

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Administrative Meeting of July 30, 2014
1:30 p.m., Rm 121, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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Commissioners Present: Bill Elfering, Chair; George Murdock, Vice-Chair; and Larry Givens, Commissioner

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Attendance: Paul Chalmers, A&T; Tamra Mabbott, Planning & Land Use; Jennifer Blake, H.R.; and Phil Wright, East Oregonian

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. Chair Elfering reminded those present the meeting was a public forum.

1. Correspondence. Chair Elfering read a letter from the Weston Chamber of Commerce to the County Economic Development Director, Hulette Johnson -- thank you for the \$1,000 in support of Weston Chamber activities over the last several months (and the list was read). Activities are planned and managed by volunteers but financial support is greatly appreciated to keep them ongoing and successful.
2. Approval Meeting Minutes. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the minutes of the 06/11/14 and 06/23/14 Board of Commissioners meetings; Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

BUSINESS ON AGENDA

1. Change of date for August 6 Board meeting. This is during County Fair Week. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve moving the August 6 Board meeting to August 4. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

Tamra Mabbott asked if Melinda could notify Jeff Maffuccio of Idaho Power, who planned to attend the 08/06 BCC meeting to present the Boardman to Hemingway project update, so that he could make adjustments to his travel plans. It was agreed Melinda would do so.

2. Award Contract for Purchase of Pick-up. Doug Olsen presented background. Authorization was given to the Weed Department for bids for a new pickup. One bid was received in response, from Power Chrysler for a 2015 Ram in the amount of \$38,867. The vehicle meets the specifications and purchase is recommended by the department. Funding will be from the Fleet Management Fund. After discussion, the Board wished to defer the decision regarding the one bid received and to re-open them to obtain more than one bid. **Commissioner Murdock moved to reject the bid and to authorize re-opening of bids. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
3. Harris Park. Commissioner Givens noted there have been issues regarding the camp host at the Park – he has been difficult to work with. This has been brought to his attention by several

people. The atmosphere there is not friendly – authoritative, negative signage, uninvited access to campsites and emphasis of “what you cannot do”. Commissioner Givens noted he could talk with Hulette Johnson as Economic Development Director, who will in turn talk to the Camp Manager, Stan Gilman, regarding the camp host to further investigate issues that have been raised. The Board thought it best to defer to the liaison Commissioner Elfering, for handling of this item. He agreed and will report back at a later date after he has done more investigation. Jennifer Blake, Pay and Benefits Administrator, asked to be involved in discussions regarding Harris Park on behalf of Human Resources. The Board concurred.

4. Other – AOC Assessors Association. Paul Chalmers talked about his role in this association and requested BCC input regarding department heads being involved in statewide associations/organizations for representation of Eastern Oregon. Mr. Chalmers noted this would be a 3-year commitment to serve for the Assessors Association through AOC. **Commissioner Elfering moved to support Paul Chalmers serving as Second Vice-President of the AOC Assessors Association. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Survey Orders. Doug Olsen presented background. In anticipation of the legalization of a number of County Roads, survey orders are requested for Birch Creek Road, East Highland Extension, Eastside Road and Kosmos Road.

Commissioner Givens moved to approve Order No RD2014-05 (Birch Creek Road, County Road No. 550). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Givens moved to approve Order No RD2014-06 (East Highland Extension, County Road No. 1198). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Givens moved to approve Order No RD2014-07 (Eastside Road, County Road No. 575). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Givens moved to approve Order No RD2014-08 (Kosmos Road, County Road No. 1172). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

6. Payable to City of Stanfield. Doug Olsen reported the City of Stanfield is seeking funding for the development of the interstate interchange. Funds are proposed in the amount of \$7,500 from Economic Development. The amount exceeds the amount for department authorization. He reported Hulette Johnson indicated funds are available. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve the payable to the City of Stanfield in the amount of \$7,500. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Employee Recognition Policy. Doug Olsen presented. The Employee of the Month recognition has been in existence since 1987. There have not been any nominations or recipients for the last two months. Does the Board want to take the recognition in a different direction, make revisions, or end the program? He also noted the previous sponsor who provided gift certificates has not expressed interest in continuing to donate the certificates. Discussion included how people are nominated, maybe a “popularity” thing, it is routine – needs to be meaningful and genuine and different ideas for types of recognition (i.e. when a big project/task/season is completed – maybe not just individual employee, but a group or department? Also perhaps quarterly rather than monthly?). Mr. Chalmers also noted in his department that staff is encouraged when the Commissioners come to their office, know their names and thank them for their hard work. The recognition is very important. Ms. Blake felt the program should be revamped. After brief

discussion, there was consensus that it would be appropriate for Jennifer Blake from H.R. to spearhead the effort to revamp the employee recognition program.

8. Other

a. Commissioner Murdock

- i. BCC desk/counter. Commissioner Murdock reported that work continues to progress and should be completed soon. He and Melinda are keeping in touch with the carpenter (Mark Blanchard) and will provide updates.
- ii. Information/Reception area. The area is much more open and renovation continues. This work is being done by the county maintenance crew. Discussion included a directory/signage on a wall or a kiosk in the lobby area, the fact people still like a live person to direct them, hours of the switchboard, etc.

b. Commissioner Givens

- i. Public parking. He would like to see several spaces in front of the courthouse be kept open for the public (encouraging employees to not park there). Discussion included vandalism still occurring in the north parking lot across the street, cameras and posted no trespassing signs to mitigate problems. Commissioner Elfering suggested Commissioner Murdock could look into this as he is the liaison to Administrative Services.
- ii. Blue Mountain Forest Plan comments due 08/15/14. Commissioner Givens noted he will soon attend an Association of Eastern Oregon Counties meeting where they will discuss and firm up comments to the Blue Mountain Forest Plan; lobbyists from Washington, DC will present comments on the plan from the entire group of counties (including grazing permits, increasing fees, riparian areas, roads, access or non-access and etc.).
- iii. PILT Fund. The AEOC will also discuss PILT, hoping to get it re-authorized.
- iv. County Fair, 08/02 Parade. The group discussed logistics of start, vehicle from Tom Denchel (Cindy Driscoll from Denchel will drive this year), more candy – this is a very long parade.

c. Commissioner Elfering

- i. Public Safety Summit. The statewide summit held earlier in the week at the Public Safety Center was very well attended (estimated 75) – the third summit held in Oregon. Very good information sharing.

Back to Commissioner Murdock:

- d. The Eastern Oregon Forum is sponsored by BMCC and the EO, coming soon. Commissioner Murdock noted one of the topics will be medical marijuana. Rob Bovett (of the AOC) is becoming an expert in that area; he plans to attend the event and speak about the medical marijuana issue in Oregon.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary

Umatilla County Board of Commissioners