

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Meeting of October 2, 2024  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon

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**Commissioners Present:** Chair John Shafer, Vice-Chair Cindy Timmons and Commissioner Dan Dorran

**County Counsel** Doug Olsen

**Guests Present:** Robert Pahl, Umatilla County Chief Financial Officer; Tom Fellows, Umatilla County Public Works Director; Dan Lonai, Umatilla County Administrative Director; Rachel Reynolds Umatilla County Assessment & Taxation Director; Steve Craigen, Umatilla County Elections/Records Supervisor; Karie Walchli, Umatilla County Tourism, Mark Morgan, City of Hermiston; Bob Waldher, Umatilla County Community Development Director; Rich Estes, Umatilla County Code Enforcement; Paul Wolverton, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office;

**Video link or Calling in:** Sage Delong, Umatilla County Emergency Management

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CALL TO ORDER: Chair Shafer called the meeting to order at 9:01 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 and ask that they be three minutes or under. 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** was led by Chair Shafer.

**Awards/Correspondence/Recognitions** - Commissioner Timmons, I would like to give out 2 challenge coins to Steve Craigen and Dan Lonai. I attended a meeting last night that they were at, they had some challenging questions put in front of them. I think they handled them beautifully. With the upcoming election they are doing a fantastic job.

Commissioner Dorran, this month is American Association of Code Enforcement month. The AACE wrote a proclamation and I do want to recognize Umatilla County's code enforcement team, Bob your whole team. It can be a thankless job and they do a great job, thank you!

Chair Shafer, Thank you to Dan and Tim (on the phone) you really knocked it out of the park last night getting us set up online and fixing our audio and IT issues. We appreciate that.

**Minutes** – Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the minutes from March 13, 2024; June 25, 2024 and September 18, 2024 Board meetings. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3 - 0.

**Additions to Agenda** – Crop Signage

**Public Comments and Recognition of Visitors** – None

## Business Items

1. DD Contract – Presented by Kim Beck, Umatilla County Human Services Director. Authorization is sought to contract with Kola Shippentower for services related to the Service Equity Grant awarded by the Office of Developmental Disabilities. The services will include training, certification, and technical assistance related to safety planning for vulnerable individuals. The training's target audience is the individuals and families we serve. The accreditation will include our staff and other local professionals serving vulnerable populations. Technical assistance will relate to building relationships and improving services with our tribal communities. The grant is for a service equity project with a cultural specific provider. The project is specifically focused on diversity and equity training centered around safety and self-defense. There will be 3 classes for families, 20 families per class. There will be 3 classes of professional certification, for 30 professionals to become certified to help people use the safety planning document. As well as 2 self-defense classes for anyone who has participated in any of these classes. Approximately 20 hours/month there will be technical assistance from Kola. Even though people with disabilities makes up 12% of the population, 26% of victim's are people with disabilities, they are 4 times more likely to be a victim of a violent crime.

Commissioner Dorrان, is the program focused on victims? Secondly, is it focused on people with disabilities? Ms. Beck, no, it is specifically focused for people with disabilities and creating safety plans to keep them from being victims. And specifically to ensure that they get home. If they were to go missing or if they leave a safe place, the document can be handed to the police officers, it has all of their information including how they communicate or what to expect with their behavior. The services will be paid through part of a grant for \$78,000. **Commissioner Timmons moved to authorize contract with Kola Shippentower for up to \$50,500.00 for equity services. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**

2. GHEZ School Support Fee - Presented by Mark Morgan, Assistant City manager, 180 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Hermiston OR. In 2023, the legislature added a requirement that in longer term enterprise zone abatements, the business receiving the benefit pay a school support fee to affected school districts in the zone. For the Greater Hermiston Enterprise Zone, this would include both the Hermiston School District and the Stanfield School Districts. The amount of the fee must be at least 15% and no more than 30%, and would be multiplied by the property taxes that would, but for the exemption, be due from the business. Both school districts and the other zone sponsor, the City of Hermiston, have approved a rate of 15%. The matter is before the Board to approve the rate. This would be applicable to future enterprise zone applications. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to adopt Order No. BCC2024-060. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**
3. Public Works Purchase – Presented by Tom Fellows, Umatilla County Public Works Director. The County issued a Request for Proposals for the purchase of a single arch for the Public Works Department. Two proposals were received: Contech Engineered Solutions - \$29,890; and Lane Enterprises - \$27,777.77. The recommendation is to award the contract to the lower proposal. We have previously used wood arches and we are trying to replace the wood arches. For the long term we are looking at ways to minimize maintenance on these. This will replace the wooden structure just south of Thorn Hollow Bridge. It is the County's responsibility to replace it, it wasn't on the National Bridge Inventory so it didn't qualify for that funding. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to**

**approve notice of intent to award contract for purchase of single arch to Lane Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$27,777.77. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**

4. Tourism Grant Contract – Presented by Karie Walchli, Umatilla County Tourism. Regionally it is recognized that there are existing inequities for travelers with disabilities, including a lack of adequate information to determine if locations are accessible and the prevalence of barriers encountered during travel. This grant program is designed to equip participants (local businesses) with tools to better welcome customers with disabilities. Phase 1 of this grant project began in late May with the first contract for Empowering Access. After two - half day workshops, we were able to attain 16 site visits with businesses and work them through the guidelines to build awareness on what options were available to make their business more accessible. We also collected their necessary business information to be listed on BluePath.org for those building their travel itineraries with accessibility needs. We did not have the anticipated turn out at the beginning of the grant project and have worked with Travel Oregon (grantor) on a slight modification moving forward with phase 2 to utilize the remaining funds.

Phase 2 is a continuation of the work from Phase 1, with the desire to build on the work already established. A number of businesses have expressed an interest in the project that were not able to be involved in Phase 1. With some slight modifications to our approach, we are moving forward to build a larger inventory on our regional project of making businesses more accessibly friendly to our visitors. Information collected during this audit (site visits, contract) will be posted on Blue-Path.org, a site dedicated to sharing accessible business information that will be promoted locally, regionally & statewide making it easier for visitors with disabilities to find the information they need to make informed travel choices. The Contractor will visit participating businesses and conduct a formal accessibility audit, documenting the space for listing on Blue Path. The Contractor will also produce a report with recommendations for future improvements to make the business more accessible. The businesses may use this information to apply for future local, regional and state grants for improvements. The rate will be \$45 per/hour, plus mileage. There is right around \$8,000. We have budgeted \$4,500 for the remaining work to be done. **Commissioner Timmons moved to approve contract for professional services with Ashley Payne for site visits according to the contract, funded by Travel Oregon Competitive grants for Accessibility Awareness, and authorize the Chair to sign. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

5. Crop Signage Program – Presented by Bob Waldher, Umatilla County Community Development. Umatilla County Tourism is launching an initiative in collaboration with Oregon Women in Agriculture to enhance agricultural education and awareness throughout our region. Starting in the 2025 growing season, we plan to install crop signage along key roadways in Umatilla County. These signs will help the public identify various crops being grown, fostering greater understanding and appreciation of our agricultural sector. To support this initiative, we are seeking to partner with local schools and their welding programs to fabricate metal sign holders that will display these informative signs. This project provides a fantastic hands-on learning opportunity for students, allowing them to apply their welding skills in a real-world context while contributing to a meaningful community effort. Approval to allocate \$7,500 from the economic development budget is requested for this project to support the cost of materials and a \$500 contribution to participating FFA chapters. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve participation in program and**

**authorize \$7,500 to be allocated from the economic development budget to support the crop signage project. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**

6. Courthouse Parking Lot Sealing – Presented by Dan Lonai, Umatilla County Director of Administrative Services. Approval is sought for the sealing and striping of the Courthouse parking lot. The estimated cost is \$7,917. The project and payment are before the Board for approval due to the amount. The time window is shrinking quickly, the sealing can only be done a certain time of the year. It is a weekend project, they would start Friday and finish with striping on Sunday. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve project and payment to Specialized Pavement Marking in the amount of \$7,917.00. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Public Health Parking Lot Sealing – Presented by Dan Lonai, Umatilla County Director of Administrative Services. Approval is sought for the sealing and restriping of the Pendleton Health Department parking lot. The estimated cost is \$4,725. The project and payment are before the Board for approval due to the amount. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve project and payment to Specialized Pavement Marking in the amount of \$4,725.00. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0**
8. Ambulance Staffing Waiver - Presented by Sage Delong, Umatilla County Emergency Management. Beginning in 2013, the East Umatilla Health District, then the East Umatilla County Ambulance Service Area Health District, has requested from the State of Oregon for a variance to allow staffing of the District's ambulance with non-EMT drivers. The district is renewing the request for the State of Oregon to grant a variance for staffing reduction to provide Ambulance service in its area. This is something that has been in place for several years and is a benefit to its ability to provide services. The process requires approval from the Board of Commissioners. They do have ALS and BLS providers. Essentially this would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> out ambulance, being able to staff it with an individual to drive, not provide care for the 3<sup>rd</sup> shift. This would likely be a firefighter. The district is currently putting staff through EMT school. They are hopeful that next year they won't renew this variance. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve request for East Umatilla County Ambulance Service Area Health District to operate using reduced staffing and instruct staff to prepare letter confirming approval. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Emergency Management Grant Contract – Presented by Sage Delong, Umatilla County Emergency Management. Umatilla County Emergency Management is seeking the approval of a contract with Dean Marcum for a Local Emergency Planning Committee table top exercise on November 17, 2024. This is a grant-funded contract with no match. This be an ammonium release, we are trying to involve Athena Weston, Helix, OSP, St. Mary's, multiple agencies and more of the community. Mr. Delong, will be heavily involved in the event, it will help us qualify for emergency preparedness grant as well. We are supposed to hold 2 exercises per year and get those approved through the state. So this would qualify as 1 of those. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve contract with Dean Marcum in the amount of \$8,000.00 to facilitate an LEPC exercise on November 17, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**

10. Wildfire Map Legislation – Presented by Chair Shafer, Umatilla County Commissioner. Jackson County is leading a request to repeal SB 762 (2021) and SB 80 (2023) regarding the development of a statewide wildfire hazard map. The Jackson County Board of Commissioners is sending a letter to the governor and legislators requesting the repeal. Umatilla County is asked to join in the letter. There is question to the accuracy or inaccuracies of this map. They claim that it is scientific, they do not go off of what history has shown. It is affecting homeowner's to lose their insurance. Some irrigated properties are low risk and some are high risk, there is not a lot of consistency. Some of the areas have gone from high risk to now low risk without explanation. Commissioner Dorran noted that there are people in Umatilla County trying to figure out their homeowner's insurance. On the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> (October) the State House of Natural Resources committee will be out here, to discuss all things wild fire. Commissioner Timmons, I have been to several of these meetings, there is always good comments, testimony and facts, those involved in putting this together are not listening. **Commissioner Dorran moved to authorize Umatilla County Board of Commissioners to join in letter and join in letter and express county support for the repeal. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**
  
11. Laptop Purchase - Presented by Captain Paul Wolverton, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office. UCSO uses laptop computers as Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) in the patrol cars. Several of the MDT's are over five years old and need to be replaced. Umatilla County IT Department has helped determine Lenovo ThinkPad laptops are the best product for this purpose in terms of price and functionality. In addition to the cost of the laptop, IT also suggests purchasing 2 year warranties for each unit. UCSO is wanting to purchase 10 of the Lenovo ThinkPad laptops. The price for each unit plus the 3-year warranty is \$1,554.00. This expenditure will be charged to the Vehicle Upfitting line item in the UCSO Criminal Division's budget. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the purchase of 10 Lenovo ThinkPad laptop computers from Price Computers for a total cost of \$15,540.00. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**
  
12. Executive Session – Employment/Real Property – ORS 192.660(2)(a,b,e,h) – None

Commissioner Reports: None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Shafer at 09:47 a.m.

*Kelsey Bailey*

Executive Secretary – Board of Commissioners