort that comes with \$95,500 each year to fund work being completed. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the new position of Eastern Oregon Prescription Drug Overdose Grant Coordinator tied to a grant award. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Post PERS Employment – Planning. Mr. Waldher presented. Another staff member (who works with mapping and addressing) is departing at the end of September. The request is to bring back Julie Alford, cartographer, as Post PERS employment on a limited basis (and more as needed). She will come in certain days to make maps and make sure that rural addressing covered. Another staff person will be recruited and she will help train them. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
7. District Attorney Positions. Mr. Olsen presented. There are two parts to this item: earlier this month (on 9/6), the Board approved, at DA Dan Primus' request for an additional position and two reclassifications based on additional grant funding. Unfortunately, the grant amounts were not calculated correctly and there will be insufficient grant funding for the changes. Action today is to rescind those actions as noted. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve rescinding the 9/6/17 approval for an additional position in the DA's office due to lack of funding. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0. Commissioner Elfering moved to rescind the Board's previous action to approve reclassifications of two positions in the DA's office. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Payables – DD and Public Health. Mr. Olsen presented. There are before the Board for action since they exceed the department dollar amount. The Public Health payable is for 15 wheelchair charging stations in Pendleton, Hermiston, Milton-Freewater, Stanfield and Pilot Rock in the amount of \$5,250 to Clearview Mediation & Disability Resource Center. The second is from the Developmental Disabilities Program for respite care normally paid through the State; however, due to paperwork not being done timely, it is a County responsibility and will be paid by the County. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the two payables. Seconded by Commissioner E. Carried, 3-0.** It was noted the charging stations have been a welcome addition.
9. Recognition – Chalmers and Primmer. Commissioner Murdock pointed out the County has taken a strong position in recent years to encourage participation of employees in public service, community service and professional service. It is good to have active involvement of county employees. As a result,

it is important to support their participation including leadership positions. **Commissioner Murdock moved to support of Paul Chalmers and Dale Primmer as members of the Pendleton City Council; this would not extend to paying expenses nor to situations where compensation is provided. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.** Mr. Chalmers noted on 9/28 he and Mr. Primmer will attend the League of Oregon Cities conference in Portland. In addition, on 9/29 he will attend the Oregon Biz meeting for important SIP agreements discussion. That is a “blended environment” of sorts. Commissioner Murdock felt formal acknowledgement and approval by the Commissioners was needed.

Executive Session. None today.

Commissioner Reports.

Chair Givens: On 9/19 he met with EO Counties Association at Enterprise with main target issues were continued discussions about the Blue Mountain Forest Plan as well as fires. Prior to that, he met with the Forest Service Fire Committee to discuss fire defense. Congressman Walden met with them the previous evening in Wallowa County, which resulted in more involvement of Fish & Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries and possibly with the Environmental Protection Agency. Regional Forester, Jim Pena (out of Portland) will meet with several representatives.

He advised another group meeting will look at flushing out and determining the BMF Plan. Suggestion was to meet before the next Region 6 Forest meeting. It has been a frustrating process with ongoing changing issues as well as inconsistencies. EOCA will meet with Roger Lord, Forest Plan Specialist, for his input as well as Jay Sullivan to help determine what can be changed in the plan without creating a huge issue on the environmental side. He noted concerns of Counties of Baker, Union, Grant, Wallowa and Umatilla regarding grazing, mining, roads, timber production, and not wanting federal control of any of federal lands (Baker County in particular). Commissioner Murdock asked if there might be a conversation at a Commissioners’ staff meeting to iron out a position relative to these issues. Chair Givens agreed with the idea. It seems that all counties have separate philosophies, socio-economic point of view, etc. causing fracturing of the different counties vs. having a united voice. Congressman Walden noted the need for each County to figure out what they want/need. Commissioner Elfering noted the need to have a unified voice to move forward – he understands Congressman Walden’s frustration. Chair Givens pointed out lawsuits are stopping the process of a Forest Plan. He will continue working on this with appropriate representatives and groups and report back.

Commissioner Elfering: He will speak to the Realty Board in Boardman on 9/21 primarily addressing economic growth coming to the region and problems resulting from it (i.e. housing and sufficient numbers of people needed in the workforce, transit issues of getting people to work). He will then tour the data center in Umatilla @ 10:30 (Congressman Walden will also attend). Friday, will meet with Pacific Power representatives regarding power needs in the Pendleton and East County area related to economic development.

Commissioner Murdock had nothing to add except his calendar is full.

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners