

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Administrative Meeting of December 22, 2015
10:00 a.m., Room 121, 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: Dale Primmer, Community Justice Director; Carrie Bennett, Adams City Recorder; Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director; Gina Miller Code Enforcement Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Chair George Murdock welcomed all and reminded those present that the meeting is a public forum. It is being recorded and minutes will be taken.

Additions to Agenda. None.

Agenda – Business Items

1. Adams Code Enforcement. Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, and Gina Miller, Code Enforcement Coordinator, gave the staff report. The City of Adams asked County Planning to provide Code Enforcement services on contract. There was a contract in 2007 for the City of Weston and they used it as a base. It would be approximately four hours every other week = \$30/hour for Officer Burrows’ enforcement services. The Adams City Council has yet to review the proposal. Today the City of Adams is asking for Board input/comments/concerns.

Carrie Bennett, Adams City Recorder, advised the citizens and council are in favor of it – they’ would like to use County services at this time. Commissioner Elfering asked if costs are adequate for the contract. Ms. Mabbott advised it will generate a small revenue and work with Adams’ limited budget. One discussion point with liaison Commissioner Givens was if it can be revenue positive and does not create more work demand on County Counsel, Gina Miller and Ted Burrows, it would be agreeable. Commissioner Givens suggested staff pursue more information to make sure staff time is adequate. Chair Murdock said it would be, at first, an increased workload to start. Ms. Mabbott felt that once presence is known and understanding is there, it could work well with Burrows’ time and duties (he would patrol Adams on Friday when his schedule is open). Chair Murdock felt it is good to work with small towns in the County. Ms. Mabbott noted Officer Burrows is a post-PERS employee and he does not have hourly constraints. She noted small cities and staff wear lots of hats and agreed with Chair Murdock it is good help for the County to contract for services. Ms. Bennett said a budget is set aside for the year and funds are available. Commissioner Elfering suggested running this by Robert Pahl,

CFO. It would be costs plus 8% for a yardstick or \$30/hour. Ms. Bennett reiterated the Adams City Council is agreeable. **Commissioner Givens moved to instruct staff to pursue the exact costs + 8% and come back with final information at future meeting. Ms. Mabbott also pointed out that Ms. Bennett would handle paperwork for County Counsel to appear at court – cases would be on the same as Pendleton docket. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. The motion was amended by Commissioner Givens for approval to move ahead with the contract document figured at cost + 8%. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

2. Authorize RFP for Weed Contract. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve issuance of Request for Proposals for the Purchase of Weed Control Products for 2016. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

3. New positions for Community Justice and Alcohol & Drug. Dale Primmer, Community Justice Director, reported. This is a continuation from the last several months regarding the Justice Reinvestment grant. He received a letter from the State of Oregon confirming the award of a \$886,883 grant. Since the State has approved, it is now appropriate for the implementation phase of bringing on staff. He is looking to hire two addictions counselors, which are part of grant. One position would be at the jail and the second to pick up post-prison supervision which used to be at drug court. Fees will be generated from supervision and cycled around. There is no impact to the General Fund, all is planned and budgeted. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the new positions as outlined. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

4. Position Reclass-A&D. Mr. Primmer reported. Restructure of A&T began last spring. It started with Mark Royal before he retired in June. Mr. Primmer made an assessment over the last few months and feels the work done by the individual is crucial to the management team bringing continuity to the structure. The request is for Alcohol & Drug be allowed to reclassify the current Fiscal Assistant position into Office Manager, with salary at Range 20 rather than 18. This is still well under the this year's personnel budget line item and the adjustment will not cause a lot of budget change. Longer term there will be fiscal impact, but not at this time. Chair Murdock as liaison has been involved in the restructure from the beginning. **Chair Murdock moved to approve reclassifying the "fiscal officer" to "office Manager", Range 20, to become a BOLI exempt and non-union represented position. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.** Discussion: Mr. Primmer is doing community outreach (he provided brochures to the Board). They will be actively spreading the word to the public about available services. In addition, he talked about purchase of an electronic health record system (presented and approved at the last Board meeting). Since then, he spoke with GOBHI for reimbursement of incentive funds as the system will be a huge benefit for streamlining billing. Yesterday, he sent a letter to GOBHI and they replied immediately that \$56,700 was approved for reimbursement. This will be a great boost to his budget. The Board noted quick turn-around of grant award (about 6 hours!). They commended Mr. Primmer and his staff for the great job they are doing.

5. Umatilla Chamber of Commerce Grant - Commissioner Elfering noted this is the same amount as provided last year (\$10,000 total is requested). Umatilla Chamber needs help raising funds.

They also have the tourism/visitor center. He would approve \$5,000 each from the Economic Development Program Tourism fund and \$5,000 from Community Development. Commissioner Givens suggested being sure to assist all area chambers. Commissioner Elfering agreed and noted he did not like providing operational expenses. Requests like that from the Umatilla Chamber are a great help to small towns. Umatilla is the only gateway to Umatilla County. Chair Murdock added the County asked the Umatilla Chamber to handle specific things for operating the Visitor Center and they have done that. He also pointed out the County is a member of chambers throughout the area. **Motion was made by Commissioner Elfering to support the Umatilla Chamber = \$5,000 through Community Development funds. Commissioner Givens seconded. Carried, 3-0. Commissioner Elfering moved to approve \$5,000 to the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce from Tourism for the Gateway Visitor Center. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

6. Temporary Salary Increase – Public Health. Mr. Olsen said this is for a Health Account Assistant in Environmental Health for additional work since the supervisor position is vacant at this time. During the vacancy period, it would be to raise the salary 5%. **Chair Murdock moved to approve a temporary 5% increase of salary for Health Account Assistant from 12/1/15 until the vacant supervisor position is filled. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried 3-0.**
7. Other: Governor’s Task Force. Ms. Mabbott provided a brief report. She and Chair Murdock attended a meeting of the Governor’s Task Force on Energy and Agriculture in Boardman yesterday. There is a lot of discussion about transmission lines. Energy Advisor, Ruchi Sandhir, conducted the meeting. Morrow and Umatilla Counties’ comments will be coordinated on B2H transmission line. Discussion about proposed county corridors and alternates routes (overlay) has been ongoing for about eight years. J R Cook, NOWA, presented a problem statement and resolution at the meeting and it seemed most were in concurrence with the concept. The issue was raised of the need to be clear that Umatilla County is supportive of the concept, but since it helps Oregon meet energy standards, she suggested the State could assist. Landowner consent must be obtained. Planning looks to permit and ways to do that are still being figured out.

In summary, people felt good about transmission corridor – but where is everybody on the B2H issue. Chair Murdock added at the end of that meeting he asked if it could be discussed. Ruchi agreed it made sense for the two counties to have a similar comment. It was made clear Umatilla County is no longer promoting the I-84 corridor. In March a letter went out saying Umatilla County did not want the transmission line, but if it had to be, it agreed with I-84 corridor. It appears the October letter changing that position was overlooked. Discussion will be had at the January 6 Board meeting (Commissioner Givens will be unable to attend the 1/6 Board meeting as he is in Washington DC during that time).

Ms. Mabbott also noted a meeting earlier that morning with Commissioner Givens, Bob Waldher (Planning Department) and George Plaven at the EO as a follow-up to recent articles in the newspaper. County representatives shared information to date with Mr. Plaven for background. He agreed to use some of that additional information for more planned follow-up stories.

In addition, there is a meeting at 10 a.m. tomorrow (Bob Waldher to attend) to discuss having the BLM extend their comment period by 45 days (explained in more detail in a letter from Senator Merkley & Representative Walden which was received on 12/21).

Commissioner Elfering asked Ms. Mabbott if there is anything significant about the Navy's Final EIS about changes on the Boardman Bombing Range. She responded she had not seen it yet. Discussion continued about the airspace ceiling of 2500 ft. Ms. Mabbott suggested it might be informative to invite the new commanding officer at Whidbey Island to appear at a near future Board meeting. He has a good concise presentation. This bombing range by the Navy is the only one of its kind in the whole continental US. She referred to a flight pattern map – mostly in Morrow County. Ms. Mabbott will work with Melinda Slatt to arrange that. In addition, she will work with her about coordinating comments for the Final EIS (Bombing Range).

Commissioner Givens reported (1) he had received a call from another County about seizing horses/animal shelter matters. (2) Regarding EOTEC, he had called Ed Brookshier. He relayed EOTEC representatives want to be on the Board's agenda for the 12/30 meeting. They want to follow suit with City of Hermiston action and there are still concerns regarding the financial aspect. Mr. Olsen still needs to hear what the banks want (regarding collateral). Legally, he noted the County cannot encumber the General Fund. He is checking on other ways to legally handle the financing.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners