

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of August 20, 2025
9:00 am, Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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

County Counsel Doug Olsen

Guests Present: Tom Fellows, Umatilla County Public Works Director; Dan Lonai, Umatilla County Administrative Services Director; Sage DeLong, Umatilla County Emergency Manager; Riley Wortman, Umatilla County IT Manager; Mike McHenry, SWAC Chair; Mark Royal, Umatilla County Deflection Program Coordinator; Jennifer Blake, Umatilla County Human Resources; Katie & Brandon King, Humbert's Refuse Owners; Gina Miller, Umatilla County Code Enforcement & SWAC Liaison; Martie McQuain, Umatilla County Maintenance Manager;

Video link or Calling in: Berit Thorson, East Oregonian Reporter

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Timmons called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. She 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 - led by Chair Timmons.

Awards/Correspondence/Recognitions - None

Minutes - None

Additions to Agenda – None

Public Comments and Recognition of Visitors – Gina Miller, Umatilla County Code Enforcement, reminded all that the Mattress Collection event in partnership with Sanitary Disposal is this Saturday August 23, 2025 from 10am -2pm.

Business Items

1. **Humbert Refuse Rate Increase** – Presented by Gina Miller Staff liaison for Sanitary Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Brandon and Katie King, owner/operators and Mike McHenry SWAC Chair. Handouts were given to the Board. On May 6, 2025 & July 22, 2025 Humbert's Refuse presented a rate increase request of 9% for their Collection Rates only to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). The SWAC voted to recommend this rate increase request to the

Board of Commissioners for final approval. A public notice of this rate increase request was published in the East Oregonian on 07/30/2025.

The Kings presented a slide show breaking down expenses and mileage. The basis for the increase is due to higher maintenance and operating costs for collection trucks, increased travel time and miles due to bridge closures, weight restrictions on bridges, and deteriorating gravel roads. The last increase was in March 2024, approximately 9%, which also covered drop boxes and other rates, as the previous owners had not sought increases for 13 years.

Commissioner Dorran asked if there has been an increase in bridge closures and if the number of miles of gravel roads changed since they purchased the business. Two bridges were inaccessible when they purchased the business and there are now six bridges that affect their travel. Mr. King reports no change in miles of gravel roads, but the conditions of the roads have worsened. Unpaved roads cause more wear and tear on trucks and with less population on those routes, they are not as profitable. If a 9% increase is approved this year, there will not be an ask larger than PPI/CPI next year.

Mr. McHenry added that SWAC approved a 9% increase unanimously.

Commissioner Timmons has concerns with the citizens that are unable to afford an increase. Mr. King explains that the business works with many people that can't afford to pay their bills. There are over 400 accounts that have been given extended grace periods, payment plans and they work with them to help reduce cost. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the rate increase and adopt Order No. BCC2025-036. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

2. Deflection Grant - Presented by Mark Royal, Umatilla County Deflection Program Coordinator. The Deflection Program has been operable in Umatilla County since July 1, 2024. Funding of was received for services through June 30, 2025. The County has contracted with Community Counseling Services to provide the administration and treatment services for the program. The application for funding for the next round is before the Board for review and approval. The amount requested is \$150,000 for a 5 month period, with a second round scheduled for October 2025. The remaining amount to complete the biennial budget and new allocation formula is under review and will be determined at a later date.

Commissioner Timmons inquired about the number of referrals that the funds have been applied to. - Forty referrals have been made to the deflection program and seven are active/engaged at this time. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve submission of grant for Deflection Program in the amount of \$150,000. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

3. Maintenance Contract – Presented by Dan Loani, Umatilla County Administrative Services Director. The maintenance division is seeking to contract for a subscription to an Electronic Safety Data Sheet System. This system would provide all county departments, including Facilities, with remote access to information on chemicals, safety handling procedures, and emergency measures for all county locations. Yearly cost: 2026 \$4,691.15; 2027 \$4,925.7; and 2028 \$5,171.99.

Commissioner Dorran asks who will be the central administrator to ensure that it is up to date, and that each department is inputting their information. There is not an owner/administrator in place. Addition of a policy for compliance measures and ownership of the program will be added. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the order form/contract with VelocityEHS for Safety Data Sheet management system pending implementation of a policy defining updating and ownership/administrator of the program. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

4. AI Policy - Presented by Riley Wortman, Umatilla County IT Manager. A Generative AI Policy has been proposed to establish guidelines and best practices for the responsible and effective integration of AI for departmental use. This initiative stems from a growing interest among departments to explore and implement AI technologies, recognizing their potential to enhance efficiency, innovation and service delivery. The policy aims to ensure that AI adoption is approached strategically, ethically and in alignment with organizational values and objectives. It addresses critical areas such as data privacy, security, transparency, accountability and the responsible use of AI outputs, providing a framework for departments to navigate the complexities and opportunities presented by generative AI tools. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve and adopt the proposed AI policy. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Justice Center Parking Lot Sealing – Presented by Dan Loani, Umatilla County Administrative Services Director. Approval is sought for the sealing of the Justice Center parking lot. Bids were obtained for the work. The lowest of the two bids received was from Striperite for \$31,850. The other bids were from Friends & Neighbors Services for \$32,975 and Klicker Enterprises \$49,736.42. The project and payment are before the Board for approval. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the project and payment to Striperite in the amount of \$31,850.00. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Grant Road – Presented by Tom Fellow, Umatilla County Public Works Director. With the limitations on bridge 440 on Milton Cemetery Road, the traffic will be re-routed to Grant Road, from its intersections with LeFore Road to Milton Cemetery Road. Due to the current gravel status of the road, it is proposed to chip seal it to assist the traveling public, limit dust, and avoid difficulties in using the road. The cost for the improvements will be paid from the road maintenance fund. Chair Timmons recused herself from this business item. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve improvements to a portion of Grant Road. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 2-0 (Commissioners Dorran and Shafer in favor).**
7. Vehicle Barriers – Presented by Sage DeLong, Umatilla County Emergency Manager. Umatilla County Emergency Management is seeking the approval of an MOU with Oregon Department of Emergency Management and Umatilla County for Anti-Vehicle Barriers. The department will provide the funding for the barriers and the county will own and have use of them. Commissioner Dorran recommends a system with trackable ID's for inventory like this, especially when they float between agencies, counties etc. - Any suggestions of air tag like systems would be welcomed by Emergency Management. **Commissioner Dorran moved to accept barriers and approve MOU with OEM for Anti-Vehicle Barriers. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

8. Foreclosure Notice – Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. The annual foreclosure case for delinquent property taxes will begin in the near future. One of the statutory requirements is to publish a notice in the local newspaper. The order designating the newspaper is before the Board for consideration, with the proposed newspaper as the East Oregonian. **Commissioner Dorran moved to adopt Order No. TX2025-04. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Fraud, Waste & Abuse Policy – Presented by Jennifer Blake, Umatilla County Human Resources Director. A Fraud Waste and Abuse Policy has been proposed to establish clear expectations and procedures for preventing, detecting, and responding to instances of fraud, waste, and abuse within Umatilla County. It is designed to safeguard public resources, maintain public trust, and uphold the integrity of the County. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the proposed Fraud, Waste & Abuse Policy. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Executive Session – Employment/Real Property – ORS 192.660(2)(a,b,e,h) – None

Commissioner Reports: None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Timmons at 9:45 am.

Kelsey Bailey

Executive Secretary – Board of Commissioners