

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Meeting of August 3, 2016  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon

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

**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen

**Members and Guests Present:** Capt. Stewart Harp, Sheriff's Office; Duke Joseph Agency -- Marena Mikkelson, Assistant Producer; Nic Miles, Producer; and Jeff Lorton, Creative Director; Byron Smith, EOTEC; Brandon Krenzler; Amy Ashton-Williams, Human Services Director; Charlie Carnes, Human Services Clinical Supervisor; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director; Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Vice-Chair Larry Givens welcomed all.

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

Commissioner Givens 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.

**Awards/Recognitions/Correspondence.** None.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting.** None.

**Additions to Agenda.** None

**Public Comments.** Commissioner Givens asked for any input from the audience for other than what is on agenda. Brandon Krenzler, 3 SE Kirk, Pendleton. Regarding cannabis, he would like to be on agenda at some point in the future to discuss loss of tax revenue with moratorium on recreational marijuana. He suggested a solution to black market sales is to legally allow sales. He advised there is a competition at the State Fair for growing marijuana plants. He noted the importance of leadership in this county and voters' voices need to be heard. Banning business and blocking legal use is causing black market sales and, therefore, loss of tax revenues. Grant County just approved dispensaries and Baker County is following suit. He implored the Commissioners to reconsider the moratorium and ban. He would like it to come to the Board in the future about the financial aspect noting times have changed and discussion can be enlightening; tax money would benefit communities. He noted the tie between budget constraints to hire additional people for 911, fire and police and the concern of slow emergency response because of limited budget.

Commissioner Elfering noted the County has a marijuana advisory committee, established well over a year ago. The committee can meet to discuss things Mr. Krenzler voiced. He noted Tamra Mabbott is chair of the committee (also Planning Director). Mr. Krenzler then provided handouts of additional information regarding the State Fair event he spoke about.

**Presentations:** Commissioner Givens introduced Amy Ashton-Williams, new Director of Human Services and Charlie Carnes, Human Services Clinical Supervisor. Ms. Ashton-Williams advised that last week, her department received great news after a recent records review by GOBHI representatives (originally planned for 3 days, but was completed in just 1 day). The County received a 3-year letter of approval for out-patient treatment. Commissioner Elfering commented the expectation was for a 1-year approval. Mr. Carnes added they have a great team. This is a vote of confidence by GOBHI was welcome news.

### **Business Items**

1. **Foreclosure Redemption Acceleration.** Commissioner Givens called the public hearing to order at 9:11 a.m. and asked for the staff report. Doug Olsen advised normally the redemption acceleration is a 2-year period; if there is waste or abandonment, it can be accelerated to 30 days. This involves 30 lots, unimproved, but subject to an LID. Interest is accruing substantially and the hope is to keep equity in the property and to prevent further waste of the property. This is the one and only hearing needed. Paul Chalmers, A&T Director, noted the property tax liability would be abated. He noted there is a lot of interest in the lots. It is in the best interest to proceed with foreclosure redemption and the City of Pendleton is in support of acceleration. There were no more comments or questions. Commissioner Givens closed the hearing at 9:13 a.m.

Commissioner Elfering felt with acceleration the values would hopefully be kept at a reasonable level. He supports the order. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve and adopt Order No. TX20106-04. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 2-0.**

2. **Travel Pendleton – “Tripster Project”.** Update by Pat Beard, Travel Pendleton. The project was to engage “millennials” from major metropolitan areas (Portland and Seattle), with the County’s support. Social media is very powerful and cost-effective. He engaged the Duke Joseph Agency, from Carlton (soon moving to Pendleton). He invited to the podium Jeff Lorton, creative director. Duke Joseph Agency will open a second office in Pendleton. Nick Miles is producer and manager with the company, who directed the campaign. He reported last fall he looked at testing for video content, then developed language and this spring he started a 3-month campaign, posting for 6 days/week on Facebook and etc. 472,000 users via social media equates to about 5 cents/person – big bang for the buck. The content was shared 319 times with 320,000 views; people went to Travel Pendleton website, and shared from there. Local support was great from target market as well as local community.

Commissioner Givens asked about the difference between male vs. female participation? Mr. Miles explained he “cast a wide net” and it was felt male weekenders were the big initial interest, but it evened out with female visits over time. Jeff Lorton noted engagement was limited in Seattle, which showed more interest in written vs. image. They looked at short verbiage which was tested in the Seattle market for demographic info. He felt it was very strong in Portland vs. Seattle. The distance is too great it seemed. Therefore, effort of focus shifted to Portland. He noted many young people have well-paying jobs in the NW and they can afford short trips – to Pendleton it’s for authentic an western experience. The Portland market is very strong.

Commissioner Elfering asked Mr. Beard for figures of economic boost and can it be tied to this project? Mr. Beard responded it wasn’t easy to do that without more research. People are looking for unique experiences of outdoor activities and genuine places; the button has been touched and it is growing in interest. Tourism is still the brightest spot in Umatilla County and the economy will be improved as a

result. Overnight stays have other expenditures – it amounts to about \$175-\$200 per person per day spending money in our county. And repeat business and spreading the word.

Commissioner Elfering asked about the 10% increase in tourism and asked Mr. Beard to elaborate. He noted another Pendleton event, Bike Week (July 22-25) and handed out a breakout of estimated direct tourism spending (this event was separate from item on agenda).

Commissioner Givens commented about farm gate receipts and compared it to tourism. \$5 is multiplied 7 times that is tied from farm gate through a community – multiplier of tourism from an event would be interesting to determine. Mr. Lorton elaborated on the economics of events. He advised he was economic development director in Yamhill County years ago. Events bring people here as a lead for economic development. People visit, maybe move here and spend money. The effects are far-reaching and are not necessarily low wage jobs. Tourism is a huge draw with a lot of potential for the future and very positive to the economy.

Commissioner Givens commented about the importance of connections when traveling and spending money. He suggested perhaps SeaPort Air could expand to include more trips to bring people here quickly. TSA was a loss when changes were made with smaller passenger planes.

3. EOTEC Report. Byron Smith, Chair EOTEC Board, provided an update. Construction: there are two major projects at this time. Barns, being redesigned by consultants. Looking at good cost savings to bring that piece in under budget; bids are to be let shortly for barns. Rodeo: bids were received last week, and there was legal implications. The EOTEC Board will make a decision about the bids (both were significantly over budget). Finally, Operational: The Event Center is holding events and they are going well. Regionally it is good and they looking to expand to more active marketing. There is a Board meeting tomorrow, 7 a.m. at EOTEC. Mr. Smith advised barns construction is about 6 months; the rodeo is about 12 months. Commissioner Givens asked about savings on barns, can that be pushed into other areas? Mr. Smith responded it is possible, but the barns are now at budget amount and there are not significant savings as yet. Discussion continued about pens and panels coming in about ½ of the budgeted amount – perhaps that difference can go to barns to offset overage on another part. This is to be discussed by the EOTEC Board tomorrow.
4. Cancellation of Water Right. Mr. Olsen presented. This is submitted through Public Works to formally cancel water rights tied to the property upon which roads are located, to be realized somewhere else. Commissioner Elfering was surprised about water rights for roads. Mr. Olsen advised Tom Fellows (Public Works Director) has no objection. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
5. Jail Maintenance Position. Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director, and Capt. Stewart Harp, Jail Commander at Sheriff's Office, presented. This year, it is 18 years since the jail was built and became operational (April 1, 1999). Mr. Lonai noted there are now about 200 people daily in jail. The facilities need more maintenance to keep it operational. Issues can be caused if maintenance is not managed daily. The proposal is to make the current part-time position full-time. The employee is a good worker and full-time would be cost-effective. Capt. Harp added the position is responsible for the entire Sheriff's Office as well as parole and probation as well as the jail. Mr. Lonai noted additions of a halfway house and additional duties have caused the need to make the position full-time. Finance has vetted the position. New contracts have provided more funding, in addition to additional funds by increasing funds and

decreasing in other areas to allow for this staff increase. Capt. Harp noted the contract with Union and Wallowa Counties are 5 over beds daily. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve changing the part-time jail maintenance position to full-time effective 8/15/16. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 2-0.**

6. ADA Door Knobs. Dan Lonai presented. Currently, door knobs are round and are difficult to handle; they need to be compliant with ADA. The DA's office and third floor is newer and has proper doors and handles. During the recent active shooter drill, it was determined door knobs were not that usable (key on outside, but no button for sheltering in place and locking down). \$5,500 is the request and purchase is through a local business. This is a security measure and will also be ADA compliant with a lever handle. There was a question about the Stafford Hansell building – Mr. Lonai was not sure off-hand and will check for compliance. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/authorize \$5,550 to purchase ADA compliant door knobs. Seconded by Vice-Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
7. Designation of Newspaper for Publications. Mr. Olsen recommends the East Oregonian for publication of the annual tax foreclosure list. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/adopt Order No. TX2016-03. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
8. Approve Payable to NOWA. Mr. Olsen presented. This is the annual membership dues request from Northeast Oregon Water Association. Vice-Chair Givens commented the \$30,000 request is half of previous years; this year the decrease was made by the Budget Committee. Commissioner Elfering added that NOWA is able to obtain funding from other sources. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the \$30,000 payable to NOWA. Seconded by Vice-Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
9. Appointment to AWERE Committee. Mr. Olsen presented. Jim Reger retired. The Superintendent of Athena-Weston School District is Laure Quaresma; it is recommended Ms. Quaresma replace him on the AWERE committee. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/adopt Order No. BCC2016-068. Seconded by Vice-Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
10. Copier Request – A&T. Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director, presented. The lease on the current copier is up in November; request was made for a couple of bids. The County now prefers to purchase vs. lease equipment. Tax statements are due in October so the timeframe is off by one month. He is asking for permission to purchase copier out of the pool (capital improvement fund) to accommodate this purchase. Mr. Olsen advised action today is to request issuance of an RFP for new copier; Finance is in support of it. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve/authorize issuing a RFP as outlined. Seconded by Vice-Chair Givens. Carried, 2-0.**
11. Weston Property. The City of Weston has presented a request to receive three tax lots foreclosed on for delinquent property taxes, which are located in the City. Vice-Chair Givens commented about the location; it appears good for resale. Mr. Chalmers advised it is a gateway to the City of Weston. Financial incentive is to have it sold. Mr. Olsen noted it is three tax lots totaling about 5 acres with a value of about \$135,000 RMV on the tax rolls. (Mr. Chalmers talked about cost/acre and suitable for light industrial or light commercial). Mr. Olsen noted it is now residential. Discussion continued about property uses and lot sizes. **Vice-Chair Givens made a motion to direct staff to further study the Weston Property. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 2-0.** Staff would look into more information about the property.

No executive session.

Commissioner Reports.

Vice-Chair Givens will attend the Walla Walla Valley MPO meeting that afternoon. He will attend an EOTEC meeting tomorrow.

Commissioner Elfering will meet with Tamra Mabbott and Susan Bower regarding economic development, including discussion about considering the backlog of grant requests. He noted the Board previously awarded an economic development grant to the City of Pendleton for radar at the airport. They were unsuccessful in their application, therefore, that money will come back to County.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt,*

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners