

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Administrative Meeting of October 7, 2014
9:00 a.m., Rm 121, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

** ** ** **

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

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Members and Guests Present: Don Miller, County Fair Board; Peggy Anderson, County Fair Manager

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. Chair Bill Elfering reminded all present that the meeting was a public forum.

Recognition of Visitors/Public Input: Chair Elfering welcomed Don Miller, County Fair Board.

Minutes. None at this time.

Correspondence deferred to next meeting.

Additions to Agenda. Commissioner Givens will address something under Commissioner Reports.

Agenda

1. **Festival of Lights – Status Discussion.** Commissioner Elfering introduced the matter by talking about emails he has seen; original committee members Spike Piersol and Karen Talaski. Spike Piersol had requested the meeting, but was not in attendance. Don Miller noted deadline is in May 1 – 15 to reserve events. Nothing was heard, so Thompson Hall reservations were taken for the time Festival of Lights had previously been held. They need to know about supplies and equipment – who/which entity do they belong to? Mr. Miller noted they do not want to stand in the way of the event happening someplace else. Discussion included donation over the years and sometime purchased by the county and other entities and individuals. Items should be designated as “Fair” items.

Commissioner Givens and the group discussed doing an inventory of items, if one has not been done. Mr. Miller noted many items (probably majority) have been donated by the City of Hermiston over the years. In addition, Spike Piersol has supplied many of the display items.

Discussion included condition of items, difficulty of doing an inventory, huge amount to go through stored in larger storage containers, who owns what and how to best determine, and limitations of use for items. Mr. Miller suggested Fair representatives and Festival of Lights

representatives should be present when doing an inventory. Also, time for planning and carrying out the festival is very short – not enough time to do it right this year?

Commissioner Elfering noted discussion with Spike Piersol that the Festival of Lights has attained 501(c)(3) status (non-profit). Also discussed was the fact the location of Fair is changing in next year, the EOTEC site, and the evolution of Festival of Lights. The group also discussed legality of donating items purchased with county funds.

Mr. Miller noted items used consistently each year by the Fair are the extension cords, of which there is a huge number. More seem to be bought each year. Discussion included Fair Board position that they do not object to moving forward with the Festival of Lights. The large storage containers belong to the Fair.

No action was taken. The Board of Commissioners would like an inventory of items; and there is need to clarify transferability to an organization, its legality, and operation of the Festival by the entity that takes over.

2. Release of Interest in Property – Head Start. Mr. Olsen reported. Milton-Freewater Head Start began in 2006 when the County agreed to be applicant and recipient of a CDBG grant for construction of a Head Start facility in Hermiston. For a 5-year period, the county had to ensure that the property was used for the grant purposes. The facility was finished in 2008 and the grant closed out in 2009. The five-year period has elapsed and Head Start is requesting that the County release the restriction and interest in the property. **Commissioner Givens moved to adopt Order No. BCC2014-072. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
3. Creation of New Position – Adult Protective Service Investigator. Commissioner Murdock presented. Approval is sought to create a new position with the CDDP program – Adult Protective Service Investigator. As part of the transition to a county program (taking over from the state), this mandated position will investigate allegations of abuse. The cost of the position will be reimbursed by the state. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the position as noted. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Milton-Freewater Alliance Payable. Approval is sought for payable to the Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance in the amount of \$10,000 for its operations. The contribution is from economic development. Board approval is needed due to amount. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve the payable for \$10,000 to the Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance. Seconded by Chair Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
5. NW Metal Fabricators Payable. This comes from the Fair. Background: Commissioner Givens noted the original amount was about \$3,000, but when the bill came, it was for about \$12,000. Concern was expressed about the large difference. Approval is sought for payable to NW Metal Fabricators in the amount of \$8,440 for paint and panel sand blasting. Due to amount, Board approval is necessary. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve the payable as noted. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

6. Bullet Proof Vests Payable. The Sheriff's Office is in need of bullet proof vests; three invoices were presented that are above the pre-authorized amount, which requires Board approval. Vests are required equipment and they are in emergency need at this time. Invoices are: \$15,892 and \$4,103 from Blumenthals; \$3,719.99 from 911 Supply. A grant has been applied for that should reimburse about 50% of the costs of the vests. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve the payables as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Executive Session. Mr. Olsen noted nothing under this item today.

Commissioners' Reports.

Commissioner Givens noted he will meet with Kathleen Cathy from Senator Ron Wyden's office to discuss Veterans, taking back public lands and continuing to discuss the process-- ideas for a draft resolution, high costs, federal issues, lawsuits, and ramifications. He also talked about endangered species and other wildlife and possible impacts of regional employment loss.

Commissioner Murdock reported about PILT and County forests being tied up by federal ownership of lands. PILT helps offset, but the full impacts are not known at this time. Commissioner Givens talked about a proposed economic study; analysis shows possibly \$500,000 to \$600,000 for that study – but it is not known at this time if the legislature would approve that. He noted there will be a joint meeting held at the upcoming AOC statewide meetings to talk about some of those questions. Discussions are moving quickly and some kind of action will likely come shortly thereafter.

Commissioner Murdock talked about the recent murder trial – the first in our county since 2008. He will be following up with security, court staff and pertinent county staff to see what we learned from the experience. Regarding security, he noted he and Chair Elfering will both be involved; and regarding the building aspect, he will head up discussion.

Commissioner Givens noted conversations with the Milton-Freewater Watermaster about weed policy and code enforcement. There is a need to come up with some ideas to pass on to them pertaining to policies and enforcement (for consistency). He advised he will contact the County Weed Department about this issue.

Regarding economic development, Chair Elfering talked about the idea of potential lease / authorization to survey the area for a business to locate at the Army Depot property. He will meet with Don Chance on 10/27 to discuss future planning, ways to provide access, and the like. Chair Elfering also noted that Don Chance will be retiring by the end of March 2015.

There was no further business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt
Executive Secretary
Umatilla County Board of Commissioners