

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Meeting of December 30, 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 (appearing by telephone)

**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen

**Members and Guests Present:** Fred Bradbury, Pendleton Downtown Assoc. President; Jodi Florence, Emergency Management; Rick Rohde, Pendleton; Jack Remillard, Emergency Management Director; Dale Primer, Community Justice Director; Andrew Phelps, Oregon Emergency Management Director; Marie Jones, Finance/Budget Assistant Director; Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director; Terry Schuening, A&T Office Manager; Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director; Undersheriff Jim Littlefield; Capt. Dave Williamson, Sheriff's Office

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

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

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

**Recognitions:** Chair Murdock called on Paul Chalmers of Assessment & Taxation to speak about something special. Mr. Chalmers announced the retirement of Terry Schuening, his department Office Manager, on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Terry has worked for the County for over 22 years with the utmost professionalism. She will be missed. Chair Murdock noted customer service in the Assessment & Taxation office is so important. Terry has been a wonderful leader in the office and her work is so appreciated.

Commissioner Elfering then recognized and publicly thanked the Markle family. They brought a gift bag for each member of the Sheriff's office. He then read the sign that was attached to each gift. Ms. Markle noted their 3 children have a giving project each year. This year they gave out about 200 bags of goodies! Commissioner Elfering thanked the Markles for being great citizens; Chair Murdock commented this is a wonderful example of family and the season.

**Acknowledgment of Minutes of Previous Meetings.** Commissioner Givens moved to approve the minutes of the 12/2/15 Board meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.

**Additions to Agenda.** Chair Murdock added Reorganization as item 1.

**Public Recognition/input** None

**Presentations.** Commissioner Givens welcomed Oregon Emergency Management Director Andrew Phelps who will make a presentation. He commented about the Cascadia event and the importance of planning as a priority. In addition, his wife informed him that three or four earthquakes had hit the west coast today starting in southern California, then up the coast, and ending up in British Columbia. Events like that are happening and preparation is necessary.

**Agenda – Business Items**

1. **Oregon Emergency Management.** Andrew Phelps, OEM Director, came to the podium. Chair Murdock thanked him for coming east from Salem. Mr. Phelps made a PowerPoint presentation.

In response to a question from Chair Murdock about the Tribes have an Emergency Manager, Mr. Phelps advised the Umatilla Tribes has 3 Emergency Management officers. Morrow County has 1 part-time Emergency Manager (as does Umatilla County). Chair Murdock asked based on funding, does Umatilla County's EM stand alone? Mr. Phelps responded Umatilla County is stand-alone, however, Oregon counties assist other counties who are in need (i.e. Grant County did not have an EM during fire disasters last summer and many counties responded to help). There is no expectation – local assistance is simply offered. There is reimbursement available in certain situations, but long-term reimbursement is needed.

Commissioner Givens commented he had received a call last night from Commissioner Labhart (Tillamook County) about being a little overwhelmed with flooding, which is tied to Public Works as well as Emergency Management. Mr. Phelps said the “sister” county program that Umatilla partners with Tillamook is a model throughout the state. Commissioner Givens then introduced Jack Remillard, Jodi Florence and Tamra Mabbott. Mr. Remillard noted Ms. Florence is his Administrative Assistant; she is invaluable in his office. Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, and planning staff do a great job in particular with mitigation efforts. Discussion continued about making the Umatilla County EM a full-time position under the Sheriff's Office direction. They have been instrumental in support of EM – thank you to them.

Mr. Phelps mentioned another hazard or threat that happens is apathy – there is still a need for locals to better prepare for emergencies. He is happy to support EM in all counties throughout the state. He provided contact information for any assistance he can provide.

2. **Emergency Management Position.** Commissioner Givens as the assigned liaison to Emergency Management began the discussion about possibly making the Emergency Manager full-time. Marie Jones, Assistant Director of Finance/Budget, advised she did not have exact figures at that time. The base salary would jump to \$62,500 and 50% match is part of the OEM grant. Mr. Phelps noted there are eligible costs to consider. Chair Murdock added Public Health also has some funding available to offset some EM costs. He believes with our large county area, he would like to explore options fiscally to move forward. Commissioner Givens agreed. **Commissioner Givens moved staff is directed to continue research toward making the Emergency Manager position full-time and for final decision to be set for a future Board meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.** Chair Murdock asked Mr. Phelps to provide his contact information to Marie Jones, Assistant Director of Finance, and Robert Pahl, CFO, to assist with the Emergency Manager discussion.

3. Reorganization - Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Givens noted that historically the Board officers change at the beginning of the new year beginning in January. As Vice-Chair he is in line to become Chair of the Board, however, with his additional duties and required travel as President of Association of Oregon Counties, it would be best to have Chair Murdock continue in his position on the Board. In addition, Commissioner Elfering is more involved as a Board member of City-County Insurance Services and also with depot and water issues. Therefore, **Commissioner Givens moved to postpone change in officers and to retain the current leadership of the Board for the year 2016. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

4. Fleet Management Vehicles Purchase (FY15-16) - Civil Division- Sheriff's Office. Capt. Dave Williamson reported. This is the annual vehicle replacement including two police interceptor SUVs for Criminal Division (total of \$60,900), a Ford F250 pick-up for Marine Patrol within Criminal Division (cost is \$28,991) and two 2016 Ford Fusions (total of \$36,384) for Civil Division. All vehicles were quoted through the State of Oregon contract, Gresham Ford.

Commissioner Givens asked Marie Jones about budget implications. She advised the Finance office had reviewed the requests. On behalf of Robert Pahl, CFO, she asked Capt. Williamson about the Ford F250 pick-up. Is this a General Fund purchase? Capt. Williamson advised the pick-up would be used only for Marine Patrol (hauling the boat). Commissioner Elfering expressed concerned about not allowing local dealerships to bid. Capt. Williamson advised it is easier to go through the state contract. Commissioner Elfering requested local dealers be given the opportunity to bid. Capt. Williamson agreed this could be done. Mr. Olsen advised it could be done at this time. Capt. Williamson said he could make the bid available this time – he felt it is best to go with one model (Ford or other). Mr. Olsen advised the Interceptor is probably not available locally, but the others would be. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve purchase of the two Interceptor SUVs from Gresham Ford. Commissioner Givens seconded.** Responding to a question, Capt. Williamson noted the vehicles include needed equipment and are prewired. **Carried, 3-0. Commissioner Elfering moved to seek bids for the purchase of vehicle for Marine Patrol and for Civil. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

5. Vehicle Purchase – Community Corrections. Dale Primmer, Community Justice Director, reported. This is to replace a very old vehicle (250,000 miles). There is no General Fund impact; it is through the Fleet Management Program and is budgeted. This vehicle is a police package car and they are equipped as required. The state contract will be utilized for the purchase. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

Commissioner Givens asked about old vehicles and the process for turn-over. Capt. Williamson noted vehicles are rotating out as new come in; old vehicles will go to the County Road Department. There are some that are totally unusable and they are being disposed. Mr. Primmer added that Community Corrections does not have an ongoing replacement vehicle program as they do not have same replacement needs as the Sheriff's Office. Chair Murdock joined Commissioner Givens noting the County desires to have vehicles disposed of that are not viable any longer. It is important to have mechanically sound vehicles and to dispose of those that are

no longer usable. The Finance Office works with County departments/programs as needed for vehicle needs.

6. Appointment to Planning Commission. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve reappointment for Don Wysocki to serve one more term on the Planning Commission and to adopt Order No. BCC2015-096. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

Public Comment. Rick Rohde, 2230 SW La Dow, Pendleton, came to the podium. He read in the paper about a County loan to the EOTEC project in Hermiston. He is concerned about the amount of money coming from the County and possibly getting stuck financially if the whole project does not work. He compared it to the Pendleton Convention Center. He feels the county taxpayers are being put on the hook for a project that may not make it. He and others he has spoken to are concerned with the project. Chair Murdock noted the issue will likely be on the Board's 1/6/16 agenda if all the information is available. If not, it would be discussed at the Board meeting on 1/19/16. He expressed the desire to have the EOTEC discussion on an agenda where all three Commissioners are present. In checking the calendar, all three Commissioners will be present at the 1/19 meeting.

### **Commissioner Comments.**

Commissioner Givens. He will be going to Washington DC soon as the Association of Oregon Counties President. He has set up appointments with Oregon's Congressional delegation while in Washington DC to present area concerns about federal issues – water, PILT and forests will be discussed. In addition, the activities in Harney County will also likely be discussed (Hammond).

He is no longer serving as DOGAMI (Department of Geology & Mineral Industries) governing board chair; he will continue to serve on the board until end of May, but not as chair. There have been many management changes over the last year making it a very difficult time. He also talked about Oregon/China's sister relationship, housing, Emergency Management sister counties in Oregon and other things going on statewide being discussed at AOC.

Commissioner Elfering. Greg Smith plans to present a report on Columbia Development Authority to the Board at the 1/6/16 Board meeting.

Commissioner Murdock. The last legislature gave Umatilla County quite a lot of money for water projects, about \$51 million. He is looking forward to the CDA presentation. He would also like to see a NOWA (Northeast Oregon Water Association) presentation and a report by Watermaster Greg Silbernagel about their operations. As liaison, Commissioner Elfering agreed to contact Greg Silbernagel and J. R. Cook about presentations at the 1/19/16 Board meeting or in February. In particular, Chair Murdock suggested J. R. Cook's topic could be about the multi-million dollar water project.

The Board wished all a Happy New Year. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt*

Executive Secretary,  
Umatilla County Board of Commissioners