

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of December 6, 2017
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Members and Guests Present: Claire Sponseller, OSU Extension-County Leader; Ric Sherman, UC Fire District #1-Board President; Digna Moreno, County Juvenile Services; Greg Goad, Growers “Friends of Extension”; Shawn Halsey, UMRDD-Administrator; Tom Fellows, County Public Works Director; Scott Stanton, UCFD #1-Fire Chief; Jenifer Blake; County Human Resources; Kathy Lieuallen, UCSO-Dispatch Captain; Gay Newman, County Fair-Board Chairman; Marjorie Iburg, PAWS Past President; Jackie Carey, PAWS Vice-President; Larry Lehman, PAWS; Ben DeCarlow, PAWS Secretary-Treasurer; Marcia Flemmer, PAWS Board member; Amy Word, PAWS Board President; Paul Chalmers, County Assessment & Taxation Director; Phil Hamm, OSU Experiment Station Director; Linda Miller, UMMO; Dan Dorrان, UMMO; Phil Wright, EO Reporter; Robert Pahl, County Chief Finance Officer; Byron Smith, City of Hermiston; Jim Setzer, UCo Health Director; Larry Nye, Athena citizen

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Vice-Chair Elfering welcomed all. He noted Chair Larry Givens is attending a National Association of Counties Board meeting in Texas.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Murdock.

Vice-Chair Elfering 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. He noted there were three public hearings on the agenda.

Awards/Correspondence/Recognition. Commissioner Murdock read an acknowledgment regarding Jim Setzer, UCo Health Director, from National Health regarding a very important and complex health survey recently conducted. The County Health Department was instrumental with exceptional leadership. Mr. Setzer went above and beyond helping with media outreach prior to survey, interviews, introducing the concept and the process/procedure as well as attending open house events for questions and getting feedback. Excellent response from the community! Thank you Mr. Setzer.

Minutes of Previous Meeting. None.

Additions to Agenda. None.

Public input for those items other than on agenda. Vice-Chair Elfering advised this is the time for public input (for other than a scheduled item on the agenda) and also for recognition of visitors. None.

Business Items:

1. Extension Service District – Public Hearing. Vice-Chair Elfering called the public hearing open at 9:05 a.m. and asked for the staff report. Doug Olsen, County Counsel, advised this is first public hearing for the formation of a district regarding funding for 4-H, Extension and Research Services. The group making the request has approached all cities in the County through their respective city councils and obtained consent from them. It is now before Board to conduct the first hearing, specifically looking at boundaries of the proposed district and to set a second hearing. At that time, formal Board approval would be made for referral to voters for formation of the district. Vice-Chair Elfering asked first for those in favor.

Proponents.

Dan Dorran, 960 SW 7th St., Hermiston. Is in support of the special district; he understands major and unique decisions of the Board of Commissioners with diverse cultures throughout the county. One thing in common are kids; he is asking for support to endorse the special district as the cities have to move forward to make connection county-wide for the special district.

Linda Miller, 53307 W Ballou Rd., Milton-Freewater. Is in favor mostly on the Extension side. Children are our biggest asset – they learn a lot from 4-H in becoming good citizens, which includes public speaking. It is important for funding and continuing the important work of 4-H and FFA through a special district.

Greg Goad, 73754 Emigrant Rd., Pendleton. He is a local wheat producer and serves the CBARC and OSU facilities. Combined efforts of OSU and Extension makes a big difference in the tax base; research centers are a big part of a vibrant economy throughout the County.

Kathy Lieuallen, 50586 Brooks Rd., Athena. She was also a 10-year 4-H'er. It teaches kids to complete projects, keep records, speak in front of groups and extend themselves. Please support the special district.

Vice-Chair Elfering then asked for opponents. There were none. He asked for comment of public agencies? There were none.

Deliberation. Mr. Olsen explained Board action is to approve what the boundaries might be and to schedule a second hearing. The actual permanent tax rate would go before the voters at the future date. The second hearing would be 1/3/18. Commissioner Murdock noted he wore OSU colors (orange and black) to support the special district. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve Order No. BCC2017-072. Seconded by Vice-Chair Elfering. Carried, 2-0.**

2. Hermiston Enterprise Zone Expansion. Byron Smith, City of Hermiston, presented. This expansion would allow them to be more proactive to attract development to the subject area – near the intersection of I82 and I84. Often there is a time crunch and it is felt this expansion would allow quick response for business attraction. Also included is to change the name to Greater Hermiston Enterprise Zone. Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director, talked about the size of the footprint and limitation. A zone can be moved a certain amount, but statutes provide restrictions. It meets the requirements.

Commissioner Murdock pointed out guests in attendance and asked if they were present to address the Board.

Scott Stanton, Fire District #1 Chief (Hermiston and Stanfield) advised the previous week Hermiston had passed/approved this action. He is concerned over loss of tax revenue for tax abatement; growth is

important but the First District has service demands that are expensive to meet. He is in favor of economic growth and to retain companies understanding spin off, however, tax abatement programs affect their fire district.

Ric Sherman, President of Fire District #1 Board noted there are two issues: growth and expansion creates more need for services across the board. Growth in that area will promote need for more services and will require station in that area to be manned full-time at additional costs. The station is built and equipment is there. At least 6 people are required for ambulance service, or 9-12 with a firetruck. Secondly, new companies bring positives and boost the economy, but services must be paid. Large companies are not required to pay taxes but citizens are, which is a disparity.

Shawn Halsey, UMRDD-Administrator, Hermiston District operator. He is speaking on behalf of the UMRDD directors to express concern about potential increase of services with insufficient costs based on Commissioners' action today.

Commissioner Elfering explained about the enterprise zone – for three years no property taxes are paid. He understood the concern and comments for and against are part of the proceedings.

He asked for any opponents. There were none. Commissioner Murdock added in response to the testimony it is a reminder about economic growth is good but distribution of revenues need to have consideration of many aspects. **Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Order No. BCC2017-075. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 2-0.**

3. Pioneer Humane Society – County Service District. Ben DeCarlow, PAWS Treasurer (and a teacher at Armand Larive from Hermiston) presented. This is for a special tax district asking for 10 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value within Umatilla County. They have now changed the request to include Hermiston. He highlighted background and scope. (1) Originally, PAWS was set up as animal hub – with another shelter, it is no kill and will take animals county-wide. (2) In addition to being an animal shelter, it also provides pet food for those who meet requirements. (3) The public can also utilize reduced fees for spaying/neutering. (4) It is across the county; their board is worried about funding for animal shelter services and they understand the initial process starts here.

Marjorie Iburg, PAWS Past President. The original shelter was started in 2009 county-wide; at that time, a letter of support was requested and pledges were made from the County as well as Pendleton, Echo and the Tribes. Since then, there was County support for at least 1 year to PAWS. Responsibility has been to prove through operation. Collection of data shows a district request is appropriate. She requested support to move the initiative forward for entire county responsibility of unwanted pet population. She added there has been a tremendous amount of work thus far. In response to Commissioner Elfering's question about facilities in Pendleton and Hermiston, Ms. Iburg noted there was a late change to include the Hermiston shelter in some way – PAWS is the hub of services, but they do want to bring in the Hermiston shelter. Commissioner Murdock pointed out the citizens of the county make the decision by vote for a special district – it is not a decision by the Board of Commissioners. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the initial step for a County Service District for Animal Control. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering.** (He noted this is a similar step like the Extension Service District request.) **Carried, 2-0.**

4. Rodeo City Inn. Mr. Olsen reported. In October notice was sent to the owner to secure the property; the time period (60-days) has run and now abatement is needed. No action has been taken by owner. Today, further action for consideration by the Board is to abate some of the problems; the County can authorize boarding up the building and assess costs to the property owner.

Eli Stephens, Pendleton, came to the podium. He has been a neighbor of the Rodeo City Inn for last four years – he has come to the Board before. He handed out quote information as a proposal consideration. Still people are being chased out of the derelict building; please don't give up on moving forward; he supports boarding up the property to keep squatters out. He explained his handout and differences of boarding up including ways to not damage the property for possible future lawsuits (as a long-time property manager he is familiar). Vice-Chair Elfering to Mr. Olsen, under ordinance, what is the posting requirement for obtaining these services? Mr. Olsen advised a formal process is needed to obtain quotes due to the amount (over \$5,000). This is to secure the property. The owner has 180 days to remedy the structural situation. Commissioner Murdock added Mr. Stephens' information was helpful in making a decision. Vice-Chair Elfering summarized action is to invoke the ordinance, secure the building, get costs and issue the bill to the owner. Commissioner Murdock agreed the Rodeo City Inn is a blight, a safety hazard and the owners have not responded in good faith to handle the situation. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve action and adopt Order No. BCC2017-078. Vice-Chair Elfering seconded. Carried, 2-0.**

5. Maintenance Tractor. Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director, reported. There is need for a tractor for county facilities and all other properties including foreclosed and abandoned property. For efficiency and time needs as well as bigger expenses, it is recommended to secure a used tractor. He is working with Tom Fellows, Public Works, who is looking for equipment up to \$20,000. Mr. Olsen advised further action would need to come before the Board due to the amount. Mr. Lonai noted a tractor would be used at county facilities in addition to Pendleton, Hermiston and Milton-Freewater. He also noted consideration of the safety factor due to slips and falls, thus maintenance is a top priority. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve authorizing the purchase process to go out for bids and as soon as a used tractor is found to come back for Board authorization to purchase at that point (unless it is under \$5,000). Seconded by Vice-Chair Elfering. Time is of the essence. Carried, 2-0.**
6. Pavement Inspections Services. Tom Fellows, Public Works Director, presented. With passage of the state transportation package, accountability standards were added by State of Oregon which apply to bridges and paved roads. One requirement is reporting to the State. The last inspection was in 1998. The new requirement will involve full inspection of paved roads and reporting condition of roads for publication to the legislature and the public. They have used the business, Capital Assets and Pavement Services, a number of years ago. They are in business and have Umatilla County's system on file. He requested approving a contract to conduct inspection of paved County Roads (consisting of 500 miles of pavement) for a cost of \$29,925. After year one he recommends doing 1/3 pieces to fulfill requirements of the transportation package. If not reported, funding is lost. It is very important to conduct the inspection in a timely manner. He felt the price is appropriate and efficient for what the state would require. The report will give an overall view of paved roads for management purposes to help in identifying needs – low to high; maintenance practices and interpreting analysis; there are good benefits other than just meeting the reporting requirement. **Commissioner Murdock added it is first and foremost to preserve paved roads and, therefore, he moved to approve the contract. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 2-0.**
7. Other – On the subject of roads and since Mr. Fellows was present, Commissioner Elfering asked for update on the intersection of Feedville/Edwards Roads. Mr. Fellows noted items are on order. Regarding an overhead light option, that is a longer time option and due to urgent need, his department is moving to install the lighted signs ASAP. He looked at options and feels the one taken is a good answer and can be delivered short term as agreed at last meeting. In the future, there can be more done.

8. Fair Storage Roofing (moved up on agenda). Gay Newman, Chair of Fair Board, presented. Previously, the Fair used tarps to cover equipment, but that is not working due to weather. Expensive equipment must be protected from the elements. They are looking for permanent cover between the storage containers; hoping to purchase 4. The “horizontal” quote from Coast to Coast Carports at a cost of \$11,980 is preferred. Regarding wind, Mr. Newman noted the suggested cover would work with high winds (up to 90 mph). He reiterated need to work on coverage ASAP. In response to Commissioner Elfering’s question about permanent coverage, Mr. Newman noted the Fair Board would like to have a building, but that is not practical at this time. Commissioner Murdock asked about value of county equipment. Mr. Newman advised it is about \$80,000 of equipment and supplies that need protection. Tarps are not working and some things are being ruined due to weather. Commissioner Elfering asked about the “vertical” quote. Mr. Newman advised it included a gutter system and mounting brackets – an additional consideration. However, the Fair Board felt the horizontal covers would be sufficient. Commissioner Murdock asked if the EOTEC Board is aware the County is doing this (since the Fair is located on EOTEC grounds). Mr. Newman advised there is unofficial agreement. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the contract with Coast to Coast Carports in the amount of \$11,980. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 2-0.**

9. CTUIR Environmental Health Services. Jim Setzer, UCo Health Director, reported. This includes inspections of restaurants, septic tanks, etc. in Umatilla and Morrow Counties. CTUIR approached the Health Department to provide services on a contract basis due to staff change at CTUIR. He noted Health staff is available and revenue would help. He requested approval of a contract/agreement and to move forward. He feels it is an appropriate activity and good cross-jurisdiction. **Commissioner Murdock felt it made perfect sense and moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 2-0.**

10. Juvenile Department Restructure. Dale Primmer, Community Corrections Director, presented. The current Office Manager at Juvenile will move to Human Services/A&D. His recommendation is to reclassify two positions – current Probation Counselor Assistant to be reclassified as Probation Counselor (to assist with caseload) from range 20 to range 21A. And, the vacant Office Manager position would be reclassified to a Probation Counselor Assistant at range 20, to be filled after 1/1/18. Revenue will be realized with restructure as well as flexibility and there would be cost savings with changes, depending on the individual hired. He explained duties will change for Digna Moreno and other staff – with a net savings. Commissioner Murdock asked what if Digna doesn’t like the change? Mr. Primmer felt the work will be flexible and assessment will be done moving forward. He will monitor the staffing and capacity and suggest changes accordingly, if needed. He felt the restructure will serve citizens the best and will also result in cost savings. Commissioner Murdock pointed out complete restructure is for purposes of streamlining plus the benefit to the County of huge savings is anticipated over the years while still providing good services. Commissioner Murdock asked Digna her perspective, to which she answered she felt comfortable with the changes. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the restructure. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 2-0.**

11. Fee Ordinance Amendment – Public Hearing. Jim Setzer, UCo Health Director, presented the staff report. This is to provide vital statistics in the County and to the State, which is changing fees assessed for certificates – births and deaths. Thus, County fees need to be updated in order to keep pace with the State. Change is \$5 additional fees for copies. Commissioner Elfering opened the public hearing at 10:20 a.m. There were no public comments. He closed the hearing at 10:21 a.m. **Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-17. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 2-0.**

12. Dry Creek Livestock District. Mr. Olsen noted a petition was received to annex property into the district – set out in Order No. BCC2017-077 including setting a public hearing for 1/17/18. **Moved to adopt Order No. BCC2017-077 by Commissioner Murdock. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 2-0.**
13. EURUS Community Benefit Grants. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the grant and adopt Order No. BCC2017-073 with the caveat to explore expenditures as part of a spending plan (seek grants and not for use as operating expenses). Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 2-0.**
14. Charter Review. Mr. Olsen reported this is a required review; the Board needs to make a schedule including issuing application to interested citizens to serve on the committee. The recommendation is request applications for up to 7 citizens as part of a committee then to formalize with recommendations due to the Board of Commissioners by July 1, 2019. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 2-0.**
15. Supplemental Budget – Public Hearing. Commissioner Elfering called the hearing to order at 10:25 a.m. Staff report was given by Robert Pahl, CFO. One supplemental budget, order 2018-11 (Human Services - Developmental Disabilities) requires appropriation for funding not known at adoption of the budget; to increase Beginning Balance \$262,700, State Revenues \$208,866, Personnel Services \$219,866, Materials & Services \$40,411, Capital Outlay \$72,000 and Contingency \$139,289. Commissioner Elfering asked for public comments; there were none. He closed the hearing at 10:26 a.m. **Commissioner Murdock moved in the matter of Approving a Supplemental Budget as per ORS 294.471 for F.Y. ending 6/30/18 to adopt Order No. Budget2018-11 (Program 5490 – Developmental Disabilities). Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 2-0.**

No Executive Session.

No Commissioner Reports.

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners