

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Meeting of July 3, 2019  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon

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**Commissioners Present:** Chair George Murdock, Vice-Chair John Shafer, and  
Commissioner Bill Elfering

**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen

**Members and Guests Present:** Tom Fellows, Public Works Director; Matt Kenny, Public Works Survey; Staci Kuntz, Transit Coordinator (EO Business Source); UCo Health: Joseph Fiumara, Director, and Alisha Southwick, Deputy Director; Sheriff's Office: Kelsey Monahan, Kayla Potter, Thoren Hearn, Sterrin Holcomb, Lora Franks, Blake Johlke, Kathy Lieuallen; Jodi Florence Emergency Management Assistant; Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director; Amy Ashton Williams, Human Services Director

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**Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Murdock. He 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 by coming to the microphone in order to be heard on the record – also note if you are speaking on behalf of others. He noted there is a point for public input before business items for other than agenda items.

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

**Awards/Correspondence/Recognition** Chair Murdock read a thank you card from the Milton-Freewater Junior Show for the donation for restroom improvements – to start this summer.

Employee of the Quarter (delayed until the recipient was present)

**Minutes - 3/6/19, 5/15/19, and 6/5/19 - motion to approve was made by Commissioner Elfering. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

**Additions to Agenda** – Ratification of the contract with courthouse union – AFSCME.

**Public Comments** – none.

1. **Creation of Position – Public Health.** Alisha Southwick, UCo Health Deputy Director, presented. This is for an RN position for the health clinic; they are requesting to make it a .5 FTE to enhance recruiting. The existing approval is only for .4 FTE, and the request is to increase by .1 FTE. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve new position. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

Chair Murdock called for a 2-minute break to wait for the recipient of the EOQ.

A photo was taken of the commissioners holding signs “Oregon Little League Baseball ‘The Pandas’ -- Good Luck at State – Pendleton 12U All Stars”.

2. **Drilling and Blasting Payable.** Presented by Tom Fellows, Public Works Director. This is an additional request for payment of the contractor for the drilling and blasting of the Engdahl gravel pit. Ryno Works previously was approved for the contract. The company encountered unforeseen issues at the Engdahl pit which was over and above the contracted amount. Years ago it was sub-drilled incorrectly that ended up

making a 5-day job turn into 15 days. The cost will be split as Ryno Works was willing to accept \$15,000 for the additional work. Commissioner Shafer noted he had talked with Mr. Fellows previously and agrees with the recommendation. In response to Commissioner Elfering's question, Mr. Fellows advised the pit is in condition for future use. The majority of the problem has been handled, although there is still a small area that isn't good. He added the company did a great job and got a great product. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the payment. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

3. Wildwood Lane. Presented Matt Kenny, Public Works Survey. In 2000, the Commissioners took action declaring Wildwood Lane a public road (similar to McKinney Road). The order was approved, but was to be finalized when the road could be surveyed. This is to accept a survey for the legal description to finalize the matter. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. BCC2019-056. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Body Scanner. Presented by Capt. Thoren Hearn. This is a request from the Sheriff's Office to purchase a scanner for use in the jail. Funds are now available after researching options and discussing it for several months. The full-body scanner will be used to prevent contraband getting into the jail. He gave example of a person smuggling in fentanyl 2 times and overdosing. Commissioner Elfering commented the proposal is to utilize a jail fund. Doug Olsen noted the way the county is able to purchase is utilizing a contract from Clackamas County to purchase from Command Sourcing for \$172,800. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Creation of Position – Human Services. Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director, presented on behalf of Amy Ashton-Williams. A federal grant was received through the state 4143 expansion funds for 2 new FTE positions for Peer Recovery Mentors. This would add two more positions starting 7/1/19 through 12/31/2020. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve creation of two positions.** Commissioner Elfering had a question about duration of the positions in relation to the grant term (to be answered later when Ms. Ashton-Williams arrives). **Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Option Agreement. J.R. Cook, Northeast Oregon Water Association, presented. In 2015, a valuable multi-beneficial asset (pump station for Columbia River water) was obtained. NOWA has held the asset anticipating developing a water project. The County is interested in holding the asset for west-end water use. Amstad Farms has approved a deal for NOWA to enter into an agreement with the County. He elaborated about the project -- during the winter, Columbia River water would be pumped back into the groundwater. The summer time water supply would be for the center area with pumping for irrigation coming from McKay Reservoir. The project would allow pumping water into Echo's area/critical groundwater. The goal is to "bank" water in part for future development in the depot area when it is returned back from the Army. Discussion turned to a timeline for access to the depot. In addition, Chair Murdock added, for the record about capacity, it is a 45" pipeline (federal capacity is 102 cfs). Mr. Cook added that 72 cfs is permitted from existing water rights and an additional federal permit has been obtained. The pipeline would be an additional 30 cfs up to 45 cfs max. He also talked about available water, pumping capacities, water rights, design for the pipe, etc. It will be a winterized project guaranteed and for use year round. This is federal permit control over Columbia River. Easement is required to the federal government to get a pipe and water out of the river. He also talked about various water rights and if agreement is made, the County would be in charge of it. He talked about recharge testing by NOWA is their #1 priority and that component has been approved by the Tribes.

Commissioner Shafer commended all the hard work that has gone into this important regional project. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the project and authorize the chair to sign the Option Agreement and any other necessary documents. Commissioner Elfering noted the importance to agriculture and industrial development with this agreement and seconded the motion. Carried, 3-0.** Mr. Cook commented on behalf of NOWA for the County's interest in securing this project – they are impressed and thankful for the partnership moving forward. Chair Murdock also pointed out this is probably the last time a pump station will be put on the Columbia River in our lifetime. Mr. Cook agreed, noting the last pump station on the Columbia River approved by the federal government was in the 70s.

7. Special Transportation Fund Committee. Staci Kuntz, Transit Coordinator through EO Business Source, presented. At the last meeting, the committee voted to elect chair Rod Harwood. He has a strong understanding of transportation needs. The matter is before the Board for approval of the chair. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve Rod Harwood as STF Committee Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Exempt Salaries. Ms. Blake presented. The practice is to allow exempt positions to receive the same increases as that approved by the unions. In addition, longevity accrual was updated also to match union contracts so that exempts will receive longevity when reach 25 years of service. This is for 3.5% COLA for exempt, administrative and elected officials, effective 7/1/19. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Local 3742 – AFSCME Contract Ratification. Ms. Blake introduced Debbie Swenson, President of the AFSCME Courthouse Union. Request is made to ratify the contract with the AFSCME Unit. Ms. Blake thanked the Union for wonderful negotiations this year. She appreciated the team for the great negotiations – all agreed it was a good contract. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve ratification of contract** [Mr. Olsen noted it is for COLA of 3.5% first year, and 3% each year for years 2 and 3. Also, longevity is extended to 25 years (currently ends at 20) and there will be a 2.5% increase at year 25. In addition, the contract firmed up the process for bilingual.] **Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

Commissioner Elfering presented the Employee Excellence Award for April, May, June 2019 to Jodi Florence, Sheriff's Department-Emergency Management office assistant. He read nomination letters praising Jodi for her willingness to step in wherever needed helping the Sheriff's office to run smoothly. A photo was taken and she was presented with the excellence certificate along with candy and balloons. Congratulations and thank you, Jodi!

Upon Amy Ashton-Williams' arrival, Commissioner Elfering asked her to clarify the terms of positions discussed earlier. She noted the funding terms are 6/30/20 and 9/30/20 and the grant term is to 12/31/2020. She talked about funding and noted carryover will be the last six months, which will provide adequate funding. The two positions will have funding for an entire year.

10. Fee Ordinance Amendment – Second Reading - Public Hearing. Chair Murdock called the public hearing to order at 9:39 a.m. The staff report was presented by Mr. Olsen. He noted one more fee – immunizations – clarified since the first reading. There are no other changes. The ordinance is up for adoption. Chair Murdock asked for questions and none were heard. And, there were no questions from the audience. He closed the hearing at 9:40 a.m. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-04. Seconded by Commissioner. Shafer Carried, 3-0.**

Executive Session – none.

Commissioners' Reports.

Commissioner Murdock will not be present at the 7/24 Board meeting. He also mentioned a contract with "The Other Oregon" published by the East Oregonian with intention to support it. If presented at the 7/24 meeting, he is in favor of it.

Commissioner Elfering gave a brief update on the confiscated horses. They are moving toward a permanent solution – working with Cal Souther, a retired attorney. They believe that several horses are to be moved out this week and work continues on finding a permanent place to house the remaining horses.

Secondly, meetings have been had with property owners on E. Airport Road across from EOTEC in Hermiston. The team has meet with several owners along with an engineer representative. Some mitigation will be made (fence moving and perhaps replacing 1-2 trees).

Commissioner Shafer met yesterday with Enterprise Fleet Management noting that 12 new Chevrolet Malibus are soon coming in. Six old vehicles will be sold right away.

The Commissioners will be riding in the Pendleton July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade; Chair Murdock will be riding separately as First Citizen.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt*

Executive Secretary Umatilla County Board of Commissioners