

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting of January 20, 2021
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon
Public Call in #: 541-728-0275

Commissioner Present: Chair George Murdock
Commissioners attending remotely: Vice-Chair John Shafer and Commissioner Dan Dorran
County Counsel: Doug Olsen
Guests Present: None in person.
Video or Calling in: Bob Waldher, Planning Director; Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director; Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director; Mark Tanner, Facilities Manager; Staci Kunz, Transit Coordinator–STIF; Sheriff’s Office: Capt. Karen Primmer, Deputy Sheri Hutchinson; Sharon Livingston

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Murdock called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He reminded all that the meeting is a public forum and there is a call-in option provided. The meeting 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 identify yourself and state where you live in order to be heard on the record – also note if you are speaking on behalf of others. He noted there is a point for public input before business items for other than agenda items.

Pledge of Allegiance

Awards/Correspondence/Recognition. Murdock read commendation letters. 1) public recognition to Dispatch deputy Sheri Hutchinson – gifts for Christmas gathered to serve four different families w/10 foster children. Thank you for the second year in a row helping others in service. Capt. Karen Primmer added kudos to deputy Hutchinson and all her family participating in a wonderful public service. 2) Commissioner Shafer read a letter of commendation from Sgt. Paul Wolverton, Sheriff Rowan, and Undersheriff Littlefield to Dispatcher Gordon Krom for the last call/end of watch for Officer J.D. Lambert, whose funeral services were held on January 9. He added it is an honor to bear witness, but also heartbreaking in the circumstances. The last call for J. D. Lambert was played and there was a moment of silence. 3) Chair Murdock read a thank you note from Kathy Lonai regarding the Life Flight benefit through her husband Dan’s employment @ Umatilla County used during her recent skiing accident. She was thankful to have the benefit and encouraged all to subscribe to Life Flight if possible.

Minutes – Commissioner Shafer moved to acknowledge the Board minutes from the meeting of 12/16/20. **Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

Additions to Agenda – none.

Public Comments – Sharon Livingston, Pendleton, calling in. She asked if the commissioners are working to do something about the lockdown in the county. She didn’t see why restaurants and others are closed. She’s an 81-year old resident of Pendleton who moved from a smaller isolated area to have some social interaction. She was frustrated that one person in the state of Oregon can lock the entire state down (Governor). She urged the commissioners to please work to open Umatilla County restaurants as she feels they aren’t contributing to the spread of COVID-19. Chair Murdock encouraged her to stay on the line for agenda item #17, which speaks to that very topic.

Business Items

1. Umatilla County Soil & Water Conservation District – annual presentation. Kyle Waggoner, Manager, UCSWCD, presented the annual report from the Umatilla County Soil & Conservation District. He went through each page of the report on the monitors, which showed focus, mission, programs (outreach and education, project planning and implementation, and collaboration – and examples of all). He elaborated about how the County’s annual \$10,000 donation is used and/or leveraged to fund specific things – projects secured over \$295,000. He also touched on the difficulties of 2020 with flooding and COVID restrictions. A lot of outreach had to be done virtually – but was successful, nevertheless. He encouraged the Commissioners to suggest any other opportunities whereby the District can improve serving the County. Commissioner Dorrان, new this year advised he will introduce himself soon. Chair Murdock expressed appreciation for the partnership.
2. STIF Fund Plan for 2022-23. Presented by Bob Waldher, Planning Director, and Staci Kunz, Transit Coordinator. The STIF fund projects for 2022 and 2023 are before the Board for approval, along with proposed sustainability policy. The advisory committee met a couple of weeks ago and selected projects for recommended approval. Staci Kunz pointed out an overview of projects. Commissioner Dorrان gave kudos to County staff and Ms. Kunz for all their work in putting projects together. Chair Murdock also echoed thanks. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrان to approve the projects for the 2022-23. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. He also echoed positive comments. Carried, 3-0.** The sustainability policy is to set aside money to allow for decreases in funding and maintain existing projects. **Motion was then made by Commissioner Dorrان to approve the policy. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
3. Nolin Hills Project Comments. Presented by Mr. Waldher. Comments are due to EFSC for amendments to the proposed Nolin Hills Project. He provided some history/background on the project. Initially, it was a wind project, now expanded in scope to include 300 MWs of solar as well as battery storage located within the solar array. This requires submitting a revised application for the site certificate. In finishing up review of that application, he and Commissioner Dorrان (liaison to Planning) met with the siting analyst from the state. In addition, he is currently working with Doug Olsen, county counsel, to wrap up comments. Pending review, approval is sought for Board signature on comments to go to the State Department of Energy. Commissioner Dorrان noted some positive pieces and changes resulting from technological advancements. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to approve the letter as finalized by County Counsel and the Planning Director. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Creation of Position - Public Works. Presented by Tom Fellows, Public Works Director. This request is to add a Maintenance II position in the Public Works Department. Historically, this position had been established, but had been cut due to funding. Funding now appears adequate to return. The person that will fill the position has recently obtained his CDL and has proven very capable. Looking ahead to retirements coming in the next few years, approval is sought for this full time position. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrان to approve the creation of the position. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Road Groomer Attachment Purchase. Presented by Mr. Fellows. The request is to approve the purchase of a road groomer attachment. This equipment should make grading operations more efficient; it mounts to road graders and will help with wash-boarding where there are high traffic levels. It is a non-capital purchase in the amount of \$7,109.65 with freight. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrان to approve purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

6. Dump Trucks Purchase. Presented Mr. Fellows. Approval is sought to purchase two new dump trucks. In reviewing the budget and timing, these two trucks will have a build date in May. There is need to continue upgrading the county fleet. Maintenance and repair is better on newer trucks. Woodpecker Truck & Equipment, will build the trucks @ a cost of \$186,542.41/each including snow plows and sanders, which is based on the Sourcewell Contract. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrn to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Dispatch Payment. Capt. Karen Primmer. Approval is needed for payment. This is an annual payment of \$10,100 to Computer Information Systems for the CAD system licensing. The allows access to the older CAD records, with this being the final payment. The system will no longer be used, and access to older records is only available through the end of the year. Notifications were provided to partners about accessing any needed reports or records prior to the ending. The county owns the data inside, but not the software to make it run. This \$10,100 is half of what was the prior charge. Records division under Lt. Ward is well underway with the project of retrieving all information from the system. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve payment. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Dispatch Equipment Upgrade. Capt. Primmer presented. Approval is sought for payment of \$6,619.16 to CPE-Lumen for an upgrade to the CenturyLink 911 equipment. The state agreed to pay for five of the six stations. This is for the sixth dispatch station. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve payment.** He was disappointed that the state saw fit to only fund five, but six are needed. **Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.**
9. IT Payable. Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director, presented. Approval is sought for purchasing new software for the DA's office from Dell Marketing in the amount of \$5,067.52. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrn to approve the payable. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Maintenance Payable. Presented by Mr. Tanner. Approval is sought for a payable for insulation of two county road shop buildings by Mr. Insulation Co. in the amount of \$26,350. Mr. Lonai noted that Mark Tanner has been working with Energy Trust in applying for credits through the Energy Trust Program for the insulation work. It had to be done by 12/31/20 to secure credits. Administrative Services and Maintenance have worked with energy trust for funds to do several county projects. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve the payable Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.**
11. Maintenance Payable – Restroom 1st floor. Presented by Mr. Lonai and Mr. Tanner. Approval is sought for a payable in the amount of \$8,850 for ongoing remodeling of the first floor restroom. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve the payable of \$8,850 to John's Custom Flooring. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.** Mr. Olsen noted there is a second part to this action. Due to the cost of this project, Finance requested Board review and approval of the entire project. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrn for approval of the remodel and expenses for the first floor restroom. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
12. LPSCC Appointments. Doug Olsen presented. Appointments are sought to the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council. Due to changes in employment and offices, eight representatives needed to be updated on the council. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to adopt Order No. BCC2021-010 with appointments to the County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.**

13. Supplemental Budgets – Public Hearing. Chair Murdock opened the public hearing at 9:58 a.m. The staff report was presented by Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer. There were five supplemental budgets, Budget Orders numbered: Order 2021-16 (General Fund: Elections Program) requires an increase in State Revenue of \$47,000 and in Capital Outlay of \$47,000. Order 2021-17 (Economic Development Program: Econ. Dev. Reserve) requires increases in State Revenue of \$2,900,000 and in Materials & Services of \$2,900,000. Order 2021-18 (Sheriff: Emergency Management) requires increases in State Revenue of \$105,000 and in Capital Outlay of \$105,000. Order 2021-19 (Prepayment of Taxes) requires increases in Beginning Cash Balance of \$70,000 and in Materials & Services of \$70,000. Order 2021-20 (Capital Projects: Stafford Hansell Gov. Bldg.) requires increases in Beginning Cash of \$1,000 and in Transfers Out of \$1,000.

Chair Murdock asked for public comments or questions. With none being heard, Chair Murdock closed the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. Deliberations. None.

In the matter approving Supplemental Budgets pursuant to ORS 294.471 for FY ending 6/30/21: Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2021-16 (Program 3530 – Elections Program). Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2021-17 (Program 1029– Economic Development). Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2021-18 (Program 1585 – Emergency Management Grant Program). Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2021-19 (Program 3006 – Prepayment of Taxes). Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Dorrان moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2021-20 (Program 9084 – Stafford Hansell Government Building Improvement). Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.

15. Budget Transfer. Presented Mr. Pahl. There were two budget transfers, Budget Order 2021-21 (GIS Equipment Reserve Program) requires an increase in Materials & Services of \$7,000 and a decrease of \$7,000 in Capital Outlay. Budget Order 2021-22 (Dispatch Reserve Program) requires an increase in Capital Outlay of \$31,000 and a decrease of \$31,000 in Contingency.

In the matter approving a Budget Transfer pursuant to ORS 294.463 for FY ending 6/30/21:

Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2021-21 (Program 3030 – GIS Equipment Reserve Program). Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2021-22 (Program 1519 – Dispatch Reserve). Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.

16. Cook Building Sale (Hermiston). Presented by Mr. Olsen. The Board approved the sale of the Sam Cook Building at its 12/16/2020 meeting. Approval of the lease was held back due to concerns, but now appear to be resolved and the matter is back for formal approval. **Motion was made by Commissioner Murdock to adopt Order No. BCC2021-011 approving the sale and the lease. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

17. Letter to Governor Brown. Commissioner Shafer read a draft letter from the City of Pendleton (Mayor John Turner) to Governor Brown regarding the closing down of restaurants in Umatilla County, which isn't working. It urged using science from the CDC with example of California and Florida to show that these businesses are not a large component of the increasing COVID cases. The industry here relies on tourism and all are very concerned that if a place closes it won't open again. Chair Murdock added Mayor Turner asked if the Commissioners would be willing to join in co-signing the letter to the Governor. Also, Chair Murdock suggested possibly including the incidence of positive cases from gatherings appear to be increasing with restaurants shut down, there are limited offerings that appear to actually be causing people to be more likely to gather closer. Gathering at restaurants/bars are strictly monitored and kept clean by extraordinary means vs. in homes + closer proximity.

Commissioner Dorran commented on the excellent letter and asked if it was going to be endorsed throughout the county? Or just City of Pendleton and the county? He suggested a full county voice where it is important to listen to as many as possible. Chair Murdock noted that an estimated 110,000 restaurants across the country will permanently close. And Commissioner Dorran added that he has heard about 60% aren't coming back after closing.

Mr. Olsen noted the City of Hermiston also received the letter to review. Commissioner Shafer added he couldn't sign the letter fast enough. It is devastating information. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve and authorize the chair to sign the letter when it is finalized. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

Executive Session – none.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Shafer advised that work to repair Pearson Creek Road off Birch Creek, road 54 has been started by the Forest Service.

Commissioner Dorran advised last night he attended Stanfield's City Council meeting, where channel mitigation program was presented, and a library program presentation was made. It was impressive that even with all challenges in 2020, they found ways to serve community there and in Echo. The yearly report was made by Cecili Longhorn. He asked if there is a way for the county to recognize efforts and innovation of ways some are overcoming hardships? He felt it a good idea to recognize volunteers who are making good, positive things happen. Maybe at one Board meeting each month, there could be recognition of innovative achievements of people around Umatilla County responding to the COVID pandemic. Chair Murdock agreed he may be on to something and suggested that, in considering this type of program to move forward, Commissioner Dorran could come up with guidelines. Mr. Olsen suggested the concept could come to a near-future meeting for discussion/action.

The meeting adjourned 10:16a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners