

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of September 16, 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: Tammy Sundin, Community Justice Office Manager; Bob Ward, City of Umatilla Manager; Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director; Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

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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. He also noted the meeting would likely be made available to the public as it is being video-recorded.

Pledge of Allegiance. Those in the room stood, saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Givens.

Acknowledgment of Minutes of Previous Meetings. Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the 9/11/15 Administrative minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.

Additions to Agenda. None.

Agenda – Business Items

1. **Echo Community Benefit Plan Grants.** Commissioner Elfering presented. The Committee has recommended a second round of grants for 2015. He named the grants/projects approved and amounts for each as listed in Order 2015-074. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/adopt Order No. BCC 2015-074. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

2. **Authorization to Hire – Community Justice.** Commissioner Elfering reported and gave background. Larry Criswell announced his intention to retire at the end of 2016. There is no general fund implication; revenue would come from a state grant. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve for double-fill the position effective 10/1/15 to cover while Mr. Criswell moves to Veterans to cover a staffing need/vacancy in that department. Seconded by Commissioner Givens.** Tammy Sundin, Community Justice Office Manager, noted funds would come out of contingency to cover additional employee costs. There were no other questions. **Motion carried, 3-0.**

3. **Authorization to Hire – District Attorney.** Mr. Olsen presented. A request was made for a temporary position for limited time for need in that office. **Commissioner Givens moved to**

approve hire of a temporary part-time employee in the DA's Office, not to exceed 520 hours, effective 9/16/15. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

4. Fairgrounds Office Staffing. Commissioner Givens noted with the resignation of Peggy Anderson as Fairgrounds Manager (leaving for Grants Pass), effective 9/11/15, there is a need for staffing at Fairgrounds. There are two people in the office and Human Resources is asking to go out for recruitment of a Fairgrounds Manager for limited duration. The request is to authorize recruitment for the temporary position, to upgrade the current administrative aide to a temporary salary adjustment to reflect additional duties during the period of the manager vacancy, and to authorize employment of a temporary office assistant at minimum wage to provide office coverage. Mr. Olsen noted a slight savings at this time since the position of the manager is vacant. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve/authorize recruitment of a Fairgrounds Manager for limited duration at Range 30, not to exceed a period through 12/31/16; authorize temporary adjustment for the Fair Administrative Aide to an Administrative Assistant, Range 18, Step 2, during that time the Fairgrounds Manager position is vacant, beginning 9/14/15; and to authorize continued employment of a temporary Office Assistant paid at minimum wage during the same term, for up to 19 hours per week with no benefits. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0**
5. Enterprise Zone Agreement. Mr. Olsen noted this item is coming before board for approval of the Enterprise Zone Agreement. An application was received for business expansion within the Greater Umatilla Enterprise zone. It seeks to extend the automatic three year tax abatement for development to five years. Bob Ward, Umatilla City Manager, added a business in 2012 asked for tax abatement and a memo of agreement was entered into. The first piece of the project is the standard 3-year tax abatement. The remaining items, building, mechanical systems, etc. would be for the 5-year abatement.

In 2014, a request was made for a second building, which was accepted but still awaiting a site inspection to determine perishable goods. There is now a third building, thus two 5-year abatements are to be dealt with. It would be 50% abatement in year 4 and 75% in year 5. Commissioner Elfering asked about jobs created by expansion. Mr. Ward noted there are not a significant amount of jobs, however, it looks to be about a dozen for each of the two buildings; there is not a massive hiring at one time. Commissioner Givens asked for a projection of job growth. Mr. Ward didn't have an exact number, but is not high like a processing plant. Taxable value of the community would definitely be increased. This is a good thing for the community. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the extended tax abatement and sign a Five Year Enterprise Zoe Tax Abatement Agreement. Motion seconded by Commissioner Givens. Motion carried, 3-0.**

6. Community Based Victims Services Contract. Mr. Olsen presented. A Request for Proposals was issued for providing victims services to be funded with the Community Based Victim Services portion of the Justice Reinvestment Funds. A portion (10%) must go to victim services. Two proposals were submitted. The LPSCC selection committee recommendation is to award a grant for Domestic Violence Services in the amount of \$88,842. (The other proposal did not meet the requirements of the proposal request.) **Commissioner Givens moved to approve/award a contract for community based victim services to Domestic Violence Services in the amount of \$88,842. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

7. Wheatridge Comments. Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, presented. Last week (9/9/15) the Board of Commissioners voted on this item. Today is to formalize the decision with the findings of fact. This includes in depth legal analysis provided by attorney Wendie Kellington. Mr. Olsen added if the order is adopted, it also adopts the findings. **Commissioner Givens moved In the Matter of Special Advisory Group Recommendation and Findings on Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility, to adopt Order No. BCC2015-075. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

8. Approve Payable – Kellington Law Group. Commissioner Givens requested moving this item up on the agenda to immediately follow the discussion on Wheatridge Comments. He went on to talk about the B2H (Boardman to Hemingway) program, irrigated ag lands in Umatilla County, and another issue discussed with the Navy that impacted the same ag lands in addition to other items all combined would have an impact on the Wheatridge discussion. All this required additional in-depth legal analysis; thus the County contracted with Wendie Kellington for that purpose.

Commissioner Givens continued – at yesterday’s EOCA meeting he attended, they discussed the legal issues in a similar matter (sage grouse and very costly fires in Union and Baker Counties). There may be further discussions with BLM in that regard. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve the payable to Kellington Law Group in the amount of \$22,600. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.** Ms. Mabbott noted the Kellington payable is going to be submitted to the State for possible reimbursement.

On another subject, she asked Commissioner Givens about EOCA’s position about B2H. He felt different counties have different positions, but there is nothing official at this time. He talked about the devastation of fires and now big implications of sage grouse. BLM, Idaho Power and local government have concerns about economic impact for many reasons. He also noted an Owyhee Canyon Monument issue coming to the forefront that could have further adverse economic impacts. Back to B2H, Ms. Mabbott talked about routing and alternatives and the possible need to start over the Draft EIS process. Commissioner Givens agreed it might happen. Commissioner Givens advised that Congressman Walden was at the EOCA meeting and will be involved in future discussions of topics raised there. Ms. Mabbott noted the need to focus and include information for her and Commissioner Murdock’s presentation next week to the State Board of Agriculture.

9. Payable to EOCA. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve the payable to Union County for Eastern Oregon Counties Association dues in the amount of \$15,800.** Umatilla County’s portion equates to 1.5% of PILT payment. The County has been working closely with NACO as well as AOC regarding PILT. Commissioner Elfering asked if there are still two counties not participating? Commissioner Givens did not know. **Motion seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

10. Community Advisory Council Appointments. Mr. Olsen noted two more appointments to the Local Community Advisory Council to EOCCO. David Brehaut and Jeffrey A. Williams have never been appointed, but they have attended meetings. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/adopt Order No. BCC2015-073. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

No Executive Session was needed.

Commissioner Reports

1. Commissioner Givens. Reported on Monday's AOC meeting in regard to EOCA. Discussion in the Public Lands Steering Committee included issues with trying to promote policies at the AOC level with the Governor's office regarding fire prevention funding and the desire for more leeway to work with the Oregon Department of Forestry.

At the EOCA meeting on 9/15, discussion topics included fires, forestry management and policies. Representative Greg Walden talked about taking back federal lands, Baker County was the only one of the group who said they did not care about the cost, they wanted federal lands taken back. PILT is getting traction and working on permanent revenue. However, SRS is losing ground. He talked about timber receipts and harvesting. Umatilla County is concerned with water issues; there is need to greater use Columbia River water. All counties are concerned about Waters of the US; 13 states were exempted from this policy. However, Oregon, Washington and California were left out of that because the Governors of the three states have opted to support it rather than oppose it. Also discussed was devastation of fires.

2. Chair Murdock talked about federal and state take-over of programs by locals noting there would still be federal oversight and intrusion. Commissioner Givens added federal government does not seem to be following the rules or federal code when local government is expected to follow all rules. Commissioner Elfering noted not a lot of practical action with take-back of federal lands -- funding does not seem to come with the responsibility. Chair Murdock noted as a matter of record that Umatilla County does not want to take back federal lands.

Regarding "Owyhee Monument" designation, it is proposed by President Obama to take 2.1 million acres in Malheur County under the Antiquities Act. This action would stop all development entirely in the designated area. Commissioner Givens talked about federal land being designated under this Act and potentially land-locking private property, which would be a devastating economic impact. He went on to talk about other areas that might possibly be considered under the Act after opening the door to this type of action. He noted Malheur County prepared a resolution to oppose this. Mr. Olsen will prepare a similar resolution to support Malheur County's opposition to be ready for the next Board meeting. Commissioner Givens noted AOC is also supportive of Malheur County's position. It would be a devastating impact for grazing and irrigated agriculture.

3. Commissioner Elfering has spent a lot of time with community and economic development including meetings with Round-Up City Development Corporation, Blue Mountain Community College on putting together plans and intentions; a work session is planned for 9/23. He will attend an EOTEC meeting that night – discussions continue and building is progressing. He plans to attend a Base Realignment conference in Texas in October, which will go over the transfer back process of the army depot. It still looks like the transfer of property to the Columbia Development Authority will be early next year. Also regarding the CDA, they are looking to move the office to Umatilla County from Morrow County as most of the development is there. Chair Murdock noted he had heard positive public comments about things moving forward with the CDA.

Commissioner Elfering mentioned an agreement with Con Agra Foods in relation to the Westland Road intersection and concerns about the road. In working with the County Road Department, an agreement was made to place additional lighting at the intersection at Con Agra's expense. Kudos to Tom Fellows, Director, and the Public Works Department.

Chair Murdock commented on (1) drop boxes for collection of taxes and also the project for additional drop-off sites for ballots; (2) Melinda Slatt continues work on arranging a meeting in the near future with the East Oregonian editorial board to discuss EOTEC; and (3) UCo Health is a public health leader in the State.

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary
Umatilla County Board of Commissioners