

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Meeting of December 2, 2015  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon

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

**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen

**Members and Guests Present:** Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director; Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer; Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance.** Led by Commissioner Givens

**Welcome.** Chair George Murdock welcomed all and reminded those present that the meeting is a public forum. It is being recorded (videotaped and audio taped) and minutes will be taken. Comments will become part of the meeting record. If persons wish to speak before the Board, please come to the podium, identify yourself and state where you live for the record.

**Awards/Recognitions and Correspondence:** Commissioner Elfering read comments (1) from Jack Remillard, Emergency Manager, regarding a vehicle accident that recently occurred on I-84; Dispatch handled 65 911 calls in 3 hours for the MVA (in addition to a lot of weather related incidents). There were many first responders from different agencies and Dispatch did a great job! (2) Thank you from Jay Arment for the efficient conceal & carry process; it was swift and professional. (3) Thank you from the Landover Hills Mobile Home Park in Hermiston. The Sheriff’s office, deputies and dispatch respond timely and do a good job. Also thanks for the good job done by Code Enforcement cleaning up the area. (4) From Weston Chamber, thank you for the \$1,000 contribution in support of community development activities. Chair Murdock read a thank you from Mari Freeburg Amstutz regarding Bettina Enright’s work in A&T – she was extremely helpful and diligent.

**Acknowledgment of Minutes of Previous Meetings.** Commissioner Givens moved to approve minutes of meetings: 9/23/15 Work Session; 10/7/15 Board meeting; 10/19/15 Board meeting; 10/20/15 Board meeting and 10/21/15 Board meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.

**Additions to Agenda.** None.

**Public Recognition/input.** None.

**Presentations.** None.

## Agenda – Business Items

1. Payable to EOTEC. Doug Olsen noted this \$450,000 payable is from the funds set aside for the purpose of moving the fairgrounds. This is separate from the \$600,000 recently approved by the Board. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
2. EOTEC Order. Commissioner Givens gave background – on 11/9/15 the Board made the decision to contribute an additional \$600,000 to EOTEC and requested staff to prepare an order to document its position. The City of Hermiston is requesting a meeting to continue to discuss EOTEC. Chair Murdock requested the Board act on the item today then schedule a meeting for discussion with City of Hermiston. Commissioner Givens did not feel they wanted to change anything, but a conversation with County did not occur. Mr. Olsen noted this order sets out the Board's position regarding the treasurer and county representation on the EOTEC Board; it is not unilateral and will require City agreement. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve/adopt Order No. BCC2015-088. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
3. Authorization to Reclassify Victim Assistance Program Director. Mr. Olsen presented. Approval is sought to reclassify the director position from a salary Range 18 to Range 20. DA Dan Primus is in approval. The position has an expanded managerial role and the salary is more in line with other counties. Grant funds are available to pay the additional cost. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve reclassification of Victim Assistance Program at salary Range 20. Commissioner Givens seconded. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Authorize Purchase of Vehicle - A&T. Mr. Olsen presented. Bids went out again to purchase a new vehicle for the Assessment and Taxation Department; 4 bids were received. The lowest bid came from Tom Denchel Ford, Hermiston. The Fleet Management program has funds to purchase. Commissioner Elfering noted a used vehicle is about \$4,000 less. He feels with mileage of a used car, it is an excellent buy on the 2016 vehicle. **Commissioner Elfering moved to authorize purchase of a 2016 Ford Fusion from Tom Denchel Ford in the amount of \$19,134. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.** Mr. Olsen noted this will be final car for the 2015-16 Fleet Management Fund allocation.
5. Appointment to Local Community Advisory Council. Mr. Olsen noted Catie Brenaman has attended LCAC meetings as a representative of Good Shepherd Medical Center. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve/adopt Order No. BCC2015-090. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Appointments to AWERE Board. Mr. Olsen noted the previous representative on the AWERE Board moved from the Athena-Weston School District. Action today is to appoint Jim Reger to replace Jerry Copeland. In addition terms of four other members' positions are expiring shortly and reappointment is sought for John Shafer, Chet Mills, George Murdock and Michael Odmann. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve/ adopt Order No. BCC 2015-089. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Collective Bargaining for DA's office. Mr. Olsen presented. The proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2015-18 with the Deputy District Attorneys is before the Board for ratification. Besides some minor language revisions, financial exchanges are: cost of living raises: 1.5% this year (2015-16), 2% next year (2016-17) and 2% for year 2017-18. Increases are

consistent with other agreements in place. In addition, raises are to be given to 3 categories – primarily for retention purposes and also to get more comparable. The result is 3% to DA2 and DA3 will be 5% and an additional 3% next year. DA4 will be 5% this year. Jennifer Blake, HR, also commented that pay raises would be retroactive to 7/1. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve, ratify and sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2015-18 with Deputy District Attorneys. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.** Chair Murdock noted for record there is a workshop scheduled on 12/8/15 for senior managers with LGPI (Local Government Personnel Institute) representing the County and assisting with negotiations.

8. Next meeting of the Board is 12/16/15.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Elfering. He will attend a meeting in Salem with the Oregon National Guard (and Greg Smith of the Columbia Development Authority) to negotiate for water rights on the depot property. Business has been picking up with interests in locating. Mr. Smith plans to go to Washington DC in mid-January along with Port of Morrow Director, two Senators, a US Representative, Corps of Engineers representative and BRAC office as well as himself to try to expedite the process moving forward for economic development. Time is of the essence.

Commissioner Elfering also noted some recent dog problems in West County – handled to all satisfaction.

Commissioner Givens. He was gone last week to Alaska. He will attend the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting in Walla Walla; part of the discussion will be about some grant funding that may be available for a bike-pedestrian project between Milton-Freewater and Walla Walla.

Executive Officers and Association Presidents will meet in Idaho on 12/9, 10 and 11 (returning Friday night). He and AOC Executive Director Mike MacArthur will attend.

NACO /Counties Presidents will meet Jan 4 – 8, 2016 in Washington DC. He noted that AOC pays for that trip. In addition, he will attend a meeting on 1/20/16 with Governor Brown.

Commissioner Elfering congratulated Commissioner Givens as the newly elected President of AOC (announced at the November AOC annual conference in Eugene).

Commissioner Murdock. He has transferred to a different NACO sub-committee and will only attend that portion of the February 2016 NACo Legislative conference.

He noted a prior Walla Walla County Commissioner (Mr. Carey) passed away and he will attend the funeral in Walla Walla that afternoon.

Regarding the Governor's Task Force on Energy & Transportation, he will attend a meeting on 12/21 in Boardman. He feels they are getting closer to resolution. In addition, he feels the new Energy advisor is very good.

On 12/22/16 the annual employee Christmas breakfast will be held. There are some new managers since last year, response has been good and all is going well.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

*Melinda Slatt, Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners*