

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of July 1, 2015
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Members and Guests Present: Bill Hampton, Houtama Hydropower LLC; Janet Jones, UCo Health Community Health Educator; Jenna Lorenzen, UCo Health Outreach Coordinator; Alisha Southwick, UCo Health WSH Supervisor; Dick Ferranti, Ferranti-Graybeal Insurance; Tom Fellows, Public Works Director; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director; Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Chair George Murdock welcomed all and reminded those 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, please 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 led by Commissioner Givens.

Awards/Recognitions/Correspondence. Commissioner Elfering read (1) a letter provided by Sheriff Rowan recognizing Al Plumb --his superior service and professionalism helped to achieve a very successful conference for training on subject of gangs of all kinds. (2) Chair Murdock read a letter from the Oregon Department of Revenue regarding property tax appraiser Rachel Reynolds in A&T for the 2015 Ratio Study Report. The report was put together on a very complex subject. Ms. Reynolds was present and audience applauded her. (3) Regarding the Milton-Freewater Junior Livestock Show, many thank you notes/letters were received for the County support of 4H – Chair Murdock read 6. (4) A thank you note was received from Zack Scheibner who was an intern in the Commissioners’ Office; he recently graduated from OSU. (5) Regarding Elections, thank you notes were received from the Round Up Republican Women’s Club to Dan Lonai and Kim Lindell for their informative presentations about elections. Commissioner Givens mentioned for information that the County contributes to area 4H shows/sales for financial support referred to as “boosting/bumping” price for animals. Commissioner Elfering also noted the funds come from discretionary funds from the Lotto – it is good support for youth in the community.

Acknowledgment of Minutes of Previous Meetings. Commissioner Givens moved to acknowledge meeting minutes of 5/20/15 and 06/03/15 including minutes of the 06/03/15 Executive Session. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.

Additions to Agenda. None.

Public Input and Recognition of Visitors. None.

Agenda

1. **Workers' Comp and Property/Liability Insurance.** Dick Ferranti, Insurance Agent of Record for the County, presented information on (1) property/liability insurance and (2) workers' comp insurance. He and Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director, distributed Premium comparisons to the Board. CIS' (City-County Insurance Services) main focus is to help cities and counties avoid bumps in the marketplace – to keep things for even. Last year, total premiums jumped up, primarily in liability. Typically, auto liability (particularly for law enforcement) was a problem for CIS, but this year it is not nearly as high. CIS has provided training throughout the state which has helped in awareness. 10% compared to 24% higher the previous year. The total property and casualty package is \$456,000 before deductions are made (discounts), after which net annual cost is \$416,554. He noted negotiated fees for agents – it is a more fair way to compensate for services provided. Mr. Ferranti noted he has requested an increase of \$1,000 for negotiated fee, which he had not done for several years. Other item to note at bottom of first page, CIS made note of employee liability claims need to be addressed – they have had training sessions to help avoid employee claims. Commissioner Elfering asked about this item regarding advance assistance. Mr. Ferranti responded even if it is reported, there would be a 10% liability.

Workers' Comp: Mr. Ferranti provided history of the plan (elaborated in the handout). The last three years there were good numbers and employment related claims are decreasing. He highlighted costs of payroll, classifications are different for different types of employment and noted factors to consider. In 2015, loss averages have gone back to below average for the next year. Models go back to oldest years – so 2010 was dropped, which was a high factor. He noted good news for next year -- the biggest claim year goes off and out of the equation. With those trends, he felt it appears next year the County will go down about 10%. He then went on to discuss the Guaranteed Cost Plan, which is what Umatilla County has been on for several years. The premium does not change. The other plan is a retro plan (option not selected for many years). This is a more volatile (risky) system since losses are unknown. If losses are less than \$89,000 (break-even point) you make money, but if claims go higher it is risky. Even with a dividend from SAIF, it is still unknown and exposure is too great. Commissioner Givens felt the path chosen from 2009 with Mr. Ferranti's direction to go with the Guaranteed Cost Plan worked out very well for the County.

Doug Olsen advised if the report is accepted, then the Board action is to authorize renewal with SAIF and also renewal of property/liability coverage. Robert Pahl, CFO, also requested that payment of the bill be included in the action. **Commissioner Elfering moved to accept the report from Dick Ferranti regarding insurance and that authorization is given for payment of the premium for amount of \$240,310 and also to approve SAIF as Workers' Comp coverage and CIS for liability coverage for 2015-16. Commissioner Givens seconded with a comment to publicly acknowledge Dick Ferranti's efforts and work in providing expertise for the County – it has saved thousands of dollars over the last many years. Commissioner Elfering agreed that Mr. Ferranti has been a great source of assistance. Carried, 3-0.**

2. **McKay Dam Hydroelectric Project.** Bill Hampton, Houtama Hydropower LLC President, came to the podium. He is looking for feedback from the Board today for what information is needed as a part of project for adding a hydroelectric project at McKay Dam. He proceeded with a Power

Point presentation with specifics of the project including: similar hydroelectric projects, benefits, approach, site maps, potential power to be produced, transmission line (already exists and only minor upgrades are needed), projected revenues, costs, schedule, environmental benefits, and next steps for licensing and feedback.

In response to Commissioner Elfering's question about job creation, Mr. Hampton responded it appears 1 job will be created; during maintenance and construction, there would be many more. It is a cost of \$6 million cost in a 6-year process. Commissioner Givens asked about partners. Mr. Hampton advised there are no partnerships (no written contracts with Pacific Power or any other entities) at this time. This is the initial process. In addition, he is looking at other projects in the NW. Commissioner Givens talked about other hydro projects in the past that did not work well for the County, but it was a different scenario. Regarding noise and vibration compared to similar sites, Mr. Hampton advised the equipment is relatively quiet and noise should not be a problem. Chair Murdock asked if he is meeting any resistance. Mr. Hampton noted the process is challenging, but he has not had resistance. Discussion continued about industry standard – is there a cost comparison for the estimated 1,000 homes to be served (hydro vs. solar)? Mr. Hampton said for a similar solar project it would cost about 4 times as much. Hydro is more efficient and it will qualify for tax incentives (if it is new -- pointed out by Commissioner Givens). This is a green project so it will qualify for tax incentives. Discussion continued about jet flow and more oxygen is in the water. Commissioner Givens asked Mr. Hampton to come back with an update. At some point he will want public support. Mr. Hampton advised Baker County has a similar project in the works; it is about 4 years ahead of the McKay project.

3. Tax Payment Drop Boxes. Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director, presented. This is in connection with Paul Chalmers, A&T, who inquired about adding a locking drop boxes to collect tax payments. This would be similar to the elections/ballot drop box. He referred to a map with proposed location just east of the sally port. He has contacted Sheriff Rowan about moving a designated space for UCSO in the courthouse back parking lot. He has also talked with Sgt. Dwight Johnson regarding security issues. There is a dumpster that would be moved away from the "sally port" to open that area for drop boxes. He talked about the type of drop boxes, locking with a small opening. He believes a camera should be placed for monitoring similar to what is used now for the "mail box" at the corner of SE Dorion & 5th Streets. Discussion continued about other options for moving the boxes and convenience for drivers dropping items off, traffic flow patterns, safety and security. Regarding traffic safety in the back parking lot, Commissioner Givens suggested it might help to consider making one entrance and one exit to improve the traffic flow.

Mr. Lonai noted an option to place the drop box in the North parking lot, but it was felt that being closer to the building and cameras would be preferable. Commissioner Elfering posed a question to Mr. Chalmers if there is a lot of commentary about dropping off tax payments rather than bringing them into the building. Mr. Chalmers responded it is #1 complaint that an outside drop box would be more convenient. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve to purchase and placement of a tax payment drop box and relocation as depicted on the map of the dumpster and ballot drop box. Chair Murdock asked to modify the motion to accept design recommendations at cost as identified plus adding a camera for security (unknown figure at this time), since it is Mr. Lonai's recommendation and there is additional money involved. Commissioner Givens agreed to modify the motion as noted. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

4. Marijuana Committee Appointments. Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, presented. This is for two committee replacements of those no longer employed by the County. These are for representatives of the alcohol and drug addiction treatment field. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve appointment of Mike Graber and Charlie Carnes to the County Medical Marijuana Committee, adopting Order No. BCC2015-057. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Community Outreach – Tobacco Program. Janet Jones, UCo Health Community Health Educator, presented. This is for a social media strategy to incorporate community outreach for the Tobacco Program. \$2,000 would come from the Tobacco Program, for a community outreach position. It is in the budget. They would like to hire a summer intern to boost website design and social media campaign. Commissioner Elfering asked that in the process we somewhat sensitive to the merchants who sell tobacco products. Ms. Jones agreed this will definitely be the case and it will be communicated when developing the campaign. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve hiring an Intern through the month of August, 2015 at \$11.00/hour, not to exceed 19 hours per week with no benefits. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Creation of Position – School Based Health. Alisha Southwick, UCo Health WSH Supervisor, presented. Last year this was a 19 hour/week AOII position and this year looking to be full-time. Responding to Chair Murdock’s mention of reorganization, she advised billing and coding has made this increase possible. It is budgeted into grant funding already obtained. Staffing and manning changed as of October making SBH more efficient and provided cost savings for the way the position is being handled. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the new SBH OA II position effective 7/1/15 and authorize starting the recruitment process. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Creation of Position – A&D. Mr. Olsen presented. This is an OAIII position in the Alcohol & Drug Treatment Program under the Community Justice Department. Funds are available in the FY15-16 budget. **Chair Murdock moved to approve the new OAIII position effective 7/1/15. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Director’s Holds. Mr. Olsen presented. Lifeways is requesting to update its employees to qualify for authority to exercise “Director’s Hold”. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/adopt BCC Order No. 2015-016. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
9. County Fire Fighting Equipment. Commissioner Givens noted in light of drought and high fire danger, he would like the County Road Department to have equipment (tankers, bulldozers and etc.) available to local fire districts in emergencies when their resources are stretched. In talking with Tom Fellows, Public Works Director, there is an estimate of cost between \$500 and \$1,000 for a water truck and employee @ \$50 per hour (depending on the employee and costs associated with the position). For a 10 hour call out, it would be \$500 for that unit. It could be a little more depending on the type and number of equipment utilized. It would just be a source of water (4,000 or 8,000 gallons available) for the firetruck, not for actual firefighting. Commissioner Givens noted discussion if needed for logistics, use of equipment and safety considerations. He wants to support our farmers and citizens in rural areas. It would be out of general fund-contingency and is reasonable to assist communities in emergency. Robert Pahl, CFO, asked about the logistical question – is there a process about notifying of the need and who would they

contact? Commissioner Givens advised they would go through the incident commander first, then contact the Fire Marshall, Jim Whelan, then Jack Remillard, Emergency Management, who would then contact Tom Fellows -- and only in event of emergency. Discussion turned to Mr. Remillard's retirement (he is part-time at present). Commissioner Elfering advised it is in the works and he is looking to retire in 2 years.

Chair Murdock clarified this process would solely be at the call of a fire district and it would only be within the fire district. There was also discussion about farmers helping one another – water trucks, disks and the like. The intent, per Commissioner Givens, Chair Murdock, and Tom Fellows is County Public Works involvement would only occur in a fire district area – not in “no man’s land” – where people are not within fire districts. Chair Murdock noted the importance of not creating liability for the County, but it is a wonderful plan. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve use of County owned equipment for fighting fires in Umatilla County. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.** Mr. Olsen clarified language and intent: to make available up to four tankers for use as a backup in a conflagration or when local resources are limited. Any costs to the Public Works Department for use of its equipment or labor will be reimbursed by other funds from the County or outside sources. Use of the equipment will be determined by the Public Works Director and the Emergency Manager.

There was no Executive Session.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Elfering: He is working on the continuing issue at Dispatch Center – it is moving forward. An Advisory Committee will be formed to advise on issues that arise. Yesterday, he secured the final volunteer to serve on the committee; they will be ready to meet soon. Approval was obtained from small cities to discuss the appropriate way to assess charges to them to support Dispatch. There is need to improve communications. He asked about Board involvement and Advisory Committee appointments. Would informal appointments be appropriate? Commissioner Givens suggested he coordinate with Doug Olsen. Chair Murdock felt the Board should not appoint the members, but it would be well to somehow recognize the committee members.

Commissioner Givens: He is dealing with road issues and Public Works. A new seasonal help person was recently hired for Harris Park. Mr. Fellows reports he is doing very well. They are still looking for a camp host.

He is also working with the Forest Service trying to schedule meetings regarding the Blue Mountain Forest and the Forest Plan – more work is to be done.

After the Board meeting, he will attend the MPO meeting in Walla Walla.

Chair Murdock: He met with Mark Royal yesterday relative to the Human Services Division. Mr. Royal has done a great job in the last two months righting the ship and getting the program pointed in the right direction. Mike Graber and Charlie Carnes will be heading up Human Services. Contracts are being signed for Mental Health (A&D).

He is continuing work to implement an 8% philosophy of indirect costs.

DD Program contracts are still being worked on – this is a statewide issue.

Dale Primmer is heading up Community Justice replacing Mark Royal as Director as of today (7/1/15). It will help alleviate the extra amount of work to have Human Services under the direction of Mike Graber and Charlie Carnes. It is a comfortable fit to have Human Services under the prevue of Community Justice. Things are heading in the right direction.

He noted there are now eight department directors down from 12 from the last few years. County reorganization continues.

Discussion continued about the back parking lot and traffic safety issues

Commissioner Givens talked about an issue of the County credit/purchase cards -- he noted that he and Commissioner Murdock received PIN numbers along with their new purchase cards (replacements for expired cards). Mr. Pahl asked to be kept informed as County purchase cards should not be set up as debit cards to get cash so there would be no need for PIN numbers. He will do more investigation with Umpqua Bank.

Chair Murdock advised about the scheduled 7/15Board meeting, he will attend as he will just be getting back from the NACO conference the night before. Commissioner Givens advised he may not be at that meeting due to his return flight from North Carolina.

Mr. Pahl announced the FY15-16 Budget is now adopted and budget books are being sent out to all departments. The Finance Department is working on year end business.

Chair Murdock followed up from a previous meeting about obtaining a rough estimate of the County's costs associated with recent flooding. Commissioner Givens advised he has spoken with Tom Fellows who is gathering the information and will report back soon to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary
Umatilla County Board of Commissioners