

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Administrative Meeting of January 22, 2013  
9:00 a.m., Room 121, County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon

\*\* \*\* \*\* \*\*

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Larry Givens, Chairman; Bill Elfering, Vice Chairman

**COUNTY COUNSEL:** Doug Olsen

**MEMBERS & GUESTS PRESENT:** Connie Caplinger, Umatilla County Executive Assistant; Jack Esp, Candidate Umatilla County Commissioner Position 1; Jim Beard, Planning Director, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Tom Fellows, Umatilla County Public Works Director; Phil Wright, East Oregonian Reporter; Jolene Meadows, Umatilla County Facilities Manager; Hulette Johnson, Umatilla County Community and Economic Development Director

\*\* \*\* \*\*\*\*

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. Chairman Givens reminded all present that the meeting is a public forum.

**BUSINESS ON AGENDA**

**Additions to Agenda:**

Sale of Milton-Freewater property

**Consent Agenda:** No items.

**Agenda Items:**

1. **Authorization for commuting in county owned vehicles:** Doug Olsen presented the annual orders permitting certain county positions to commute in county owned vehicles based on the duties of the position. There were no proposed changes. One order applied to law enforcement personnel and the other applied to other county employees.

Those who were not identified on the law enforcement order were reminded that the use of the county vehicle had tax consequences. **Commissioner Elfering, in the matter of annual authorization of use of county owned vehicles to commute, moved approval of Order Number BCC2013-002. Commissioner Givens seconded. The motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Elfering, in the matter of annual authorization for use of county owned vehicle to commute for law enforcement purposes,**

**moved approval of Order Number BCC2013-003. Commissioner Givens seconded and the motion carried 2-0.**

2. **Columbia-Blue Mountain RC&D Council Appointment:** Doug Olsen reported that Senator Hansell was the original representative as commissioner. The proposal was to change that representation to Commissioner Elfering with Hulette Johnson as the alternate. **Commissioner Elfering, in the matter of appointment of William J. Elfering to the Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Council, moved approval of Order Number BCC2013-015. Commissioner Givens seconded. The motion carried 2-0.**

3. **Echo Community Benefit Plan Board award recommendations:** Connie Caplinger reported that the benefit plan board provided its meeting minutes to Doug Olsen to prepare an order. The plan board met in early December to review the application received for the round.

Connie Caplinger, as the chair of the plan board, expressed her appreciation to the members on that board for their good discussion and good questions in consideration of the applications.

The plan board forwarded two recommendations, both for the Echo School District. The first was for up to \$30,000 to purchase property for an early childhood learning center, which was a new direction for the school district, but would allow them to expand the 3 to 4 year old class rooms and would like to expand day care with moving Head Start into the classrooms.

Commissioner Givens asked about community development block grant possibilities for the project. Connie Caplinger reported that some discussion revealed that there were other funds such as the Oregon Education Investment Board funds, as well.

Commissioner Elfering asked if there were any restrictions on the funds from the Echo Community Benefit Plan (ECBP). Connie Caplinger explained that there were no restrictions as to qualification for them and the use was directed to the specific projects identified in the applications.

The second recommended award was for an I-Pad 2 lab for \$15,000. The ECBP has been working with the Echo School District on a series of grant awards to update the school district's technology. The newest grant would put computing capabilities on all grade ranges.

Jack Esp asked if the grant would assist the district in keeping up with the leading edge of technology. Doug Olsen added that the plan board also recommended that the Henrietta Park improvement grant to end of 2013 and the Echo Community Church grant of \$25,000 for a community center to be converted to the early child learning center should be extended for their deadlines. **Commissioner Elfering, in the matter of approval of grants of 2013 Echo Community Benefit Plan - 1<sup>st</sup> round, moved approval BCC2013-018. Commissioner Givens seconded. The motion carried 2-0.**

4. **Echo Community Benefit Plan appointments:** Connie Caplinger reported that the terms for four members of the plan board expired at the end of 2012 and all four members were all willing to

continue serving. All four members were also eligible for reappointment. Commissioner Elfering, in the matter of appointment of Connie L. Caplinger, Delbert E. Gehrke and Merle A. Gehrke to board for Echo Community Benefit Plan, moved approval of Order Number BCC2013-013. Commissioner Gives seconded. The motion carried 2-0.

5. **North East Area Commission on Transportation Appointment:** Doug Olsen reported that the proposal was to appoint Commissioner Gives to replace Senator Hansell on the commission with Tom Fellows as the county's alternate with the City of Pendleton's representative as Robb Corbett.

**Commissioner Elfering, in the matter of appointments to the Northeast Area Commission on Transportation, moved approval of Order Number BCC2013-014. Commissioner Gives seconded and the motion carried 2-0.**

6. **Request to partner with CTUIR in a joint federal lands access grant:** Jim Beard presented the proposed grant application, explaining that it was a cooperative grant opportunity. Its importance was that the project that would be funded by the grant would serve two different federal land spaces and one of the few mountain lakes in the area. Currently, access to the lake and surrounding land mass was poor.

He developed an application and when submitted, it could be more than 3 years before the project was funded. The project was not a high priority for Tribes and not all the funding issues were yet worked out. However, the project focused on 9 miles of road plus the Tribal road right of way that serve the lake area.

Tom Fellows commented that as far as the match went, in hard funds he did not see that the road department had the funding. However, in kind could be considered.

Tom Fellows was not confident enough to say that no additional right of ways would be required and would expect that to improve the roads would require an additional right of way. Tom Fellows reported that in 1990 or 1991, the county put about 15,000 yards of gravel on the road up the hill.

He noted that East Birch Creek Road was not high on the county's priority list due to the low vehicle count at about 100 vehicles per day where roads in Hermiston and Milton-Freewater were experiencing a total about 500 vehicles per day.

Commissioner Gives asked if there was only about 3 miles of the right of way on the reservation. Jim Beard believed that to be about right, noting that there was approximately 14,000 acres there with another 14,000 acres purchased from Horth Ranches.

The costs he used on the application were extrapolated without surveying the road. The federal budget was such that they were encouraged to move forward on the process before an opportunity to do a survey was taken.

Commissioner Gives commented that 10.2% of the 1.2 miles of road to accomplish the project would equal about \$78,000 from each entity. With the match allowed as in kind and funds, what would the

Tribes provide? Jim Beard stated that the Tribes would provide some engineering work and project management. He believed that they could leverage some of the cash as well, as the Tribes have sources of funds called Indian Reservation Road Improvement funds available from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Commissioner Elfering asked if there was any information on the road width. Tom Fellows replied that the width varied from 18 feet to 22 feet and that it was graded twice a year.

Commissioner Elfering asked what the project would do to the road. Tom Fellows expected that it would probably add gravel, repair culverts in areas of water problems and in narrow areas could provide turn outs. Commissioner Elfering asked if the county would be able to get by with in kind contributions. Tom Fellows believed that to achieve \$78,000 would not be difficult as an in kind match. However some of the work would be scheduled during the peak period for the county's regular workload and would require some flexibility in scheduling.

Asked whether the Forest Service was on board, Jim Beard stated that the Tribes did not have their sign off yet. Tom Fellows commented that it was pretty important that the Forest Service signed off on the application. However, he knew the time frame that the Tribes were working on. A month previously was the letter of intent deadline and the Tribes were under the gun because of the short time frame allotted by the federal agency.

Commissioner Givens asked what the deadline for submission of the application was. Jim Beard stated it was due Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Trustees had already signed off on the application and the next item on the checklist was to approach the Forest Service. He felt that Thursday, the 24<sup>th</sup> would be the drop dead date for an agreement.

The unknown factor was what Forest Service actions were necessary to sign on as supporting the application. The Forest Service's point of consideration would be the timber harvesting opportunities.

Commissioner Elfering asked if camping had been improved at the lake. Jim Beard responded that it was still pretty rough, but that the Tribes had master plan that would open portions of the area surrounding the lake, leaving others for cultural purposes.

7. **Authorize installation of Paging Enhancement at the Stafford Hansell Building:** Connie Caplinger reported that the topic was originally had been on the agenda for Thursday's meeting, but was moved to the current meeting.

Jolene Meadows reported that a paging system was not installed when the building was constructed and until recently not needed. However the recent bomb threats illustrated the need for a system and she learned that Uni-Tech could add paging through the current phone system.

The glitch was that the hallways would not be covered. That was resolved when Uni-Tech proposed that a speaker system could be placed in the hallways that operated through the existing phone system. That

would provide the building the ability to page three areas separately. The proposal was cost effective and expandable.

Connie Caplinger reported that the cost estimate provided for the module, speakers and the programming. She identified funds available in the Stafford Hansell Government Center improvement program.

The problem became obvious when the bomb threats occurred in that there are blank spaces on the backside of the courts and the DA's office. She felt that the cost would be money well spent.

**Commissioner Elfering moved that the Board authorize the installation of paging enhancement equipment at Stafford Hansell Government Center by Uni-Tech in the amount of \$3591.62.**

**Commissioner Givens seconded and the motion carried 2-0.**

8. **Sale of Milton-Freewater Property:**

a. Doug Olsen reported that the sale of the Locke property had been agreed upon by the Board, but the completion of the transaction was not able to be done until the money was brought in.

**Commissioner Elfering, in the matter of selling to Kent R. Madison and Archer J. Fenton property acquired as a result of delinquent property taxes, moved approval of Order Number BCC2013-020. Commissioner Givens seconded. The motion carried 2-0.**

b. Doug Olsen provided photos of the second property, foreclosed upon in 2012 and sent through the process at an appraised value of \$103,000. After viewing the property recently, the home was likely worthless. The county received an offer from Archer Fenton in the amount of \$16,000, which was the lot value. **Commissioner Elfering, in the matter of selling to Archer J. Fenton property acquired as a result of delinquent property taxes, moved approval of Order Number BCC2013-019. Commissioner Givens seconded. The motion carried 2-0.**

**Other Discussion:** None.

**Scheduling of Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held January 24, 2013.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Headley  
Executive Secretary  
Umatilla County  
Board of Commissioners