

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of March 4, 2015
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Members and Guests Present: Todd Davis, President of Blue Mountain Horticulture Society; Jared Brown, BMHS Board Member; Sean Roloff, BMHS Board Member; Janet Jones, Public Health, Community Health Educator; Dale Primmer, Community Corrections Assistant Director; Dan Durfey, Weed Department Supervisor; Tom Fellows, Public Works Director; Sharon Waldern, Public Health, Clinic Nurse Supervisor; Judy Jenner, Public Health, Office Manager; Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director; Bob Heffner, Budget; Robert Pahl, Chief Financial Officer

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Chair George Murdock reminded all present that the meeting was a public forum. It is being recorded and minutes will be taken. If persons wish to speak before the BCC, identify yourself and state where you live for the record.

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

Awards/Recognitions/Correspondence

Chair Murdock noted a thank you card was received from the Athena Main Street Association to the AWERE committee for start-up grant funds that allowed them to get things moving. For information, Chair Murdock noted AWERE funding is derived from wind generation in the Athena and Weston areas.

Minutes. Commissioner Givens moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2014; November 26, 2014 and February 4, 2015. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.

Additions to Agenda. None.

Public Input/Recognition of Visitors. None at this time.

Agenda

1. **Blue Mountain Horticulture Society.** Clive Kaiser, Extension Service, presented. He also introduced Board Members of the Society in attendance that day. He noted a long-standing arrangement between the society and the Board of Commissioners (about 8 years) for the pest control program. Approval was given for the “Don’t Bug Us” campaign. Today, he would

present an overview in the form of a Power Point of this important campaign. The Milton-Freewater fruit industry is a \$45 million industry at the farm gate. He highlighted key points and noted there are no pests in the Milton-Freewater area. The County Ordinance and points were depicted. Code enforcement is involved; funds are provided through the County and the BMHS. \$20,000 annually is for the County Pest Control Officer. In addition, depicted was the future of the Milton-Freewater area as a huge agriculture provider in the Milton-Freewater and Walla Walla Valley areas.

Todd Davis, Davis Orchards, came to the podium. He noted the importance of controlling pests and keeping them out of the area. Jerod Brown, Earl Brown & Sons, came to the podium. Commissioner Givens asked Mr. Kaiser to go back to the “future” information. Mr. Kaiser advised 24% employment is in agriculture accounts. Also, poverty in M-F is 27.3%; and childhood poverty is 39%. Commissioner Givens talked about the push for raising the minimum wage in Oregon. He felt it should be stressed about how much the Milton-Freewater area is tied to agriculture. He also talked about new restrictions on chemical sprays tied to the environment.

Chair Murdock talked about horticulturists and an informative conversation he recently had with Todd Davis at the Pendleton Chamber Economic Outlook luncheon. Commissioner Givens talked about the ties to Public Works and the Weed Department. Dan Durfey, County Weed Supervisor, noted a half-time employee in the Weed Department funded by \$10,000 from BMHS and \$10,000 from the County; a pickup is provided through the County as well as email and phone. Education is provided regarding pests by a pest tech person. Annual meeting includes all area growers and the Board. Mr. Durfey advised the person is strictly a pest technician; he mainly stays in the Milton-Freewater area where he meets with private landowners and provides education. Subject areas are mapped based on the information. Mr. Kaiser added the ordinance applies to landowners and also to vacated orchards.

Commissioner Givens asked about blackberry vines. A Horticulture Board Member agreed they are hard to keep up with. They do harbor pest, which is something to keep in mind. Mr. Kaiser reiterated the importance of containing pests and making sure fruit is able to be exported to market. Pest spraying is done as allowed.

Chair Murdock thanked the group for their presentation.

2. Public Health Department – Tobacco. Janet Jones, Community Health Educator presented a Power Point presentation with Results of a Tobacco Retailer Assessment. She provided background about Prevention and associated Education Program. She thanked the Board of Commissioners for leadership in creating a tobacco free work place. She went on to note impacts of tobacco on Umatilla County along with a fact sheet for 2013 and annual figures; use of tobacco by youth and adults; chew, cigars, little cigars and etc. She also covered what works for tobacco prevention; the retail environment; and the fact the tobacco industry spent more than \$8.3 billion on marketing and promotion – just for cigarettes. 95% of the tobacco industry’s marketing budget is spent at the point of sale in the retail environment. Ms. Jones also showed slides of pictures were in Umatilla County. Youth smoking started before age of 18 for over 90% of those that smoke. Regarding the retailer assessment – the purpose is to learn how products are sold and advertised in local stores; it is a voluntary survey and 90% of the retailers agreed to participate in it. She gave examples of grocery stores -- advertising is constantly changing and

keeping up to date. Not all gas stations sell tobacco products in the County. 75% + is at convenience stores. 45% retailers have outside advertising promoting tobacco products. She also talked about lower placement of ads (3' from the ground). Janet clarified sheesha (a form of tobacco) and hookah pipes – like a water pipe, for multiple smokers at one time. Flavored tobacco appeals to youth. She brought samples to show. There are no current prohibitions on buying e-cigarette products and there are lots of fruit flavors. Smoking is limited to age 18. She also noted displays near candy, ice cream and the like. Vulnerable populations are subjected to tobacco ads (bright colors, etc.) She went on to discuss evidence based point of sale strategies and ways to limit sales to vulnerable youth. Ms. Jones advised the Board she will keep them informed and updated about the subject.

Commissioner Givens asked how long the program has been here. Ms. Jones advised it was in 1998. There have been challenges in keeping up with policies and the retail environment. The public has to do something at the local and state levels to keep up with huge advertisement budget by the tobacco industry. Commissioner Givens talked about the high percentage of tobacco use in Umatilla County; he asked about the comparison to other demographics. Ms. Jones responded rural areas have higher rates of advertising and lower prices – that is why its use is high in our county. She advised she can provide a map depicting this information.

Commissioner Givens asked if she could provide a chart of the relationship of education to tobacco use. That is, the higher the education, it seems the lower tobacco use. Ms. Jones agreed. The higher smoking rate goes with low income and low education. And the higher the income the lower the smoking rate. Chair Murdock asked about statistics – what about ethnicity? She did not know that information offhand. Those figures would be forthcoming after the assessment. However, Hispanic and African Americans' use is high compared to Caucasian use. Youth use was about 43%. Regarding advertising, magazine advertisement is up, but not on TV. For every smoker that dies, two others replace them. Commissioner Elfering talked about age restrictions and signage; he was interested in smokeless tobacco use figures in the County. In the rural cultural there is a lot of use of chew (smokeless tobacco). Ms. Jones noted a definite need to try to stop use of smokeless tobacco products (she showed samples of several products). Commissioner Elfering felt schools now are providing better education about the harm of tobacco products. She went on to talk more about advertising, placement of products & etc. There were no other questions.

3. Create A Position – Public Health. Judy Jenner, Office Manager at Umatilla County Public Health. She noted she was starting 11 years with the county -- a great place to work! Speaking to Ms. Jones's presentation, she mentioned a copy of the Community Assessment Plan, section 12, pp 1-2, where the percentage of tobacco use in the County is listed.

She went on with the staff report. The position is for an OA III/Interpretive Services. This position will help interpret for those with limited English. Public Health wants to make sure communication is meaningful with authorized representatives within the Public Health Department. The need is there – and should be provided at no cost to those in need. She went on to breakdown those in the office who speak Spanish. When she started, there were 6, now there are 4. This new position is more specialized for specifically and in particular interpreting medical information. This position will assist in many programs, including home visits, Environmental Health, and also in the office and on the phone. This position will be able to back up the receptionist. She elaborated on the types of situations where interpretation services are necessary. This would be a benefit for coverage on a broader spectrum to meet goals.

Commissioner Elfering asked about the fill-in concept of piecemeal – he understood the need for interpretation. Ms. Jenner responded they have used the “language line” -- it is used more in Hermiston than in Pendleton. About 70% of the clients in Hermiston are Hispanic. The line is pretty costly. It is utilized for not only Spanish, but other languages as well. Commissioner Givens asked about funding. She responded many programs are grant-funded. This would be taken out of four different budgets (Home Visit, Environmental Health, Family Planning and Communicable Diseases – all have some grant funding).

Robert Pahl, Chief Financial Officer, added there are some monies coming from the General Fund – it will be the majority. The position is new. He noted from a practical standpoint, there would still be a problem with only adding one new person for interpretation. He suggested professional development of employees taking Spanish. Ms. Jenner noted the importance of medical terminology for this particular position. Chair Murdock moved to authorize the OA III/Interpretive Services position. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Chair Murdock felt it was fiscally doable at a Range 12 pay scale. Discussions and questions were had about budget. Commissioner Givens would like more information about the budget process. Could the Board table action on this item until the budget is detailed with Meghan DeBolt, Public Health Director. **Commissioner Givens moved to table discussion until next Board Administrative meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

4. Temporary Rate Increase – Public Health. Doug Olsen presented. The request is to provide a temporary 5% bonus to Monica Breshears to fill in for a supervisor position; the person had resigned. During the time of the vacancy, Public Health requests to have an OAIII position temporarily expand duties with the 5% wage increase. Commissioner Givens wanted to make sure the employee understands it is temporary. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve the temporary increase of wages of 5% for OAIII position during the vacancy of the supervisory position, starting 2/1/15. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

5. Authorize Purchase of Electronic Health Records System Software. Sharon Waldern, Clinic Nurse Supervisor for Public Health, advised she has worked for the County for about 10 years. She agrees with Judy Jenner, it is a great place to work. With the addition of new Health Officer, there is a new records system that is being used by clinics and physicians in the area. The records system works well with the state alert system and is a good billing system. Information sharing is an added benefit; also access to the state alert system and data base, Greenway Health.

The initial purchase for the new software is around \$56,000 with a monthly cost of \$3,200, for total investment of about \$55,765. About \$54,000 is for professional services (education of staff (\$38,000 for training, per Mr. Olsen), back-up services, ongoing support services, and maintenance), \$990 for third party software and hardware; the amount due on signing is about \$27,000. Money is in the budget. A grant of \$8,000 and money in current budgets (divided among four different budgets). Commissioner Givens asked what will Public Health gain with the purchase? Ms. Waldern noted billings for immunizations and vaccines would be mostly automatic, there would be less error and the system would be more streamlined and efficient. This is mandated by the Affordable Care Act. Also, the current system used shows a loss of 30% of time trying to chart with the current system – it is not working as efficiently as promised. Chair Murdock talked about the Praxis system, which is improving billing capacity. A new hire will be taking over the billing portion – she is familiar with the system as she has used it. Chair

Murdock added County Public Health needs to improve the billing percentage. Umatilla County now has the lowest recovering billing in the state. Ms. Waldern noted improved billing is necessary to recoup costs as much as possible. She noted contract practitioners will be able to be billed in the new system. She talked about billing, reimbursements and need to recoup money, also a lot of people do not qualify for insurance; she noted donations are pretty high in Hermiston. Chair Murdock also noted with the hire of a new person specializing in billing should drastically increase the percentage of collecting in Umatilla County. The ultimate target is \$700,000 – but he is told by Meghan DeBolt, Public Health Director, it is more like \$350,000 per year, extra. **Commissioner Elfering moved to authorize purchase of software for the Public Health Electronic Health Records System from Greenway Health as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

6. Additional Grant Monies Awarded for Specified Items. Dale Primmer, Assistant Director, Community Justice, presented. Umatilla County was awarded \$215,000 for years 2013-15 through a competitive process specified for Measure 57 offenders. Funds are directed towards the Drug Court Program and related expenses. Additional funds (in amount of \$23,000) were awarded to the County since not all counties in Oregon competed in the process in programs designed to address the Measure 57 population. Out of that source, two items were funded and must be expended by the end of the biennium. There is no General Fund impact. The request is to authorize out of state travel and training for required and necessary expenses from grant monies and to amend the Intergovernmental Agreement with the State/DOC. A supplemental budget and amended IGA is in process and will be presented to the Board for review and approval soon. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve specified items associated with the Measure 57 ODOC funds awarded. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Supplemental Budgets. Chair Murdock opened the Public Hearing at 10:20 a.m. Bob Heffner, Budget, presented the staff report. Budget Order 2015-45 (Family Planning Reserve Fund) requires a \$776 increase in Transfer Out appropriations for support of the Family Planning program; the appropriation is supported by higher than anticipated cash carryover and interest income. The transfer out will close the fund. Budget Order 2015-46 (General Fund – Jail) requires a \$17,000 increase in Capital Outlay for the purchase of a vehicle from the City of Athena; Jail received Jail Reinvestment monies in fall 2013 and wishes to utilize those monies for the purchase. Reinvestment monies are included in cash carryover and available for expenditure through a transfer of appropriations from General Fund Contingency. Budget Order 2015-47 (Youth Services Development Fund) requires a \$38,000 increase in Capital Outlay appropriations for purchase of vehicles for CARE and for Juvenile. The increase is supported by a transfer of appropriations from Materials & Services category.

Commissioner Givens asked about vehicle. Mr. Heffner responded the funds come from the Reserve Fund not the General Fund. There were no other questions or comments. Chair Murdock closed the Public Hearing at 10:26. **In the Matter of a Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget per ORS 294.473 for the fiscal year ending 6/30/15, Commissioner Givens moved to adopt Budget Order 2015-45. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0. In the Matter of a Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget per ORS 294.473 for the fiscal year ending 6/30/15, Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Budget Order 2015-46. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0. In the Matter of a Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget per ORS 294.473 for the fiscal year ending**

6/30/15, Commissioner Givens moved to adopt Budget Order 2015-47. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.

8. Authorize Contract for Purchase of Chemicals. Dan Durfey, Weed Department Control Supervisor, presented. This is annual process. The County issued a request for bids for herbicides (weed control product). The low bid was from Wilbur-Ellis. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the contract with Wilbur-Ellis for purchase of chemicals for weed control in the amount of \$96,471.69. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Sister Community Partnership. Tom Fellows, Public Works Director, provided the staff report. Public Works has been participating in planning in the event of natural disasters (the Cascadia Event). As it deals with infrastructure, partnerships were discussed – primarily East / West Counties to fill in in the event of a catastrophic event. The main focus is proposed for partnerships to fill in any gaps for possibly up to 14 days so local people can take care of their personal life. Tillamook County Public Works and Umatilla County Public Works would like to enter into partnership to continue to move forward with the planning process, which requires Board approval to move forward and look at efficiencies. Commissioner Elfering asked if this just includes Public Works? Mr. Fellows advised Emergency Management has also been included in the conversations, but at this point there is no formal agreement with Emergency Management. Mr. Fellows and Jack Remillard have gone through programs and coordinate well. This partnership with Tillamook County is only as it relates to Public Works.

Commissioner Givens elaborated on what is to be included in agreements – reimbursements, etc. Mr. Fellows agreed, when Umatilla County is assisting another county, it would be billed and reimbursed. He talked about the importance of being proactive and moving forward in the event of a catastrophe. Chair Murdock noted on Monday that week, he met with Tillamook County on other subjects. They are very supportive of a partnership agreement with Umatilla County. He envisions Public Works, Emergency Management, Public Health, and Public Safety could be involved and felt there needs to be an agreement to memorialize all aspects; he did not want a piecemeal process, if possible. Commissioner Givens asked if after approval today, perhaps Mr. Olsen could craft an agreement that is more far-reaching to cover all other aspects of an agreement with other areas as noted by Chair Murdock. Mr. Fellows said this proposal has been put together by Association of County Surveyors – this is their specific scope – they want the Public Works piece covered at this time moving forward. **Chair Murdock moved to approve the sister agreement partnership with Tillamook County to Respond to Natural Disasters and to adopt Order No. BCC2015-024; in addition to clarify that Umatilla County wants to partner in all aspects, including Public Health and Public Safety. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

10. Authorize Purchase of a Used Generator. The staff report was made by Tom Fellows, Public Works Director. The County issued a request for proposals for purchase of a used generator. The one they have now works the rock crusher. Parts will not be available. A response was received from Empire Power Systems; this generator was from a hospital in Arizona and has only run 295 hours. The amount is \$59,000; it is included in the current year's budget. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve purchase of a used Caterpillar diesel generator for \$59,000 from Empire Power Systems. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

11. Authorize Property Repurchase. Mr. Olsen provided the staff report. This happened due to a bank oversight and failure to take care of the taxes for the property owner. The property is located on Cooney Lane in Hermiston. The property owner and the mortgage holder are requesting to repurchase the property for the amount of delinquent property taxes, including interest, late fees and foreclosure costs. **Commissioner Givens moved to adopt Order No. TX2015-01. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

12. Appointment to EOTEC Authority Board. Mr. Olsen provided the staff report. This will be for Don Miller to fill the position. Commissioner Givens advised that Steve Williams in Hermiston expressed interest in the position. He explained to him the position is for geographic diversity. He has not heard again from Mr. Williams. In addition, he felt Don Miller (as a Fair Board member) would be good for the appointment (he is from Milton-Freewater) to replace the late Chet Prior on the EOTEC Board. The idea at the outset was to have broad-based representation from throughout the county. **Commissioner Givens moved to adopt Order No. BCC2015-025. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering.** Discussion: Commissioner Elfering noted one concern expressed to him is that the EOTEC Board is being over-represented by the Fair Board – with Don Miller and with Dan Doran and also the Farm City Rodeo being part of the equation; however, Commissioner Elfering felt that Don Miller would be a good and fair representative. Commissioner Givens added he has also heard concerns about representation. Also that EOTEC is just a Hermiston thing – which it is not. It is county-wide. **Motion carried, 3-0.** Chair Murdock asked for the record, in the course with corresponding with Steve Williams, the Board of Commissioners appreciated his interest and to be aware other positions may be available in the future.

Commissioner Reports

1. Chair Murdock reported that senior managers in Tillamook County meet one time each month. Umatilla County now has two senior manager meetings per month. He feels attendance has been spotty and suggested meetings could be used for professional growth, and to point out it is a meeting between Commissioners and Senior Management Staff and they should be expected to participate. He understood there may be conflicts. Discussion included the day of each month to consider; perhaps the latter part of the month? The last Wednesday each month would be good. Regarding next week's Senior Manager meeting, Chair Murdock wants to cancel it as there is no program. Commissioner Elfering agreed that senior managers' schedules are busy as are the Commissioners; he also liked the idea of training/presentations – good and useful information to share.

2. Commissioner Elfering reported he had a conversation with Greg Silbernagel, Watermaster, about his department's budget, in preparation for the County-wide budget process.

He met with Dale Primmer at Community Justice, who is well prepared. He has received great training from Mark Royal. Commissioner Elfering felt Mr. Primmer has good grasp on the Director position.

He plans to meet with Hermiston representatives about jail beds as they relate Hermiston, fees, and jail concerns as well as dispatch.

He recently met with Karie Walchli, Tourism Coordinator. He and Ms. Walchli will meet with State Fair representatives next Monday after AOC meetings. He is relying on her to handle the State Fair which previously had been led by the Community & Economic Development Director.

He noted it will be a completely different display this coming year and discussions will cover what will be changing.

He also met recently with Susan Bower about updating Economic Development and Tourism in the County's Strategic Plan.

3. Commissioner Givens reported. He plans to meet with Senator Hansell and representatives from the City of Milton-Freewater this weekend to discuss SB 121. He will attend AOC events including an Executive meeting of the Board Sunday evening and different AOC committee meetings all day Monday.

An issue has come up in the Planning Department, his liaison department. A resignation has been tendered. A new position was being advertised at this time. He is in discussions with Tamra Mabbott about Planning and Land Use and the impact of less staff covering duties. In the near future, it appears he and Ms. Mabbott will need to attend a lot of meetings in Salem and testify accordingly.

He will attend an MPO meeting today. They will discuss a new office for the MPO. They need to save money of overhead costs and other things.

Back to Chair Murdock: On Friday, he will be in Salem for LGAC meeting and a Health & Human Services Committee meeting. He will not be at AOC on Monday, thus there will be a staff meeting next week. In addition, as mentioned earlier, the Senior Manager meeting that was set for next Wednesday has been cancelled, so that day may be available for an Administrative meeting. On 3/19/15 public comments are due for the B2H Project. He has drafted comments and needs direction from the Commissioners about submitting to Idaho Power.

Commissioner Givens talked about hearings on Senate Bills and his feeling bills are moving forward at warp speed. The legislature is pushing things through quickly without much local comment. Also there are bills about public safety and about public health, which he will be watching closely as they relate to Umatilla County.

Transportation Bills are also coming up. He requested that Mr. Fellows be watching them and report to him for any needed action.

There was no further business.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary
Umatilla County Board of Commissioners