

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Meeting of November 22, 2017  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, 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:** Tom Fellows, County Public Works Director; Heidi Carver, Stanfield; Angie Connell, Stanfield; Jeff Rost, Medic 400 Administrator; Sgt. Dwight Johnson, Sheriff’s Office; Alisha Southwick, UCo Health School Health Supervisor; Meghan Field, UCo Health; Thomas Roberts, County Emergency Manager; Phil Wright, East Oregonian; Sgt. Josh Roberts, Sheriff’s Office; Cpt. Dave Williamson, Sheriff’s Office; Undersheriff Jim Littlefield; Robert Pahl, County Chief Finance Officer; Jennifer Blake, County Human Resources Director; Bob Waldher, County Planning Director; Jim Setzer, UCo Health Director

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**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Commissioner Murdock.

Chair Givens reminded those present that the meeting is a public forum. It is being video and audio recorded and minutes are being 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 advised there are three public hearings today.

**Awards/Correspondence/Recognition.** Commissioner Elfering read a thank you for “bumping” funds for livestock auction at County Fair from the Pilot Rock Woolly Wranglers.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** None.

**Additions to Agenda.** None.

**Public Input and Recognition of Visitors.** Chair Givens advised this is the time for public input (for other than a scheduled item on the agenda) and also for recognition of visitors. Any public comments. None.

**Business Items:**

1. **ASA Applications Recommendations – Public Hearing.** Chair Givens called the hearing open at 9:05 a.m. and asked for the staff report. Tom Roberts, Emergency Manager, presented. He is also responsible for administering the Ambulance Service Area plan. Time was taken to review the plan and receive applications - reviewed by a committee with recommendations as outlined. One change/condition is that transport by ambulance have a plan to provide timely service for transfers. This is for ambulance to a hospital/medical facility; work is continuing on that process. ASA 1, ASA 2 and ASA 4 – he outlined the applicants and gave recommendations for award (as set out in Board Order #2017-071). ASA 6 area – no formal application was submitted (this is the Mill Creek area); the current provider will work on coverage until it resolve issues; they are looking for an alternative. The best course is to extend the current agreement, year by year, or until other resolution is found (per his review with County Counsel, Doug

Olsen). In response to Commissioner Elfering's question: Is ASA 6 willing to accept the recommendation, Mr. Roberts advised the City is willing to work with each provider until resolution is found. Commissioner Elfering: in regard to ASA 1 agreement with St. Anthony, Mr. Roberts advised they are working toward resolution, which should be completed by the end of the year as required.

Mr. Olsen clarified ASA 6, as outlined under the Board Order, is to extend the agreement year to year. This meets requirements.

Chair Givens asked for public comments. None were heard. He closed the hearing at 9:11 a.m. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. BCC2017-071. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

2. Ambulance Plan Amendment – Public Hearing. Chair Givens opened the public hearing at 9:12 a.m. and asked for staff reports. Mr. Roberts presented. Changes as requested by the State were outlined as noted in the letter from the Oregon Health Authority regarding the Plan; authority and Trauma systems overall were good but minor changes were recommended. The bulk of the plan was well received. In fact, they told him they would like to use this plan as a model statewide when final. He gave special thanks to Mr. Olsen for legal opinions and to Traci Diehl as County GIS Coordinator for the great quality service area maps. He went over amendments including definitions and OAR references as well as strengths of the plan and improvements to consider.

Chair Givens commented about Union and Walla Walla Counties – to Mr. Roberts, what about those agreements? Mr. Roberts advised the multi-agency mutual aid agreement is up for review soon and he will address updates. Chair Givens also commented about (similar) law enforcement mutual aid agreements.

He asked for public comments – there were none. Chair Givens closed the public hearing at 9:20 a.m. for deliberation.

Mr. Olsen clarified two things are needed from the Board: to adopt the amended ASA plan to reflect the ASA Committee recommendations and to adopt the amendments to the ASA ordinance. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt the Umatilla County ASA Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0. Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-15 (Amending Umatilla County Ambulance Service Ordinance, No. 96-06, Codified at Chapter 90, Umatilla County Code of Ordinances). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

3. S. Edwards/Feedville Roads Intersection (Hermiston). Chair Givens asked for public comments.
  - a. Heidi Carver, 78368 N Loop Road, Stanfield. Her husband was involved in a bad accident in September 2016. She felt if a 4-way stop was in place, it may not have happened. A neighbor was also involved in a bad accident in 2014. There were fatalities (3 in total) in both accidents. Her husband suffered horrible injuries – life long. She also noted contact with family of the fatally injured person. The most recent accident in early November resulted in terrible injury to the woman, who is still in the hospital. She feels a 4-way stop sign would improve safety. The roads are high speed. She wondered about how it happened that a 4-way stop sign was put in place soon after a fatal car accident at the Coe and Edwards intersection. Regarding the S. Edwards/ Feedville intersection, she and her husband would help pay for a stop sign if it would help prevent terrible auto accidents.

- b. Angie Connell, 78748 Calhoun Lane, Stanfield. She made a call to the County Road Department after the September 2016 accident and wondered why the process (with this intersection) is so difficult with fatality accidents in the last 3 years. She elaborated on most recent accident and talked about visibility issues. She feels with severity of accidents would be reduced with placing a 4-way stop sign. Why is this intersection so difficult to have 4-way stops when others are placed quickly? Commissioner Elfering asked about her comments as to witness to the accident; she advised it was the girl she saw (tentative at the stop sign) that ended up being hit. Chair Givens talked about process, regulations, etc. He asked Mr. Fellows to come forward and speak.

Mr. Fellows, County Public Works Director, reported. The Commissioners previously asked him to put together cost estimates for changes to the traffic control signs, which he outlined. Considered were: flashing lights - all 4 ways (red and yellow), which would require a power hook-up. The cost includes hardware of about \$2,500 and with installation around \$3,000. Single flashing signals on top of sign ahead posts (pre-warning) 500' warning prior to intersection), with solar powered (as recommended by ODOT) at cost of \$2,500/pair or about \$5,000 for both directions. Stop signs for 4-way is the least expensive at a total of \$1,000. He feels the most safe application would be a round-about. National studies show lives are saved and collisions are minimal, but the downside for that intersection would be in the neighborhood of \$1 million (due to large trucks).

His office also did traffic counts, but they are not complete. Traffic numbers are considered low with the highest number on the Edwards side, which runs about 1,200 cars/day. Traffic control device standards hardly recognize that small a number. MUCTD is standard of the nation. In addition, last week the statistics found: maximum speed 500 feet from the intersection was 90 mph; 25% of traffic approaching or leaving was in excess of 50 mph at 50 feet. There are behavioral problems (people slowing or completely blowing through the stop sign). The Feedville side high speed was 87 mph the previous week and 55% went over 50 mph with 16% over 50 mph.

Ms. Carver commented about Mr. Fellows' numbers. He advised numbers exceed current standards – he is referring to those facts. She commented it is the only intersection that doesn't have a 4-way stop – all others in that area do. Mr. Fellows added no one is fighting the notion it is a dangerous intersection. He addressed the Edwards and Coe intersection – it didn't meet the level of standards, but the City of Stanfield came to the Board as the road authority to place a 4-way stop. This is just an answer to her question. Chair Givens noted he has received a lot of comments similar to hers and Ms. Connell's, but there are some not in favor of a 4-way stop. He has driven the road – he went out the day before for about 1 hour. Trucks went through that intersection at high speed on Feedville; one person ran the stop sign; and a deputy was patrolling the area where some were definitely speeding. We know there is a problem and the Board is trying to figure out best way to go. Commissioner Elfering commented deputy patrols help lower speed, but they cannot be there 24/7. Today, the Board is looking to consider options.

Chair Givens then asked Undersheriff Littlefield to come forward. He agreed with comments today. Data has been run over the last three years and noted deputies made over 70 traffic stops. Bad conditions also make the intersection more dangerous. The Sheriff's Office supports a 4-way stop or any other warning signs/flashing lights on that intersection. He also noted discussion about rumble strips or other road applications that could be considered. Chair Givens also commented there is a blind spot on Feedville (a hill). Undersheriff Littlefield talked about young inexperienced drivers. And, elderly drivers also have difficulties (reaction time).

Regarding rumble strips, Mr. Fellows noted the strip itself, cut into the asphalt in this application would not work on the structure of that road – it would have to be repaved to higher standards. Speed bumps would not be a good application there – obstruction would be hit and could cause an accident, which would be a liability for the County (considered a manmade obstacle).

Mr. Roberts, Emergency Manager, noted paramedic response time in this area is a problem and there are issues with the blind spot mentioned earlier. Improved signage or rumble strips, etc. would help as important to human life vs. the cost.

Commissioner Murdock pointed out cost consideration. The County must consider standards for all roads, which translates to thousands of dollars. Eastern Oregon is unique and it is incumbent to respond to local circumstances. He has personal experience with this intersection and understands the need to consider going beyond industry standards and acknowledge the serious situation. Many things have been discussed – he would like to see an overhead light as well as 4-way stops, if possible. Commissioner Elfering advised he personally drives that road daily. Something different must be done to get a different result. He would be favorable to a 4-way stop with flashing warning beacons. He noted costs as outlined earlier by Mr. Fellows. Some people will not be happy with adding a stop sign on Feedville. Mr. Olsen had prepared an order for a 4-way stop with two different proposals at this time. **Commissioner Elfering moved to regulate the intersection on all 4 approaches – Edwards and Feedville with single flashing lights to be mounted on posts (Order No. RD2017-07). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0. Commissioner Murdock moved to direct Public Works and the Sheriff’s Office to consider what type of additional lighting (overhead or mounted on posts or both) would be adequate for safety; they should gather information as to what is best. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.** Mr. Fellows noted it will take time to get the hardware – it will not happen next week, but it will happen soon.

4. Budget Committee Appointment. Commissioner Murdock presented. Jerry Baker is term limited thus causing need to replace. His service as Budget Committee member and Chair is commended. **The proposal included in Order No. BCC2017-070 is to appoint Beth O’Hanlon to serve on the Budget Committee - so moved for adoption by Commissioner Murdock. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
5. EFSC Letter – Nolin Hills Wind Energy Facility. Bob Waldher, Planning Director, presented. Action is to ratify the letter to the Energy Facility Siting Council regarding the wind energy facility including submission in their required format. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the letter. Seconded by Chair Givens. Commissioner Murdock abstained (due to possible conflict). Carried, 2-0.**
6. Lloyd Road Engineering. Mr. Fellows, Public Works Director, presented. The Board previously approved an Local Improvement District on Lloyd Road which required a cost estimate for the total project in order to consider moving forward. An estimate was made by an independent consultant, Anderson-Perry from La Grande. The firm gave a quote of \$5,400 and that is requested for approval. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve engineering services in the amount of \$5,400 and to authorize the Chair to sign the work order. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Veterans’ Services Vehicle Purchase. Mr. Olsen presented on behalf of the Veterans Department. A Request for Proposals was issued and five proposals were received. The low proposal is for a 2018 Ford Fusion from Tom Denchel Ford in Hermiston in the amount of \$17,900/each (for three vehicles).

**Commissioner Elfering moved to approve purchase of three 2018 Ford Fusions from Tom Denchel Ford @ \$17,900/each. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

8. Law Enforcement Vehicles Purchase. Cpt. Dave Williamson, Sheriff's Office Fleet Management, presented. Bids were requested for three SUVs. They are requesting to purchase through Gresham Ford (holder of the State of Oregon contract for fleet management) with the bid being a little lower and meets all specifications requested. Commissioner Elfering asked for more information. Cpt. Williamson noted tinted windows were not provided in the bids from Tom Denchel Ford (other than factory tint, which they feel is insufficient). He explained necessity of extra dark tinting is for safety. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve purchase of three 2018 Ford Explorer Police Utility Interceptors from Gresham Ford @ \$32,300/each. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) Purchase – Sheriff's Office. Presented by Undersheriff Littlefield. Two bids were received – Morrow County Grain Growers' proposal met needs, but the RDO vehicle did not. Funding comes from the Sheriff's Snowmobile programs plus anticipated more grant funds to be received by the end of the year. In response to a question by Commissioner Elfering, Undersheriff Littlefield noted for search and rescue purposes the larger size (6 passenger) is preferable. Another question by Commissioner Elfering - what is non-responsive? Mr. Olsen advised some required specifications were not included in the proposal. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve purchase of a 2018 Polaris XP1000 Crew HVAC UTV from MCGG in the amount of \$32,878. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Decontamination Trailer. Undersheriff Littlefield presented. They have a unit from 1998 as part of CSEPP program. One showering trailer was transferred to Hermiston Fire a while back (and now it has liquidated that unit). One unit is left, which has sat at the Justice Center storage, unused and no one has expressed interest in it. This year, after the Eagle Creek fire, NW Incident Management team has requested the unit be donated to them so they can repurpose it. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the donation to Willamette National Forest NW Incident Management Team 6. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
11. Year of Wellness Fundraising. Before this item discussion, Commissioner Murdock noted that Alisha Southwick, UCo Health School-Based Health Coordinator, just finished her Master's Degree at WSU – Tri Cities. Congratulations, Alisha! Jim Setzer, Health Director, presented. The Board is requested to allow fundraising for the Year of Wellness. It is a series of month-to-month health activities in order to improve health in Umatilla County. It includes a lot of community outreach, messaging, benefits for community partners – others besides normal medical facilities. He noted county regulations/limitations on County personnel soliciting donations and thus the reason for discussion today. Commissioner Murdock noted this is more on order of grants from institutions with vested interest in wellness (not bake sales, car washes, etc.). Mr. Setzer is looking to raise \$20,000-\$25,000 to support activities the Health Department will be promoting. Commissioner Murdock also pointed out there is similar to a program in Tillamook County. Mr. Setzer noted monthly activities will be broad and include different partners. Commissioner Elfering also pointed out this is a County project – not for personal benefit. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve allowing fundraising by UCo Health Staff for the Year of Wellness. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
12. Personnel Policy. Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director, presented. This is a new “animal policy”; it has been vetted by the County unions and it is ready for adoption. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve and adopt Personnel Policy 3.16. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

13. Supplemental Budget – Public Hearing. Chair Givens called the public hearing to order at 10:30 a.m. Staff report was given by Robert Pahl, CFO. There is one supplemental budget, Order 2018-10 (Human Services Fund – Mental Health Administration); it requires appropriation to increase State Revenues \$108,538 and Materials & Services the same amount. Chair Givens asked for any public comments; there were none. He closed the hearing at 10:32 a.m. **Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Order No. Budget2018-10 approving a supplemental budget pursuant to ORS 294.471 for F.Y. ending 6/30/18 for Program 5488 – Mental Health Administration. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
  
14. CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grant. Mr. Olsen presented. He noted previous go-round for Community Development Block Grant; parties included Cities of Pendleton, Pilot Rock and Adams. This go-round participation in the CDBG process would be with only Pilot Rock. He noted the County is not really involved in reporting or other accountability. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve/authorize the County to participate in the CDBG application for another housing grant with the Chair to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

Executive Session. None.

Commissioner Reports. Commissioner Elfering: The process of recruiting/hiring of a County Economic Development/Tourism Coordinator is complete and Gail Nelson was selected. She will start 2/1/17. He is looking forward to her arrival. On November 21, he met with Steve Chrisman (City of Pendleton Airport Manager/Economic Development Director) and the UAV Director; there is now have a remote air taxi available for testing at the Pendleton Regional Airport. Also discussed were issues of development in Pendleton and need for additional electrical power to be available for business attraction and expansion.

Commissioner Murdock: He will meet with County A&D staff and then meet with Dan Dorran today, then leave Pendleton at 2 pm.

Commissioner Givens: He has been given a resolution from Jackson County regarding a forest advisory committee looking to submit to the Association of Oregon Counties even though Jackson County is not now part of AOC. He will leave this afternoon after meeting with Robert Pahl and Milton-Freewater Mayor, Lewis Key, regarding EURUS grant committee requirements.

Regarding Ott & E Airport Roads, ODOT has incorrectly named the City of Hermiston the lead agency for those dollars, not the County. He is working out issue with Hermiston City Manager, Byron Smith, and Tom Fellows, County Road Department Director. The roads are not city streets – they are county roads. Commissioner Murdock asked if giving East Airport Road to Hermiston is an option. Chair Givens noted it is possible after improvements are made. Right-of-way must be considered and there are some issues. Commissioner Elfering talked about Ott Road possibly being extended, but the City of Hermiston would be involved with that conversation.

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt*

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners