

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Meeting of November 1, 2017  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon

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

**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen

**Members and Guests Present:** Claire Sponseller, OSU Extension-County Leader; Matt Kenny, County Survey Supervisor; David Houchin Citizens TV-Vice-President; Michael Ward, Umatilla Basin Watershed Council-Director; Tom Fellows, County Public Works Director; Bob Waldher; County Planning Director

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**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 are 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 Elfering noted receipt of four thank you cards received youth selling pigs at the M-F Junior Livestock Sale held a few months ago. He noted the County contributes money from Economic and Community Development funds received from Oregon Lottery each year to the three livestock sales as a “bump” donation to equalize prices.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the 10/18/17 Board meeting. **Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**

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

**Business Items:**

1. **Proposed Extension District.** Claire Sponseller, OSU Extension, presented. The request is to create a new County Service District. Informal Board approval to being the process was received two or so months ago. Now OSU Extension has received signed resolutions throughout county – all cities (11 signed) except the City of Umatilla (which they will go back to their city council on 11/7 to revisit the resolution). Doug Olsen advised hearings will need to be set. Today’s Board action is to formally initiate the process and acknowledge organizers and resolutions to the proposed district. The Board Order will set the first public hearing (two are required) and then the district question would go on to electors. Chair Givens added the earliest the district can go to voters is at the May election. Mr. Olsen agreed that is the plan and Board action meets the timeframe. The second hearing would be in January and the deadline for the May ballot would be met. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. BCC2017-069. Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**

2. OWEB Grant. Michael Ward, Director of Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, presented a PowerPoint. UBWC is applying for an OWEB grant for fish passage to replace the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge in Athena. The project proposes to replace the bridge to meet FEMA flood levels. Sidewalks as well as lighting will also be included. The main reason is to enhance Steelhead passage by increasing the capacity of Wildhorse Creek. The barrier now totally stops fish passage. In response to Chair Givens' question about why trout get through, Mr. Ward advised the trout live there (upstream). Steelhead will be able to travel to spawning grounds upstream. Mr. Ward explained the bridge was not built properly to consider low flow and high flow (increased velocity). Another part is the bridge design and alignment where the steel wall needs to come out. A feasibility study was conducted and UBWC is trying not to put any fund requirements on the County or the City of Athena. They secured 115% match (only 25% was required). He suggested perhaps the County could assist in hauling off the old bridge in parts; a landowner has a place to dump it. That would be in-kind match.

Chair Givens was supportive of improvements. However, they need to have County Public Works part of process regarding in-kind – staff, timing. Mr. Ward advised there would be some disposal cost -- part of grant. In response to Commissioner Elfering's question, Mr. Ward advised four alternatives were explored and the one presented is the best for landowners, fish, City and County. It is the most expensive option, but the best overall. Flood plain mitigation is also part of this alternative; it will be 50' where it has been 32'. There are a lot of eyes on the whole process, which is three years in. Hopefully, the project will happen in 2018.

**Commissioner Elfering moved to approve with a County letter of support.** Before the vote, Chair Givens asked Tom Fellows, Public Works Director, to weigh in. Mr. Fellows advised of the need to look at potential financial support of the County. He suggested Commissioner Givens as liaison to Public Works meet with Mr. Ward to discuss options and their crucial timeline. Moving forward was agreed. **Chair Givens seconded the motion. Carried, 2-0.** Mr. Ward added 30% of the design is done and in two weeks, it will be 60% complete. He will work with Mr. Olsen about the support letter.

3. Fee Waiver Request. Bob Waldher, Planning Director, presented. This is for a non-profit entity, Citizens TV. They were turned down by for a grant from Oregon Public Broadcasting for the \$2,500 to be used as the fee to County Planning to replace a tower for microwave antenna on leased property off of Basket Mountain Road. Chair Givens noted Citizens TV's Vice-President, Dave Houchin, is present to answer questions. Mr. Houchin advised a lot is done voluntarily; their budget is about \$16,000 and it is spent each year. Changes are coming due to congressional action. The tower picks up Portland news (Black Mountain) and gives a link in the Milton-Freewater area. With reduction in the number of channels available, changes are needed, which are expensive for receiving and broadcasting the signal. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the waiver of Planning Department fee in light of the fact Citizens TV is non-profit and a valuable public service is performed. Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
4. Filling of Position – Human Services. Mr. Olsen presented. Request is made by Human Services to allow double-filling a position for employee leaving 12/31/17 in order to provide some training time for new employee. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve double-filling the Office Manager position effective immediately. Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
5. Fair Board Appointments. Mr. Olsen presented. Five positions are terming out. Three applicants were interviewed and are recommended for appointment. One person will take office immediately and two will “shadow” two Board members who will leave in a year. Steve Anderson can serve one more term

and Lucas Wagner will serve one more year. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve and adopt Order No. BCC2017-068. Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**

6. Road Transfer - Public Hearing. Chair Givens called the public hearing to order at 9:30 a.m. for transfer of jurisdiction of W. Highland Extension, Hermiston. He asked for the staff report. Matt Kenny, County Survey Supervisor, presented. He referred to his report and a location map projected on the monitors. As part of recent development in the area, Hermiston and the County entered into an agreement to transfer jurisdiction of a portion of W. Highland Extension (County Road 1215). There were no questions and no public was present. Chair Givens closed the hearing at 9:37 a.m. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. RD2017-06. Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
7. Request for Proposals. Mr. Olsen presented. This is to authorize issuance of proposals for County Surveyor. Tom Fellows has met with Mr. Olsen and Matt Kenny regarding job requirements. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve issuance of requests for proposals for County Surveyor services. Seconded by Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
8. Storage Building Kit Purchase. Mr. Fellows presented. This is for Harris Park to store equipment. A request for proposals was issued. One proposal was received and requirements of state and local standards for the building were met or exceeded. There is not a lot of snow there (6' to 8"), not much wind and not much drift; elevation is 2,000 feet. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/award the contract to VersaTube Building Systems in the amount of \$12,899. Seconded by Chair Givens. carried, 2-0.**

Executive Session. None.

Commissioner Reports.

Commissioner Elfering: He, Chair Givens and Tom Fellows had a good County Road tour yesterday (10/31).

Commissioner Givens: The Power Corridor Committee meeting was held yesterday (10/31) at Hood River. It was determined since the corridor is between Morrow and Umatilla Counties and with similar economic development issues, a memorandum of agreement will be drafted between the two counties by county counsel and their planning directors; the first step. Also involved, in the future, military (Navy) due to the Boardman bombing range and also the Army, which still has not turned back over the depot property to the Columbia Development Authority. Power Corridor Committee's next meeting is in November.

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt*

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners