

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Administrative Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2017  
9:00 a.m., Room 114, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon

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

**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen

**Members and Guests Present:** Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer; Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director; Julie Alford, Planning; Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director; Tamra Reeves, Milton-Freewater; Todd Davis, Davis Orchards in Milton-Freewater; Vern Rodighiero, farmer Milton-Freewater; Jared Brown, Farm Manager for Earl Brown & Sons

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Givens called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He reminded those present it is a public meeting. It is being audio recorded and minutes are being taken. Comments will be made part of the record. There is no video recording today (in Room 114).

Additions/Changes to Agenda. None.

Public Input. Chair Givens recognized visitors and asked all to introduce themselves. Tamra Reeves, Milton-Freewater; Todd Davis, Davis Orchards in Milton-Freewater; Vern Rodighiero, farmer Milton-Freewater; Jared Brown, Farm Manager for Earl Brown & Sons. Introductions went around the table (see above for list).

Chair Givens asked Mr. Davis and guests to go through their presentation about pest control. Vern Rodighiero talked about the importance and need of pest control to farmers. They can't enter property of others without being tied to the county. This causes problems with no enforcement process since the Board's decision a while back to not hire an officer for code enforcement. He noted it is a big piece of their industry. He understands the position was cut from the county budget and asked if there is room for discussion to have county access – can the position be rehired.

Chair Givens talked about legality and the need for a county officer. Doug Olsen advised it is under statute for pest control, which needs a county nexus; there is also authority under county ordinance. Mr. Rodighiero added if the horticulture board loses county support, they don't have authority for pest control. Chair Givens pointed out pest control was operated through the County Weed Department. Jared Brown talked about proper removal and growers have the ability to handle pests; however, the Horticulture Board needs the county connection in order to make the program work. They are finding a lot of owners are turning them away from entering their property to get a handle on pests, not that individuals can't grow their own fruit -- it has to do with pest control. Usually, the big hang up is a fruit tree can be cut down and treated so it can't grow back. Conversations can't even be started in some cases. He noted history of the County ordinance and backyard trees (which is mostly what is happening now). He understands issues of bad output of old and untreated trees causing problems with commercial grown orchards.

There was more discussion about dealing with other types of problems (i.e., overgrown blackberry bushes, etc. up the Walla Walla River and other native plants). They are trying to secure areas around commercial growing area concentrating mainly there as there is need to protect that. They have done a lot of education regarding ornamental trees – over-the-counter spray program can be effective. Discussion went on to talk about some Milton-Freewater areas that have insect problems being hosted in various types of plants; maybe not a big problem; however, there are protocols for different types of fruits for export (i.e. apples to Taiwan).

Regarding education to the public, it was noted there are resources in place about tree care/trimming, spraying etc. And, for about the last 10 years, newspaper ads/stories are published at the first of the growing season about insect pests; they also rely on the Extension Service. Todd Davis added they used to include pamphlets with power bills. Chair Givens suggested including a list of applicators to contact for spraying would be helpful. Mr. Brown commented spraying is not cheap and fruit trees are easy to get anywhere. Mr. Rodighiero added the apple industry is having a tough time – they need some support to help them economically and they want to do the right thing with education a part of it, but there's only so much they can do.

Chair Givens turned briefly about budget; he noted priorities must be taken into account for financial consideration. In response to Commissioner Murdock's question as what has been done in the past, Mr. Davis said a pest control officer was about \$10,000 and the County put in \$10,000 (Chair Givens noted the position was cut in July and was within the Weed Department); it was 50/50 match. He pointed out there were ongoing issues with the person in the pest control position. Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, added for a while the position was under Planning/Code Enforcement. Ted Borrows, as a Code Enforcement Officer, accompanied the scientist and the horticulture society reimbursed for that. The person who took over from Darrell was not a good fit and used a heavy hand – it did not work.

Robert Pahl believed from last spring the \$10,000 contribution to the Horticulture Society was deleted and there is nothing in the current budget. Financially, the County is struggling moving forward, even though the argument is compelling. He suggested the Horticulture Society could make a proposal about costs and activities; in addition, perhaps Code Enforcement could be utilized on a fee basis. Chair Givens felt the pest control program would work again with County authority to enter property along with the individual who is checking trees (the scientist). Mr. Davis advised that once entry is gained, a trap is hung to determine insects living there -- there is need to visually inspect. Chair Givens felt with looking at costs, ordinance and legal authority (code enforcement), consideration can be made by the Board of Commissioners for a way to move forward. Mr. Brown added there needs to be a link between County Code Enforcement and the Horticulture Society.

Chair Givens proposed the Board, along with legal counsel and Planning, will discuss continuing County authority and will plan to revisit. Mr. Davis advised that Ted Orr, Weed Department Supervisor, is a good connection and attends their (Horticulture society) monthly meetings. Chair Givens noted his preference to have pest control operate under Code Enforcement vs. the Weed Department. Ms. Mabbott suggested he could be deputized. In response to her question about who is the scientist, Mr. Brown advised it is Mariah Donahue. She is doing the trapping. She has a Master's degree from Colorado and does a great job. Mr. Olsen asked if she could contact Code Enforcement for backup. Mr. Brown felt that would work. Chair Givens advised the Board will review and report back in the near future.

(Ms. Reeves, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rodighiero and Mr. Brown left at that time.) Mr. Pahl felt it sounded as though the group didn't know they could just ask for help. Mr. Olsen added that once the position was cut, he felt they would just contract with someone. They can make the arrangement and if they need it, they can ask the County for enforcement help.

### Business Agenda.

1. Co-Adoption City of Umatilla and City of Hermiston Joint Management Agreements. Chair Givens asked Carol Johnson to give the staff report. She noted for many months the County has worked with

these cities to update their Joint Management Agreements. Most focus on road and road issues within the Urban Growth areas as well as cities proper. Updates were proposed and Umatilla has agreed to handle land use actions within UGAs. This is a positive for the County. Code will be implemented and will allow ability to change moving forward regarding zoning. In December, Umatilla has adopted the agreement; the City of Hermiston plans to act on theirs after the County takes action.

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, has attended many meetings with more details if needed. Ms. Mabbott elaborated about many negotiation meetings and potential transfers of roads (which included Tom Fellows, Public Works Director); he wants to make sure roads are handled properly and to County standards. She then referred to a map of specific roads – Umatilla’s and Hermiston’s. Meetings and negotiations culminated in language in JMAs. Attachments to JMAs include a list of County roads and ownership. She feels roads are mutually recognized at this time. She also talked about ownership vs. annexation. Language has been adopted under certain circumstances and there is agreement to accept roads even if it is not up to city standards. It is a way to agree to take care of maintenance if a road is in pretty decent shape. There is not a retroactive clause – it will go from adoption forward. It doesn’t relinquish city or county responsibility. Ms. Mabbott noted this process has been a long time coming. **Commissioner Elfering moved to co-adopt the Joint Management Agreements with Umatilla and with Hermiston (and documents will be signed). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

2. Budget Transfer. Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer, presented. Order No. Budget 2017-18 is for Building Maintenance requiring a transfer of appropriations for expenditures unknown at time of budget adoption. Materials & Services are decreased \$540 and Capital Outlay is increased by same amount. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the budget transfer pursuant to ORS 294.463 for fiscal year ending 6/30/17 for Program 3506 (Building Maintenance) and adopt Order No. Budget 2017-18. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
3. Solid Waste Committee Appointments. Doug Olsen presented. This is for approval of reappointments of the Solid Waste Committee; the terms for Arne Swanson and David Faux have expired; they are agreeable with reappointment. The Order also documents Susan McHenry is Chair and Dennis Olson is Vice-Chair. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve and adopt Order No. BCC2017-009. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Veterans’ Support Order. **Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Order No. BCC2017-004. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering.** Commissioner Murdock asked for discussion. This action deals with the fact the state, in budget cuts, recommended reducing support for the Veterans’ program even though a huge majority (86%) of Oregonians voted to support Veterans; however; the Governor took out funding support. He did not feel that was the intent. He also noted AOC has taken the position and the County is following suit with a resolution in opposition to the proposed budget reduction. **Carried, 3-0.**
5. Property Tax Exemption. Mr. Olsen presented. This is for potential property tax exemption for the surviving spouse of first responders. The Legislature adopted SB1513 in 2016, which allows for exemption up to \$250,000 of assessed value of each homestead owned by a surviving spouse of a fire service professional, police officer or reserve officer killed in the line of duty. To his knowledge there are

not any surviving spouses in the County in this situation. **Commissioner Murdock move to approve the tax exemption and adopt Order No. BCC 2017-003. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

6. AWERE Board Appointments. Mr. Olsen presented. This is for appointments to the Athena Weston Education and Resource Enhancement (AWERE) Board. Chet Mills has moved and the Weston City Council has nominated its mayor, Jennifer Spurgeon, to take his place. Senator Hansell's position expired and the proposal is to reappoint him and to appoint Jennifer McClure Spurgeon as Weston's representative for the remainder of the term. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve and adopt Order No. BCC2017-010. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Road Project Funding. Chair Givens advised this is to support to seek State funding for paving E. Airport Road and Ott Road (County roads accessing the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center). He noted he will meet Thursday with Representative Barreto to talk about those roads and funding as well as possible NEACT involvement with the transportation package (after he meets with Senators Bentz & Ferrioli). **Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Order No. BCC2017-007. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Annual Commute Authorization – Law Enforcement. Mr. Olsen presented. This and the next item are annual orders required by personnel policy 4.15 for authorizing certain county employees to use county vehicles in which to commute. This allows law enforcement to respond immediately. There are no changes from the past year. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve and adopt Order No. BCC2017-005. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Annual Commute Authorization - Non-Law Enforcement. Mr. Olsen advised this also to approve certain county employees to use county vehicles in which to commute; allowing response to emergencies while on an on-call basis and to assess a value of \$1.50 for tax purposes. There are no changes this year. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve and adopt Order No. BCC2017-006. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Employee Expense Reimbursement. Mr. Olsen advised this is payable to pay mileage for an employee who used their private vehicle to attend job related matters; a county vehicle wasn't available and the person was unaware reimbursement was possible. Due to the length of time in submitting the payable, it was referred to the Board by Finance. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve payable reimbursement in the amount of \$756. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock; however, he wanted the person this delay should not happen again (Mr. Pahl advised the individual has been apprised). Carried, 3-0,**
11. Post-PERS Retirement Employment. Mr. Olsen advised this is to approve employment of a post-PERS planned retiree. Julie Alford, Planning Department, plans to retire after 30 years of service and is looking to work part-time. Tamra Mabbott, Director, added full-time employment would go through June 30 and part-time would end December 31, 2017. Ms. Alford was present. She advised her retirement date is not certain. However, if she retires 4/1/17, she wants to continue working as a retiree through the end of June. With salary paid in full and with health insurance paid through June; maybe continuing part-time

through 12/31/17. Commissioner Murdock noted from budget standpoint, it is a great budget help. There would be a fiscal upside as well as other upsides. There would be no PERS contributions after April. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve re-employment as a retiree, April – June 2017 with current salary per month including longevity, current county paid health/dental coverage, 8 hours per month sick leave accrual through 6/30/17. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

12. CARE Program. Commissioner Murdock presented. Originally, there was one CARE person and now the program has expanded over time thanks to GOBHI and ESD who provide support (\$90,000 from GOBHI, and \$20,000 from ESD as well as others). CARE employees work in Umatilla and Morrow Counties. Two more positions are in the works. Increased staff numbers would make the CARE coordinator a supervisor. He noted CARE is grant funded. Mr. Pahl added no general fund money is contributed; CARE has a variety of funding sources (school districts, state truancy in addition to GOBHI and ESD). **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the CARE Coordinator position be reclassified to CARE Supervisor, Range 30, for program oversight and responsibilities, to be effective 3/1/17. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

13. Budget Committee Appointment. Chair Givens, after conversations with Commissioner Murdock and Elfering, talked to Jeff Leber (a rancher from Milton-Freewater), who has since agreed to serve. This position is to replace the one vacated by Bob Reese for a full term since Mr. Reese does not wish to be reappointed. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve and adopted Order No. BCC2017-012. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. This is for the period 1/1/17 through 12/31/19. Carried, 3-0.**

14. Pendleton Downtown Association Payable. Commissioner Murdock advised this is for primary focus on the food hub project, now referred to as “Pendleton Enhancement Project”. Money is in the budget (Community Services Development). **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the payable in the amount of \$10,000 to the Pendleton Downtown Association. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering.** Commissioner Murdock clarified this is a separate fund (budget program #5260) from that under Commissioner Elfering’s Economic Development oversight. **Carried, 3-0.**

There was no Executive Session.

Commissioner Murdock proposed moving to Room 121 to go through calendars.

Chair Givens announced the group would reconvene at 10:30 in Room 121 for a staff meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt*

Executive Secretary  
Umatilla County Board of Commissioners