

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Meeting of June 29, 2016  
10:45 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:** Ron Dillon, Big Nasty Hill Climb (Idaho); Pat Beard, Travel Pendleton; Jason Graybeal, Ferranti-Graybeal Insurance President; Dick Ferranti, Agent; Nancy Porter, Weed Board; Richard Kopp, Weed Board; Andy Spratling, Weed Board; Robert Pahl, CFO; Paul Chalmers, A&T Director; Sgt. John Shafer, UCSO; Undersheriff Jim Littlefield; Nancy Kerns, Pendleton City Attorney; Brandon Krenzler, Consultant

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. Chair George Murdock welcomed all.

Chair Murdock 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 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.

He called for an Executive Session at 10:46 a.m. to convene in Room 121. He noted the Board would return upon conclusion.

Chair Murdock reconvened the Board meeting at 11:15 a.m.

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

**Awards/Recognitions/Correspondence.** Commissioner Elfering read a thank you letter from Fran Rice, Hermiston Chamber, commending local government day-leadership- participants Tamra Mabbott, Paul Chalmers and Dale Primmer who filled in for the Commissioners who were committed to AOC annual conference in Pendleton.

**Acknowledgment of Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Commissioner Givens moved to approve the 6/6/16 Board minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.

**Additions to Agenda.** None

**Public Comments/Recognition of Visitors.** None

**Presentations:** None

## Business Items

1. Workers' Compensation Insurance. Dick Ferranti, Ferranti-Graybeal Agent, presented. He distributed materials to the Board with history and explained background of SAIF and CIS. CIS rates for workers compensation coverage were not competitive, so recommendation is to go with SAIF. Coverage is mandatory by state law. Data is submitted to one place and pure rates are developed based on data. Once approved by the State Insurance Commissioner, things are factored in to determine premiums. In addition, another factor for final rate is predicated on losses (he referred to the handout). Each year, the oldest year is dropped and one is added to arrive at an experience MOD factor. There is a 14% decrease in costs for workers' compensation going into next year. Mr. Ferranti went over guaranteed cost plans from '13-'14 to '16-'17 to show total costs and net premiums. For a number of years, the County has gone with negotiated fee for best benefit. He noted the advantage of SAIF is it provides dividends (CIS does not). Over \$50,000/year in dividends for last many years – this is expected going forward. Commissioner Elfering declared his conflict as he is a sitting Board member of CIS Trustees. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve – continue with current workers' compensation insurance plan with SAIF and approve the payable for the premium of \$206,882. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**
2. Liability Insurance. Mr. Ferranti continued. He provided a handout that listed premium comparisons for property & casualty insurance coverage. This insurance will increase, which has to do with employment claims. The deductible is going up to \$15,000 (up from \$5,000). Commissioner Elfering pointed out that is for the first claim; subsequent claims go up \$30,000, then \$45,000 and on up to \$65,000. Mr. Ferranti noted a credit off the premium of \$50,000. The net annual cost is \$455,939 – up from \$416,554 last year. What was saved in workers comp is up in liability insurance. Chair Murdock noted that staff is diligent in pre-calls to help with costs. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve renewal of liability insurance as outlined. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0. Commissioner Elfering did not vote.**
3. Life Insurance Renewal. Mr. Olsen presented. The proposal and recommendation is to renew with USABLE Life with a rate pass renewal quote for two years. There is no cost change. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve renewing USABLE Life life insurance for two years. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Authorization for new Position and Reclassification. Sheriff Rowan presented. This is the last phase after discussions with the Board, Finance and HR, to address three different areas within UCSO operations with creative thinking. One area is the physical operation in the jail; contracting more beds with Morrow & Wallowa County contracts and looking at the best way to efficiently monitor/supervise the population, the conclusion is to add an inmate program tech who would be assigned to jail cells. This position would not need certification at academy and Corrections Officers can be freed up with adding the new tech person. Second, adding a criminal deputy position would increase response time to criminal complaints. Over last few years, gains have been realized by restructuring and being creative. Funding is from various sources to make a full-time position which was part-time. This will provide better coverage and a way to roll Corp dollars and obligation into the criminal budget and duty assignments -- it would be more efficient. This will move patrol division ahead for better response times. Third, reclassify a Sergeant to a Lieutenant. He outlined structure noting different operational aspects of management. Jail Commander needs fill in when he is absent; this is a front-line management position and there would be an interim jail commander available for day-to-day operations. In response to a question from Commissioner Elfering about average jail population, Sheriff Rowan advised the daily average in May was 208.5. Last week, they have been up around 225 and the population is trending upward.

Commissioner Elfering noted these positions and discussion were had at Budget Committee hearings, and the funding for these changes were made part of the budget for 2016-17; this is the second part of that process (approval to create positions). **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/authorize effective 7/1/16 for (1) creation of Inmate Program Tech position; (2) Create Criminal Deputy position; and (3) Reclassify Sergeant to Lieutenant. Seconded by Commissioner Givens.** In response to a question from Chair Murdock, Sheriff Rowan advised the jail tech person was interviewed and on-site and is now working part-time. The Sergeant has already been identified – Thoren Hearn. **Motion carried, 3-0.**

*[Commissioner Givens left at 11:30].*

5. AED Payable. Sgt. John Shafer, UCSO, presented. An identified need is for defibrillator and AEDs. Survivability is increased tremendously with this equipment. The Wildhorse Foundation awarded \$6,170. This request is for equipment and a trainer. The units are user friendly with pictures and they “talk” to the user. An additional 11 units are being requested to be used in marine patrol and vehicles as well as to place AEDs in additional areas for better coverage. The goal is for all patrols to have equipment. Commissioner Elfering noted they are life savers – readily available with easy access can make the difference between life and death. Sgt. Shafer added that deputies are in the field and have immediate response. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the payable of \$6,170 to Bound Tree Medical LLC. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**
6. Supplemental Budgets. Chair Murdock called the public hearing to order at 11:35 a.m. Robert Pahl, CFO, presented. Budget Order 2016-80 (County Fairgrounds) needs to increase Local Revenues \$10,000 and increase Materials & Services same amount for revenues unknown at adoption of budget and to increase program appropriations. Budget Order 2016-81 (Economic Development) needs to increase State Revenues \$5,600 and increase Materials & Services same amount to increase revenues unknown at adoption of budget and to increase program appropriations. Budget Order 2016-82 (Foreclosed Property) needs to increase Local Revenues \$17,735, increase Transfers Out \$2,079 and increase Materials & Services \$14,156 to increase revenues unknown at adoption of budget and to increase program appropriations. There were no questions from public. Chair Murdock closed the hearing at 11:37 a.m.

**In the matter of Approving Supplemental Budgets Pursuant to ORS 294.471 for the Fiscal Year ending 6/30/16, motions were made as follows:**

**Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/adopt Order No. Budget2016-80 (Program 4043-County Fairgrounds). Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**

**Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/adopt Order No. Budget2016-81 (Program 1029-Economic Development). Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**

**Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/adopt Order No. Budget2016-82 (Program 3017-Foreclosed Property). Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**

Budget Transfers. Robert Pahl presented. Budget Order 2016-83 (Parks) needs to decrease Personnel Services \$5,000 and increase Materials & Services same amount to adjust appropriation allocations. Budget Order 2016-84 (West County Facility Maintenance) needs to increase Materials & Services \$10,000 and decrease Contingency same amount to adjust appropriation allocations. **In the matter of Approving Transfer of Budgets Pursuant to ORS 294.463 for the Fiscal Year ending 6/30/16, motions were made as follows:**

**Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/adopt Order No. Budget2016-83 (Program 1005-Parks). Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**

**Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/adopt Order No. Budget2016-84 (Program 3508-West County Facility Maintenance). Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**

7. Exempt Salaries. Doug Olsen presented. Human Resources proposed for exempt positions to be same in line with the rate for the highest bargaining employees. The DAs office has 3% COL. Commissioner Elfering noted this is at or about the COL increase throughout the state. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve and set the COLA increase for Exempt Employees at 3%. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**
8. Appointment to West County Mosquito Control District Board. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. BCC2016-051 reappointing Marie Baldo to the West County Mosquito Control District Board of Trustees for a 4 year term. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**
9. Tax Redemption Acceleration. Doug Olsen presented. This is regarding Sunridge Estate lots, action today is to reset the hearing for August 3 since the previously set 6/1/16 hearing was cancelled. **Commissioner Elfering moved to set a hearing for 8/3/16, 9 a.m. to consider acceleration of redemption period. Seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**

Public Input. Pat Beard, Travel Pendleton, introduced Ron Dillon, Big Nasty Hill Climb, Caldwell, Idaho. He is a promoter who will have a hill climb in Reith as part of Bike Week in Pendleton, July 22-24. Mr. Dillon noted this is the 229th event he will promote since about 1979 (various types of events, concerts). Pendleton has welcomed him. He has worked with many people throughout the northwest for motorcycle hill climbing events. At last year's Bike Week event, they started discussion about adding a hill climb to the other events. The property is owned by Jim Whitney with steep hills – about 275 ft. up and 450 ft. from the hayfield to the top. Since 1986, this will be the first motorcycle hill climb in Oregon since one in Grants Pass, Josephine County. He has never had a lawsuit or a fatality in 228 events and is very proud of that. He noted insurance and liability coverage has been obtained with proper proof and named payees. He addressed fire suppression (he compared it to “Big Nasty” hill climb event in Idaho that he promotes held in September). A fire break will be plowed and the hill will be watered. System is in place (cistern at Whitney's property) and also to cut down on dust and a wet track will help keep the hill in place – grass will be seeded at end of competition. This will be a 3 day event – with different categories. Saturday will be biggest day with pro qualifying. Sunday is a short day. Their event will be in sync with Bike Week activities and concert.

Commissioner Elfering asked about a permanent mark on the landscape. Mr. Dillon advised he was unsure of that based on soil type. Grass seed is planted and ruts are smoothed after an event. Marks could be on property 4-5 years (if only done one time). If property is clay, it stays marked the worst. They will assess the land during the events and have ways to fix it and mitigate as much as possible. Regarding a question from Commissioner Elfering about the noise issue, he noted discussions with City employees and with planning department (Carol Johnson) for the permit he was made aware of the noise ordinance. The event is during daylight hours and it is on private property (lower Reith, to Birch Creek). Dust may also be a concern. He has talked with neighbors, and with Tom Fellows (Public Works) who turned him onto a dust control applicator. The location is a ways out of Pendleton, day-time only. Regarding a question about security and safety, Mr. Dillon responded that depends on the event, but this will not be at night nor will there be camping overnight with no campfires on the ground (fireboxes only). He compared prior events that are large in scope -- 12,000 spectators with relatively few arrests that were handled quickly. He thinks this event will attract about 1,500 spectators so it is very small in comparison.

Chair Murdock noted he would introduce Mr. Dillon to Sheriff Rowan and Undersheriff Littlefield after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt,*

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners