

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Meeting of July 21, 2021  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon  
*Public Call in #: 541-728-0275*

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**Commissioners Present:** Chair George Murdock, Vice-Chair John Shafer, and Commissioner Dan Dorran

**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen

**Guests Present:** Mark Tanner, Facilities Manager; EO Business Source: Susan Bower and Nick Nash; Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer; Tom Roberts, Emergency Manager; Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director; Joe Fiumara, Public Health Director (+ *see sign-in sheet on-file for complete list*)

**Video link or Calling in:** Tom Fellows, Public Works Director; Bob Waldher, Planning Director; [*see list of video or call-in, copy on file*].

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CALL TO ORDER: Chair Murdock called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He reminded all that the meeting is a public forum and there is a call-in option provided. The meeting is being video and audio recorded and minutes will be taken. Also, meetings are now live-streaming. Comments will become part of the meeting record. If persons wish to speak before the Board, please identify yourself and state where you live 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**

**Awards/Correspondence/Recognition.** Chair Murdock: 1) an extraordinarily special recognition – during COVID time (a year plus), now able to reopen – today let’s remember heroes from Umatilla County Public Health. An Honor Task Force through the City of Pendleton acknowledges outstanding individuals & groups for about three years. They contacted him to make a presentation today. Susan Bower spoke about the selflessness and giving – this award goes to an Umatilla County team for their outstanding job during last year of crisis. For the health of the community. She asked all members to please stand for the presentation and pictures of the group. Each introduced themselves. Congratulations and thank you!

2) Commissioner Dorran – thanks to Tom Fellows, Sheriff Rowan, and Undersheriff Jim Littlefield for attending meetings off-hours and at night – emotional meetings – taken seriously to find solutions to problems, including road issues, safety issues, traffic issues. Thank you for all the time spent working with many landowners – looking for solutions. Incredible job to dedicated public servants!

3) Chair Murdock noted many thank you cards have been received over the last few weeks from kids showing and selling animals at the Milton-Freewater Jr. Show in late May. Plus, thank you cards were received from this year’s Fair court princesses for the county’s support.

4) Commissioner Shafer read recognitions for challenge coins – a new program at the county. He gave history and noted coins are given for above and beyond usual/customary work. Our motto is: our employees are our greatest asset! Coins and recognition went to: Cliff Pease (Sheriff’s office), Matthew Burns (A&T), and Israel Agosto (office assistant at Stafford Hansell center in Hermiston). Chair Murdock noted he took 5 coins to the NACO annual conference July 8-12 in Maryland and presented them to new president, Larry Johnson (Georgia commissioner); new second vice-president, Mary Jo McGuire (Minnesota Commissioner); Bill Truax chairman

of the immigration task force; Erin Hurley; administrator of the immigration reform task force; and a Commissioner from Modoc County, Alturas, California, where there have been struggles for years with water shortage in the Klamath Falls basin.

**Minutes** – Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the Board minutes from the meetings of 7/7/21 and 6/30/21. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.

**Additions to Agenda** – One payable has been added at the end of the agenda.

**Public Comments** – Amanda Waine Anderson – requested the Board act on her prior request from the 7/7 board meeting regarding crimes against humanity. 2) Please consider dropping contract with Lifeways. 3) Another contract is a federal contract (Highway?) – blind signs design for concrete corners. Chair Murdock advised he is conscious of Lifeways – trained individuals are not certified properly for patient care, in particular, regarding drug addiction. Commissioner Shafer also added the county recently issued a request for proposals or mental health services and CCS was selected as the mental health provider, which will be transitioning shortly.

### **Business Items**

1. **Health Billboards Contract.** Presented by Joe Fiumara, Public Health Director. Renewals of agreements for billboards are before the Board for approval. Funding is available from COVID funds for health messaging on billboards within the county. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve (total payment of \$25,440 to Meadow Outdoor Advertising for four billboard displays to run for 12 months).** Seconded by **Commissioner Dorran.** Question: location of 4 billboards? Mr. Fiumara advised this is continuation of existing billboards – running in English and Spanish. **Carried, 3-0.** Chair Murdock noted one positive upside is new spotlight on public health – hope this continues with recognition of the hard work by our entire health department.
2. **Creation of Positions.** Mr. Fiumara presented. This is for the creation of seven contact tracer positions. Preference is given to existing tracers. Funding is from OHA as pass-through from federal funds for the next two or so years. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve creating 7.0 FTE contract tracer (R20) positions.** Seconded by **Commissioner Dorran.** Question re: time period? Mr. Fiumara advised positions began January of 2021 and these specific positions due to budget are to run at least through December of 2022. **Carried, 3-0.**
3. **Dispatch Payable.** Mr. Olsen presented. A payable is before the Board for approval due to the amount. This is for continuation of Sun Ridge System for annual support of the RIMS software for the Dispatch CAD system, in the amount of \$10,797. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the payable.** Seconded by **Commissioner Shafer.** **Carried, 3-0.**
4. **Local Community Investment Projects.** Chair Murdock advised this is for projects funded in part by ARA. 1) City of Adams [\$35,000 for city park]. 2) City of Echo (Mid-Umatilla River Coalition, \$75,000 for flood control). **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve grants and payments.** Seconded by **Commissioner Shafer.** **Carried, 3-0.** Chair Murdock added information about the flood in Echo noting it is critical to area landowners (total of about 61 reaches on the Mid-Umatilla River, plus affecting 130+ landowners. **Carried, 3-0.**
5. **Maintenance Payable - Tiling.** Mark Tanner, Facilities Manager, presented. A payable is before the Board for approval. This payable is for re-tiling of first floor men’s restroom at the courthouse. **Motion made by Commissioner Dorran to approve payable (Johns Custom Flooring in the amount of \$7,400).** Seconded by **Commissioner Shafer.** **Carried, 3-0.**
6. **Maintenance – Chiller for SHGC.** Mr. Tanner advised on another payable for Board approval. This is for repairs to the chiller at Stafford Hansell Government Center, Hermiston. **Motion was made by**

**Commissioner Shafer to approve the payable (HMS Commercial Services in the amount of \$6,402. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

7. Gate Permit. Tom Fellows, Public Works Director, presented. A petition was received to place a gate on Henderson Canyon Road at its intersection with Pine Creek Road. There's been no maintenance for years on this road – it is basically two wheel tracks through a field. The property owners are concerned about vandalism and trespassing and other bad acts and all impacted property owners have signed the petition. Road Department recommendation is to allow Ms. VanWinkle to put in a locked gate. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve (and sign the permit). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Commissioner Dorran recused himself. Carried, 2-0.**
8. CDDP Payable. Kim Beck, CDD Program Manager, presented. A payable from the program is before the Board for approval. This is reimbursement for environmental modification for one individual's bathroom. Approval is sought for payment of \$8,793.50 to Round-Up City Plumbing. She believes that funds have already been received back from the state. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the payable. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Emergency Operations Plan. Chair Murdock called the public hearing to order at 9:33 a.m. Staff report was made by Tom Roberts, Emergency Manager. FEMA requires the plan be reviewed every five years with changes of minor edits to be done every two years. What is before the Board is approval of minor edits to the plan. Starting with this plan, then it goes on to the federal government to review standards. The plan is about 1,000 pages long. Commissioner Dorran thanked Mr. Roberts for his work in reviewing/updating the Emergency Operations Plan. He learned a lot about emergency response. It is good to get this handled then on to next step. Focus on this is critical as the information gives direction; it is overdue to be updated. Chair Murdock called for public comments. None were heard on the plan; however, Ms. Anderson spoke about UPRR slowing down while going through from Cayuse and on through Reith – suggested the Board address problems with trains. Commissioner Dorran noted he will be meeting with UPRR officials in Portland later in the week and will pass on her comments. Chair Murdock closed the hearing at 9:37 a.m.  
**Commissioner Dorran moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-06 (Amending Umatilla County Emergency Operations Plan). Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Insurance Payable. Mr. Olsen presented, noting that, due to the amount, a payable is before the Board for approval. It is for the premium payable to CCIS (CityCounty Insurance Services) in the amount of \$32,010. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the payable. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.** Chair Murdock noted/reminded, for the record, Commissioner Shafer is a member of board for CCIS.

**Executive Session** – none.

**Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Shafer recognized Commissioner Murdock's birthday is later in the week.

Commissioner Dorran reminded all we are rolling fast in to the Umatilla County Fair. The Parade kick-off (on Saturday, August 7) plus all preparations moving forward.

The meeting adjourned 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt*

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners