

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of January 3, 2018
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Larry Givens, Commissioner Bill Elfering and Commissioner George Murdock

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Members and Guests Present: Claire Sponseller, OSU Extension-County Leader; Friends of Extension: Linda Miller, Carol Mills, Deb Glover, Thomas Beechinor, Don Miller; Umatilla County Fire District #1: Eldon Marcum, Board Member; Ric Sherman, Board President; Jim Forquer, Operations Chief; Tom Fellows, County Public Works Director; Tracie Diehl, County GIS Manager; County Community Corrections: Neena Kik, Dan Madore, Mark Eaver, Omar Silva, Ana Mendoza; Jaime Shockman, Sheriff's Office-West County Clerk; Paul Chalmers, County Assessment & Taxation Director; Robert Pahl, County Chief Finance Officer; Wynn Avocette, Pendleton; Jennifer Blake, County Human Resources Director

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Chair 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 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 noted a point for public input before business items for other than agenda.

Awards/Correspondence/Recognition. Commissioner Elfering noted a letter was received addressed to the Road Master thanking the Road Department for plowing their out of town road when snow storms came at Christmas-time; it was much appreciated.

Employee of the Quarter. The County Excellence Committee congratulates Ana Mendoza from Community Corrections in Hermiston – west end office. Commissioner Elfering read the comments from her peers – her contributions to the parole/probation officers extend beyond her clerical work. Ana is very much appreciated. She was presented with a certificate and a photo was taken.

Minutes of Previous Meeting. None.

Additions to Agenda. Doug Olsen noted one addition – refinancing of a public works loan.

Public input for those items other than on agenda 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 – please limit to more than 5 minutes with the long agenda today. None were noted.

Business Items:

1. **Appointment of 2018 Chair/Vice Chair.** For the record, Commissioner Elfering noted normally it would be his rotation this year as Board Chair, but he asked to step out of rotation and will continue to serve as Vice-Chair; therefore, Commissioner Murdock will serve as 2018 Chair. **Commissioner Elfering**

moved to approve order 2018-001. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0. [Chair Murdock took the center position on deck.]

2. Extension Service District – Public Hearing. Chair Murdock thanked Commissioner Givens for his service as Board Chair last year. He called the public hearing to order at 9:15 a.m. noting this is the second and final hearing for the proposed Extension District. Mr. Olsen gave the staff report. By statute, at this time, the proposed boundaries for a district have been established. Public comments can be given today before action by Board to refer to voters.

Chair Murdock asked for Proponents.

Deb Glover, Weston, Oregon. She talked about greatness and wonderful things about 4H – she has been part of 4H for 35 years. The look of accomplishments on the faces of youth is priceless. She talked about a girl making cookies – problem solving and working through issues. Everyone is included-no one “sits on the bench”. It is also about cooperation and involvement – putting someone first. A favorite story about kids not just showing animals – a certain boy worked on speaking-presentation skills to become an instructor. Learning with 4H experience is for lifelong skills. It builds character.

Carol Mills, Adams. She has been a 4H leader for nearly 40 years – sheep and sewing clubs. She has learned from Extension Master Gardner and the entomology lab at HAREC. She now goes to schools/libraries about good and bad books. Extension is a continual learning experience.

Tom Beechinor, Walla Walla. His family came to the valley in 1863 to homestead – some ground is in Umatilla County; he is a big fan of Extension Service. Great grandfather used it for learning regarding hogs. Extension showed him how to treat hog cholera to save his livestock. Also grain, grazing and grass mixes in order to prevent erosion as well as mix for feed. In addition, they learned feeding futurities of steers for quality and now he and his wife are master woodland managers. Extension is lifelong education. Grandchildren are going to college with help of funds earned through 4H. Extension needs continued funding source through this special district in order to continue good work and research. 4H and Extension are extremely valuable to all communities.

Opponents.

Wynn Avocette, Pendleton. She applauds Extension Service. However, she feels the end users should pay for the services, including farmers and homeowners. She felt only they should be responsible for paying for their children. In her opinion, it is not fair for all to pay for what only users should pay for. New tax said it would be another 50 cents per \$1,000 for her property; and that is in addition to the new fire station bond in Pendleton. She feels tax model should be changed and end users should be responsible. She reminded all that taxes go up significantly in Umatilla County without commensurate income jobs to pay for taxes; there are a lot of retirees, welfare recipients, renters – ongoing taxation is very difficult.

Rebuttal.

Claire Sponseller, OSU, County Leader, Cooperative Extension. To clarify facts for the record: Extension was created in Umatilla and Morrow Counties in 1911. Local dollars would leverage federal and state grants. A permanent County tax would be used to strengthen 4H development as well as assisting services to farmers, ranchers and foresters. A special district is for a long-term funding source. There is good leverage/benefit ratio, which is a requirement of federal government.

Wynn Avocette. The amount of taxation is 33 cents per \$1,000. Taxes are starting to add up; she requested the tax be a smaller (more reasonable) amount.

Chair Murdock closed the hearing at 9:34 a.m.

Commissioner Givens drew attention to the paperwork with the Board Order – the action today is that the Board refers this item to the voters for their action. This is democratic process to allow citizenry to be involved based on the majority of the vote. The Board should not get in the way of the voice of the people. Commissioner Elfering asked about Board's action – clarification. Mr. Olsen advised that due to the request for a permanent rate – the formation will need to be approved by the electors in a vote. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve Order No. BCC2018-002. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0**

3. Mower Purchase. Tom Fellows, Public Works Director, reported. Authorization is sought to purchase a mower attachment (Diamond Mowers) for a front-end loader. It is an item on their Equipment Replacement List to replace an old unit; he has been waiting for a good deal. He has a loader that is sufficient to operate the mower. It can be used for roadside brush to keep good visibility. Wheel loader attachment is \$36,793; 50" mowers \$5,400/each with freight of \$2,200 = Total of \$49,793. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve purchase from Diamond Mowers. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Hydraulic Hammer Attachment Purchase. Mr. Fellows, Public Works Director, reported. This was not on the equipment list; however, they have rented the equipment and it is useful. Purchase of a new one is about \$14,000. Staff recommends they would get good use out of it and now there are some good deals; he asked for permission to issue a request for proposals. In response to Commissioner Elfering's question, Mr. Fellows advised the attachment is a jackhammer, which attaches to a backhoe, used for rock outcroppings, ditch cleaning, etc. Recommended for safety and visibility. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve a Request for Proposals in hopes to purchase equipment to be presented at a future Board meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried.**
5. Purchase of Plotter. Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director, presented. Old plotter equipment in the GIS/Mapping Department needs replacing; money is in budget. Three quotes were received. His recommendation is to go with the SCW plotter in the amount of \$6,011.15. Maps are created for different departments (A&T, Records) and a plotter is utilized quite a bit. One is borrowed from Planning Department, but only as back up. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Imagery Intergovernmental Agreement. Mr. Lonai noted this is also for GIS regarding aerial photos. GIS cannot use Google maps in rural areas as they are not high resolution. This is a \$10,000 contract with State GIS for aerial photos. It is a big cost savings vs. about \$40,000 spent previously. High resolution photos on-line would not be open to the public. However, maps can be produced and sold to the public. Images can be accessed on the county website through Google imagery. In response to Commissioner Givens' question to Paul Chalmers, he advised Assessment & Taxation could use high resolution aerial photos. For example, when circles get moved and irrigated/not irrigated. This information would be very useful and is cost-effective. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Otis Elevator Payable. Mr. Lonai reported. This is annual maintenance requirement. Payable is to Otis Elevator Co. in the amount of \$13,672.69. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering.** He asked if it is possible to get a service agreement for multiple years at a better price. Mr. Lonai advised this is best price for the County elevator. **Carried, 3-0.**

8. Video Lottery Bill Support. Commissioner Elfering reported as it relates to economic development. This is to ensure dedicated video lottery funds reach all counties. In the past few years, the legislature has suspended the statute; this new proposal would stop that suspension to ensure passing through video lottery dollars at the set amount of 2.5% -- the original intent. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Enterprise Zone Agreement. Mr. Olsen reported. Previously, the Board approved the expansion of the Greater Hermiston Area Zone. Lamb-Weston is adding a line and there is additional development in that area. They have approached the County and City of Hermiston to request abatement period in lieu of property taxes; there will be contribution funds to the City and to the County.

Chair Murdock asked for comments from the public.

Ric Sherman, President of Hermiston Fire District #1. Regarding money paid to the County – will it be spread out to different agencies? Chair Murdock advised it will not. Mr. Sherman talked about property taxes – state laws have increased; however, the fire district is still looking to update equipment for the district. The west side of the district will need to provide more services in that part of the county (with business expansion). He asked the Board to give due consideration to the fire district when looking at funds disbursement.

Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the Agreement and adopt Order No. BCC2018-003. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.

10. Emergency Management Grants. Commissioner Elfering reported in the absence of Tom Roberts. He is asking for authority to apply for several grants; there is no County match requirement. The grants are for equipment. Commissioner Givens asked if there is personnel commitment involved? Commissioner Elfering advised there is **no impact to the General Fund; Commissioner Elfering moved to approve. (He made that part of his motion.) Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
11. Finance Position. Robert Pahl, CFO, presented. Funding is available in his department budget. He requests reclassifying the Accounting Assistant position from half-time to full-time. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
12. Refinancing Public Works Loan. Presented by Mr. Olsen. Previously (2007), a grant was not done correctly and to cover the construction shortfall a loan was obtained. Under terms of an agreement, the County is not making repayments -- another entity is; however, the County is the applicant. Mr. Pahl advised there are 12 more payments. Mr. Olsen noted the State has indicated there is a plan to refinance in April and is offering a refinancing package to eligible entities. Mr. Pahl talked about good interest rates where saving of between \$10-\$20,000 in interest costs can be realized. It is an opportunity to save money; he recommends refinancing based on that. Chair Murdock added this action is consistent with readjusting debt and saving interest money; Mr. Pahl agreed with debt payments being lowered or eliminated. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

Executive Session. None.

Commissioner Givens will attend meetings in Milton-Freewater at noon and then to Walla Walla for the monthly MPO meeting.

Commissioner Elfering had no other comments, except that he and Chair Murdock will meet with the City of Pendleton that afternoon.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners