

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of December 1, 2021
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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

County Counsel Doug Olsen

Guests Present: Mayor John Turner, Pendleton; Sheriff Terry Rowan

Video link or Calling in: *(see list of video or call-in, copy on file.*

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. There is time on the agenda to provide input or for hearings to provide comment. 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

Awards/Correspondence/Recognition. None.

Minutes – Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the minutes with correction at the 11/10 meeting, he read the letter regarding Deputy Munsterman; the 11/23 minutes were correct. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried 3-0.

Additions to Agenda – Chair Murdock adjusted the order of business in deference to Mayor Turner. He moved item #6 to #1.

Public Comments – none

Business Items

1. **City of Pendleton Agreement.** Presented by Doug Olsen. On 11/10/21, the Board approved a revolving loan fund with the City of Pendleton. The agreement with the City is now ready to review and possibly approve. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried 3-0.** Mayor Turner expressed gratitude for the county’s generosity with this agreement. Building homes will increase the economy, but also will add kids in schools, shopping locally, and more. Thank you for the opportunity this fund will provide for development. Commissioner Dorran felt this opportunity is a county investment, not just Pendleton, and Chair Murdock added it will be exciting to see development happen. Hopefully, soon!
2. **Position Reclassification.** Kim Beck, Human Services Director, presented. Approval is sought to reclassify the Veterans Services Coordinator position. Based upon review of the current job description and duties, the level of responsibility has risen. It is recommended the position move from Range 20 to Range 25 to bring it into alignment with similar responsibilities and duties. The additional cost is \$15,000 annually and would take effect 12/1/21. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the position reclassification as outlined. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried 3-0.**

3. Service Equity Study Request for Proposals. Ms. Beck presented. Authorization is sought for Board approval to issue a request for proposals for technical assistance and completion of a study as well as an implementation plan for the CDDP Program. With the 2021-2023 contract with Oregon Office of Developmental Disability, there is a requirement that a survey of this type be completed by June 30, 2022 and implemented by June 30, 2023. The study would provide expertise and knowledge moving forward. Ms. Beck noted her budget covers this expenditure. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve and authorize issuing a request for proposals for a service equity survey and implementation study. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Zero Suicide Initiative. Commissioner Shafer presented. This matter was brought to the Board at the request of Community Counseling Solutions, which as of today, is the county new mental health provider (they started providing substance abuse services September 1). This pledge has been developed and implemented since 2012. The model is an aspirational challenge and framework for system-wide transformation toward safe suicide care – zero suicide. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve and sign the Pledge for Zero Suicide. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn, plus comments: he has been through this initiative at the highest corporate levels – starting at the top gives great push for this pledge to be successful. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Jail Renovation Contract. Mr. Olsen presented. This regards a potential contract for renovation at the jail. Invitation to bid was issued and one bid was received from 2KG Contractors, Inc., which outlined renovation items, in the amount of \$2,883,000 plus two bid alternates. It is before the board for review and potential award. **Commissioner Dorrn moved to approve the contract for jail renovation to 2KG Contractors, Inc. at the base amount \$2.883 million and possibly the two alternates (one at \$55,000 and one at \$320,000). Seconded by Commissioner Shafer.** He was impressed with review of the bid, which was not really a smooth issue. \$1.8 million would come from state and should be used accordingly. He commended the Sheriff who searched out additional funds (along with Robert Pahl, CFO) and found a path to identify county funds for the total expenditure. He also commented the project manager for the commitment regarding engineering and potential opportunities for savings to bring back to the Board to review. This is a very much needed project for the county.

Chair Murdock also credited the legislative committee within the City of Pendleton for having met at least every two weeks and sometimes each week for a year plus in efforts to get support from the legislature – including trips to Salem to promote the idea of this jail renovation. That group pursued jail renovation plus the FARM II project – also becoming a reality. Sheriff Rowan agreed with Chair Murdock’s comments regarding the concept/idea and the involvement of the legislative committee – brilliant folks who committed to the project. It is coming to fruition and a lot of pushing. It was definitely a roller coaster ride, but no one gave up. Chair Murdock talked about divisiveness, however, our local legislators were fully behind this (as well as others at the legislature – Democrats also supported this project). It’s been a remarkable bipartisanship effort. **Carried, 3-0.**

6. Fair Board Appointments. Presented by Commissioner Dorrn. With a resignation on the board as well as the term of Bob Wolfe expiring next year, there will be vacancies on the Fair Board. Interviews of applicants were held. Two were selected: Bob Curry and Kelly Burke. Both very active in the fair with a lot of behind the scenes work as volunteers. He was disappointed there weren’t any female applicants. He’s served on the Fair Board for decades and would like to see that change in the future. **Commissioner Dorrn moved to approve appointment of Kelly Burke to fill the vacancy and to appoint Robert Curry as board elect to fill the other vacancy in 2023 and adopt Order No. BCC2021-077. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried 3-0.**

Executive Session – none.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Dorrان felt it appropriate to recognize Chair Murdock with this meeting his second to the last this year as Chair. This board has vision and has done huge things for investment in the county with development in Pendleton (e.g. this morning's agreement with the City of Pendleton) as well as in the west end. Chair Murdock's vision and commitment for investment is wonderful. He is encouraged about the optimism of it all and looks forward to watching the results come to fruition, starting very soon. The jail renovation, FARM II, investment in Pendleton – all are starting to roll. He thanked Chair Murdock for his guidance and recognizes his vision.

Commissioner Murdock thanked him for his kind comments. He remarked about Commissioner Shafer's comment earlier about the possibility of the depot property being transferred back to local control – it may happen soon. Great for Umatilla County!

Commissioner Shafer – no comments.

Adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary