

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of August 1, 2018
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Members and Guests Present: Amy Word, PAWS Board; Jackie Carey, PAWS President; Ben De Carlow, PAWS Board; Sherry Zweig, PAWS Volunteer; Rex Morehouse, citizen; John Taylor, citizen; Tracie Diehl, County GIS Department; Mark Gomolski, citizen; Will Jons, citizen; Kyran Miller, citizen; Dan Lonai, County Administrative Services Director; John Shafer, County Sheriff’s Office; Jennifer Blake, County Human Resources Director; Marie Simonis, County Finance & Budget Office Assistant Director; Undersheriff Jim Littlefield; Gina Miller, County Planning Code Enforcement Coordinator; Kim Weissenfluh, County Developmentally Disabled Program Manager

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CALL TO ORDER

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Givens.

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 noted there is a point for public input before business items for other than agenda items.

Awards/Correspondence/Recognition. Chair Murdock noted this is livestock sale season and a number of thank you notes are received every year. In an age when children do not write thank you notes, this is not the case in Umatilla County. It is important to send notes and it is good to read the interesting and unique comments – some also include what they are saving for. Funds from the County Economic Development department are set aside; administered by Commissioner Elfering. In addition, a thank you letter was received from the Pendleton Junior Livestock Show for the county’s annual donation/support.

Minutes of Previous Meeting. Commissioner Givens moved to approve the 7/3/18 meeting minutes. **Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

Additions to Agenda. None.

Public input. Chair Murdock advised this is the time for public input (for other than a scheduled item on the agenda) and also for recognition of visitors.

Rex Morehouse, 217 NW 9th, Pendleton, came forward. He wanted all to know he has always been treated fairly at the County.

Business Items:

1. **County Service District for Dog Control.** Amy Word, 654 NW 7th, Pendleton, presented on behalf of PAWS. Also attending were Jackie Carey and Ben De Carlow. She outlined the purpose and

background of Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter, along with statistics over the last many years. At this time, they wish to postpone the funding quest and, therefore, it will not be on the November ballot.

Chair Murdock added that his wife was on the PAWS Board of Directors. He talked about animal control including the fact owners must take responsibility. As a county, it is a part of policing. After research, it is a very old practice – since the 1700s. He believes what the Pioneer Humane Society is saying about holding off comes from more and more tax initiatives not being a popular thing at this time. There is compression to consider. Maybe it is time other than proposing tax initiatives to perhaps look to their own budget. Animal control is an issue. He has heard that perhaps the county could explore funds, not to go back for more tax measures. He felt this is a sigh of relief to not go on the November ballot. However, this decision does not resolve the root problem – it only resolves an unwelcome initiative on the ballot.

Commissioner Givens talked about Walla Walla's Blue Mountain Humane Society – they do fundraisers. He suggested looking to other organizations. He is concerned if the county does something with this, it opens the door for other fund requests -- where does it stop? There are many things to consider, including what kind of enforcement?

Commissioner Elfering added there does need to be animal control, but he doesn't feel the county is the place. He suggested grants may be considered as well as other ways of fundraising. He noted there are specifications for different grants and suggested they research that. In addition, the county has a grant application available on the website.

Chair Murdock pointed out there are differing opinions about how to handle the question and he would still like to see the Commissioners talk about animal control in the future.

He asked for comments from the audience.

John Taylor, 735 NW 10th, Pendleton. He has trained/raised dogs for over 70 years – there is need for animal control, but also it is responsibility of pet owners to take care of their own. His dog doesn't cost anybody else anything. There is financial need at the Humane Society as well as need for strong rules, oversight and management. He also feels there is partial city responsibility in some cases.

Sherri Zweig, 7 SE 10th, Pendleton. For six years she has been involved with PAWS. Regarding fundraising comments, problems have been that Pendleton is small and animal control is way down the line compared to other asks. There has always been a lot of donation/volunteer to Round-Up. PAWS people worked very hard to bring in funds and also contribute a lot of their own money; they aren't looking to the community to support necessarily, but they are looking for other things i.e. volunteer time as well as money for animal food, for example. They have gone to the city without much support.

Rex Morehouse, 217 NW 9th, Pendleton. He asked who will be the next 501c3 (organization) that wants taxes? PAWS is a non-profit. He feels the city should come up with some funds and it shouldn't be a taxing district request.

Jackie Carey, 695 NW Goodwin, Pilot Rock. She agreed (animal control) is a city's problem, but it is also a county problem. Dog hoarding is a problem and there are dogs with litters of pups just left. She asked the Board to consider working together to come to resolution – as a joint effort. There are many things in communities and county jurisdiction to consider. People just leave animals. PAWS is no-kill shelter except for ill animals. They need funds for operation. She feels this subject being brought to the public has been good. She also reminded about a main focus is spaying and neutering.

2. Purchase of Vehicle – DA. Doug Olsen presented on behalf of Dan Primus, who was unable to attend due to another commitment. Action is to issue a Request For Proposals for a mid-size vehicle as recommended through the fleet management process. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
3. Purchase of UAS. Jim Littlefield, Undersheriff, present on behalf of Emergency Manager Tom Roberts. He has been working on this for the past couple of years. A small fleet of drones has been operated, but there is need for updated technology to assist in search and rescue, fire assessment, search for suspects, etc. Drones provide safety vs. sending people where it is dangerous. Mr. Roberts applied a year ago and was awarded a grant of \$15,000. Recently, bids were requested to include night vision and other updated capabilities. The cost estimate was over the grant amount of about \$3,000 to \$4,000.

At this time, the request for bid of total amount is \$22,908 from Aerial Tech International. Software has been adjusted for proper permission to fly. Therefore, the difference of \$7,908 is needed. In response to Commissioner Elfering's question, Undersheriff Littlefield advised costs have increased since the initial grant award; a functional drone is needed for the future (i.e. quality of cameras and night vision). Chair Murdock noted fires in Oregon have increased – 5-6 just this year so far. He feels this is safety issue as well as difficult terrain.

Commissioner Givens noted with his background (Forest Service and fires), this new technology will be very useful. Undersheriff Littlefield also pointed out this drone is a bit larger and can fly at night and in adverse weather conditions. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the purchase of UAS from Aerial Tech. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

4. Volunteer Recognition. Chair Murdock read the resolution recognizing Will Jons for service to Umatilla County. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve Order No. BCC2018-059. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.** Commissioner Elfering added that Will is a dedicated volunteer who has been the American flag bearer at the start of each day of the Pendleton Round-Up for 25 years -- 1,000 rides! It is spectacular. Chair Murdock noted prior to action today, he had visited with Dave O'Neill, President of the Round-Up Board, who assured their Board is very supportive of the County's resolution. Mr. Jons came forward to have a photo taken.
5. Dispatch GIS Agreement. Traci Diehl, County GIS Department, presented. She noted Kathy Lieuallen, 911 Dispatch Manager, was unable to attend. Oregon Emergency Management provides \$15,000/quarter to pay for the cost of maintaining master street guide and RIMS system and GIS mapping. The request is to approve that Geo-Comm, Inc. through Emergency Management take over the Master Street Address Guide and RIMS CAD street files on behalf of Dispatch. Of the \$15,000 per quarter allotment, \$6,651 would go to Geo-Comm with the remainder going to County GIS to provide 911 mapping work. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the contract. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Creation of Positions – DD Program. Kim Weissenfluh, County Developmental Disabilities Program Manager, presented. Two new positions are requested for Program Specialists to work with records and personal service workers and an Eligibility Assistant Specialist (PSAs work with individuals in their homes including daily tasks to keep people in their home. The federal government has funded PSAs for the last five years. There are almost 200 PSA workers in the county). PSAs also serve as intermediaries with a lot of paperwork and documentation required to be completed in order to maintain the status. The state recommends using carry-over funds for this position. She clarified that money comes in through case management contacts to pay for the two positions. Assessment over the last two years of DD program staffing concluded support staff could be deleted. In addition, it concluded the two Program Specialist positions would be useful. Budget is available through carryover in DD and can be

maintained for the next few years. Determination within 90 days must be completed – thus the need. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

7. Courthouse Boiler Repair RFP. Dan Lonai, County Administrative Services Director, presented. One of the two boilers in courthouse recently failed. It needs to be repaired before cold weather comes. Estimate of cost is up to about \$80,000. He hopes bids will be somewhat less. The boilers are energy efficient and are about 8-9 years old -- that is about the normal life for this equipment. Discussion continued about life of equipment, savings, credits, etc. In response to Commissioner Givens' question about replacement vs. repair, Mr. Lonai noted savings was about \$40,000 for replacement of a similar boiler at the jail. At the courthouse, savings of energy was about \$8,000. A grant and "back to work" incentive as well as Energy Trust funds were used for heat pumps. It saved a lot of money installing those boilers. Chair Murdock noted he has spoken to Finance about availability of funds from reserves are for contingencies such as this. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve the issuance of the RFP. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Courthouse Roof Replacement RFP. Mr. Lonai presented. There are five sections of roof. The middle section was first done in 1997 then staggered by section after that. It is ballast rock in the middle piece where the others are membrane-type. There has been a leak over the DA's office for about five years. The last time after rock removal and cutting inspection holes, the insulation was soaked with water and has continued leaking. Estimate for replacement is about \$35,000. He requests getting a bid for total cost of the middle section, which includes rock removal and replacement, and he would like to go with membrane roof. Depending on cost, which would come back to the Board for evaluating the need, insulation will need to be replaced as well. Commissioner Givens talked about previous discussion about replacing the roof with a pitched roof. Mr. Lonai advised he will discuss options with the roofer. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the issuance of the RFP. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Agricultural Burn Ban. Gina Miller, County Planning-Code Enforcement and Smoke Management program, presented. On 7/18, the Board adopted a non-agricultural burn ban geared to small scale, residential use. It still allowed farmers to burn if needed on regularly allowed burn days, except for red flag days where there is no burning allowed. At this time, with large multiple fires, it is recommended that a full burn ban be implemented. In addition, Emergency Manager Tom Roberts also recommends the burn ban. Regarding seed growers, they realize how volatile fires are this year. She also noted crews from this area are in mutual aid agreements with The Dalles area – crews are stretched thin this summer. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve Order No. BCC2018-060 (Temporary Ban on All Burning in the County). Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Stateline III Project Amendment. Mr. Olsen presented on behalf of Planning Director, Bob Waldher. EFSC has received a request to amend the site certificate for the Stateline III project, and provided notice to the county for comment. Comments were prepared in the form of a letter for Board consideration/signature. The amendment requests project name change from "Stateline III" Wind Energy Facility to "Vansycle II". In addition, a variance in the road set back is not warranted based on the circumstances. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the letter to submit to ODOE. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
11. Payable for PEP Project. Chair Murdock advised this is last installment of \$10,000 from reserves of special fund payable to the Pendleton Downtown Association for the PEP project. There is no general fund impact. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve the expenditure. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

12. PILT Litigation. Chair Murdock noted this has been discussed over last few months. Action is to seek to secure about \$41,000. The County has postponed participation in litigation. However, information was received on 7/29 about other counties' action in Oregon whereby 26 counties have signed on to be part of the litigation. He believes time is now for County action so as to not leave money on the table. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve joining the litigation (PILT Class Action). Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

13. Oregon Vietnam War Memorial. Commissioner Elfering gave background of the Vietnam War Memorial to be placed on Oregon State Capitol grounds. It is requested that the county support the project. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve support of placing a Vietnam War Memorial (Order No. BCC2018-061). Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

Commissioner Reports.

Commissioner Givens: the last few days he has been dealing with fire issues. For two days, he was at Butler Grade where Google maps had rerouted drivers due to area fires. Butler Grade is a rough and mostly impassible road. There were about 18 semi-trucks and numerous passenger cars and trucks. He actually helped flag and blocked the road to get people turned around, although some still went through. He worked with the County Road Department crew and area landowners getting the large trucks turned around.

Commissioner Elfering: he recognized Emergency Manager, Tom Roberts, for his assistance and hard work during this fire season. Susan Morgan, AOC, provides frequent reports, as well as the Oregon Department of Forestry and US Forest Service regarding fire and related danger. BLM has also provided financial assistance for fire-fighting. Commissioner Givens commented about "no man's land" where fire is and, unfortunately, gets a good start. Area fire districts have crews at their own boundaries to try to keep fires from spreading onto district-covered land.

Commissioner Murdock: reminded all about the coming Veterans' Day. This year, on November 11, Korean War veterans will be honored. The County will soon be looking for names and information of those veterans for invitations to be honored. There will be two ceremonies in Pendleton -- the usual 11/11 at 11 a.m. ceremony will be held at Pendleton Pioneer Chapel. Due to the 11th falling on a Sunday, the County celebration will be in the afternoon at the convention center so as not to conflict with church services. He noted on behalf of the VFW that Tom Tangney (a Korean War vet) is also working hard with the County on this year's event.

Executive session. None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners