

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of July 17, 2014
9:30 a.m., Rm 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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Commissioners Present: Bill Elfering, Chair; George Murdock, Vice-Chair
Absent: Larry Givens, Commissioner
County Counsel: Doug Olsen
Members and Guests Present: Scott Stanton, Hermiston Fire Chief; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Chair Bill Elfering reminded all present that the meeting was a public forum; meeting in public with full transparency.

Pledge of Allegiance. Those in the room stood, saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Awards/Recognitions/Correspondence: 1) Cindy Gallaher from the DA's office is retiring after 30 years of county service. A BBQ potluck is planned beginning at noon to 3 pm on the courthouse roof - weather permitting.

2) Letters from out of state people were recently received by the Sheriff's Office regarding concealed handgun permits, thanking sheriff's department for great service.

3) A letter from Morrow County DA thanking the Sheriff's Office for assistance in apprehending an individual who was on abscond since 2002. Deputy Mike Fox determined the man had been using two names, thus the man was apprehended and found accountable.

4) Other -- Commissioner Murdock noted he recently met with Carolyn Mason to continue discussions about the Human Services Programs. Support is coming in the form of an \$88,000 to \$90,000 grant from a Transformation Grant (for another CARE worker) and other applications for grants will be made. He will provide updates as they come – looking to come up with about \$500,000 over the last year.

Minutes. None at this time.

Additions to Agenda. No additions to the agenda.

Recognition of Visitors/Public Input:

Chair Elfering recognized Scott Stanton, Fire Chief from Hermiston. He will be presenting an agenda item today.

Chair Elfering also noted recently visiting with Malheur County Judge Dan Joyce. They compared notes about meetings and other county business. Good information sharing.

Agenda

1. Hermiston/Stanfield Districts Petition. Doug Olsen advised this is not public hearing at this time. Chair Elfering introduced Scott Stanton, Fire Chief from Hermiston. He noted a need to provide better service and to keep up with services in the Hermiston and Stanfield areas. A third party study and evaluation showed need to merge/create a new fire district. Petitions have been passed to get this item put on the ballot this November. There were no questions. Commissioner Murdock advised he has met with Fire Department representatives.

Doug Olsen provided background: the Hermiston and Stanfield Fire Districts are petitioning to have the district combined into one district, which will include some of the unprotected area. The request is to have the Board initiate the formation process and then refer all issues to the voters for decision. The first step is to have the Board initiate the process and set a public hearing on the proposed district (probably on August 20, the next available BCC meeting). Commissioner Murdock asked if the City of Umatilla has been approached to be included. Mr. Stanton responded yes, but the city opted to not participate at this time. Chair Elfering asked about potential change in protection classes with this new district. Mr. Stanton said insurance companies will review this situation. ISO evaluates the enlargement of the Stanfield district and, with new funding keeping up with service, staff will be hired in rural areas for that coverage. It possibly could be a reduction; the safety element will definitely be increased. Mr. Stanton noted another station might be built in the future, which would help with insurance classification. Commissioner Murdock advised the process here compared to Douglas County (where he had personal experience) showed this should be a successful effort. **Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt BCC Order 2014-052. Seconded by Chair Elfering. All voted aye. Carried 2-0.**

2. Amendment to Ambulance Services Ordinance. Chair Elfering opened the Public Hearing. He asked for abstentions. None were heard. Staff report was presented by Doug Olsen. This is before the Board at the request of Jack Remillard, Emergency Management Services. In looking at ordinance, it needed updating. The amendments are proposed to simplify the renewal process and conform with practice, delete outdated provisions, and clean up duplicative sections. There are no real substantive changes. One main difference is that "Ambulance Service Committee" quorum numbers has been reduced, due to difficulty in making a quorum. Also to make it clear the Emergency Services Director is the person to report to rather than the Public Health officer. Today is first reading of Ordinance 2014-05 and Chair Elfering went on to read it. He then set the second reading to be at a hearing on Aug. 20, 2014 (the next scheduled Board meeting).

Executive Session was called by Chair Elfering at 10:00 a.m. pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) regarding real property transactions. (Recorded separately). Back to regular meeting at 10:12 a.m.

3. Road Sign Order. **In the matter of Order No. RD2014-04 (to replace a yield sign with a stop sign at the intersection of Rothrock and Midway Roads approximately 1.5 miles East of the City of Adams, Commissioner Murdock moved to approve. Seconded by Chair Elfering. All voted aye. Carried 2-0.**
4. County Space Needs. Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director, reported that he will put together a survey for department heads to complete for a 5-year plan to move forward with

county space needs, keeping in mind that some needs are more immediate. The Board concurred and asked Mr. Lonai to proceed.

5. Position Reclassification. Mr. Lonai presented background. This would be for reclassification of Elections Specialist to an Elections/Records Specialist to be shared between Elections and Records. This will allow Administrative Services to better utilize staff. The position will be changed from a range 14 to 16 to accommodate the extra duties and skills required to serve both offices. He advised there is an average of two to three elections (May and November), which makes for a lot of down time in Elections. There is the possibility for four elections in a year. There are some special elections (recalls among other things). He would like to move the half-time support staff from Elections to work in Records. It will allow him to eliminate the part-time position in Records, a savings of about \$9,000 to \$10,000/year. Those savings could be used for CIS, which is more and more busy. This would allow cross-training and fill in and the overlap will work with the suggested change. Mr. Lonai proposes to move Dave Stuvland from Elections up to Records half-time and to change his position of extra duties in the Records Office, at the same level as those in Records currently, from range 14 to 16. Logistics will be worked out including office location (this time of year, he could be upstairs and handle voter registration from the Records Office). Records will have some cross-training to Elections for questions from the public. The idea is to eliminate public traffic to the basement. He advised he has spoken with some staff about the proposed changes. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the reclassification of the Elections Specialist position as presented. Seconded by Chair Elfering. All voted aye. Carried 2-0.**
6. Direct Hire – Elections Manager. Mr. Lonai provided background. The position requires extensive knowledge of election laws and the election process and makes sure elections are conducted. He continued, noting that Kim Lindell worked as an Elections Specialist under Patti Chapman’s supervision for about 10 years. Ms. Lindell left county employment several years ago. He noted she has thorough knowledge of the elections process and governing laws. We are quickly approaching the November ballot and we need someone in the election process who knows the laws. He recommends Kim Lindell. He has spoken with her and she wants to come back. Chair Elfering responded it appears she is high on the learning curve and available within the time we need. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve direct hire of Kim Lindell to fill the position of Elections Supervisor based on three factors – the pending general election, her unique experience and skills, and her previous experience at Umatilla County. Seconded by Chair Elfering. All voted aye. Carried 2-0.**
7. Kinzua Resources Landfill. Chair Elfering noted recent and ongoing problems with the Kinzua landfill. There is a need to provide added push for DEQ and other regulatory agencies to handle the problems due to the hazard. The Board wants to encourage action to remedy the dangerous and unsafe conditions at the Kinzua landfill. An order had been drafted to document support. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve adoption of Order BCC 2014-053. Seconded by Chair Elfering. All voted aye. Carried 2-0.**

There was no further business.

Commissioners Reports. Commissioner Murdock advised he would be providing a summary of the NACo Conference he and Commissioner Givens recently attended at a staff or other meeting.

Chair Elfering noted he had attended Fair Board meeting in Commissioner Givens' absence. There was concern expressed to the Fair Board about the EOTEC facility, which that Board will consider. It is quite late in the process. The issue is about the animal barns – it is felt they should be in a more prominent location. Discussion included Fair Board coordination with the EOTEC Board. Commissioner Murdock asked about how to handle the Fair Board representation to the EOTEC Board and the interaction; that the Fair Board member needs to represent the Fair Board's interest. Mr. Olsen noted the Board of County Commissioners names that person – EOTEC wants to follow up on the representation issue and reporting to the Fair Board. Commissioner Murdock suggested revisiting the appointment to the EOTEC Board and added it could be changed (the process and requirements). Chair Elfering advised he will discuss this with Commissioner Givens to handle and move forward regarding board appointments.

Chair Elfering met with Malheur County Judge Dan Joyce and took a tour of the courthouse and met staff. He wanted to invite the Malheur County Sheriff to attend the safety summit on 7/22/14 in Pendleton. Commissioner Murdock noted the AOC and other representatives will attend a pre-function at Georgio's Restaurant in Pendleton on 7/21.

Commissioner Murdock made a brief observation about the NACO conference's last night function held at the Superdome in New Orleans – all parishes (64!) set up booths and had floats there. It was a huge event with great participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt
Executive Secretary
Umatilla County Board of Commissioners