

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Meeting of February 3, 2021  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon  
*Public Call in #: 541-728-0275*

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**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:** Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director; Marie Simonis, Assistant Director-Finance & Budget Office; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director; Mark Tanner, Facilities Manager; Mark Royal, Human Services Director; Tom Fellows, Public Works Director; Theodore Orr, Public Works-Noxious Weed Supervisor; Staci Kunz, Transit Coordinator-STF; Capt. Thoren Hearn, Sheriff's Office-Jail Commander

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**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.** Chair Murdock read recognition letters/awards. 1) Thank you to A&T for good customer service on the phone from the Hamptons in Echo with their tax payment. 2) Under the direction of Bob Waldher, Planning Director, a recognition plaque and commendation was received from the U.S. Census Bureau -- Umatilla County's Complete County Committee was one of first to get work underway for the 2020 Census, even with COVID. Thank you!

**Minutes** – Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the Board minutes from the meeting of 1/20/21. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.

**Additions to Agenda** – none.

**Public Comments** – none.

**Business Items**

1. **CDA/Depot Resolution.** Doug Olsen presented. This is coming to the Board at Columbia Development Authority's request, for the county to assume oversight of the 1944 explosion site on depot property as part of the transaction for the depot to be conveyed from the Army to the CDA. This is to document the support the county is willing to do. Details are still being discussed, but it is before the Board for consideration.

By virtual link, Greg Smith, CDA Director, advised this is in an effort to preserve critical cultural and archeological sites important to Umatilla & Morrow Counties to ensure those recognized sites are protected

into the future. Therefore, whomever is responsible for the physical real estate of these sites will agree to honor those commitments today. One correction is there will be some form of public access to these locations – by easement or road (unsure of the form at this time), but the engineer believes there will be an easement – not a separate walkway. However, accommodation will be available to the public by way of a road. Commissioner Shafer advised that his questions were answered after he spoke with CDA representatives. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to adopt Order No. BCC2021-017 (authorizing the county to maintain and preserve the 1944 Umatilla Chemical Depot igloo accident site). Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**

2. Weed Control Products Contract. Presented by Theodore Orr, Public Works-Noxious Weed Supervisor. Approval is sought for the purchase of annual products used for weed control. A request for proposal was issued in December. Four bids were received, and Wilbur-Ellis was low bid, but prices were only good through June; therefore, the bid was pulled. The state contract can still be used for the 12 months needed. Second low bidder was Nutrien in the amount of \$3,643.02, which is his recommendation. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrان to approve the contract for weed control products with Nutrien. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
3. Culvert Purchase. Presented by Tom Fellows, Public Works Director. Approval is sought for the annual purchase of culverts, which are stockpiled in the yard. Over the last eight months, they used a lot of stock. This purchase will increase inventory. Steel prices are going up, so it is prudent to take advantage of current costs. Three quotes were received. The recommendation is to go with Arrow Construction with low bid \$26,015.67. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrان to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Stacker Conveyer Lease. Presented by Mr. Fellows. The request is to approve the lease of a stacker-conveyer. Public Works is getting ready to move the rock crusher to another pit, looking to have a second product line. This equipment will provide efficient and streamlined approach. Rent would be for next two projects (about six months). At that time, he will assess if the equipment is cost-effective. For now, he is looking at \$4,000/month up to six months of rent. Commissioner Dorrان had spoken with Mr. Fellows previously and agrees with the recommendation. It makes sense to have this equipment available. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrان to approve the lease from Modern Machinery. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Sheriff's Office Payment. Presented by Capt. Thoren Hearn, Jail Commander. Approval is sought for payment for new jail windows. An inmate broke five windows. It is his recommendation to purchase and replace windows with polycarbonate. The quote is a single source provider at a cost of \$8,944.65. In response to Commissioner Shafer's question, he clarified the polycarbonate is to last forever. It is three layers of polycarbonate and will not shatter. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve the purchase and payment. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Maintenance Payable. Presented by Mark Tanner, Facilities Manager. Approval is sought for a payable to replace two controls on one HVAC unit at the courthouse that failed. The units are 12 years old and required new controls. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve the payable (HMS Commercial Service in the amount of \$9,166). Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Justice Center Fire Alarm System. Presented by Mr. Tanner. Approval is sought for a payable for fire alarm panel at the Justice Center. The system had to be shut down due to false alarms for two weeks. He met with the fire marshal where requirements were laid out. It is a single source provider and recommendation is to go with this as the best fiscal option. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrان to adopt Order No.**

**BCC2021-016 (For purchase from Johnson Controls Fire Protection in the amount of \$28,750).  
Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

8. Jail Intercom Security Upgrades RFP. Presented by Mr. Tanner. Approval is sought for a request for proposals to replace the security system at the jail. The intercom and systems are failing, which is a security issue and is crucial. Staff was able to repair the system for a brief time to get it running, but it must be replaced ASAP. There are no parts available due to the age of the current system. Once the vendor is chosen, it will take approximately 4-5 months, with testing and installation. That will be in the next budget cycle. In response to Commissioner Shafer's question about being part of the remodel, Mr. Tanner noted upon site work and engineer assessment, it shows the system should be added in so anything done will work into the remodel. This will be compatible and consistent with design expansion. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrn to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Solid Waste Committee Appointment. Presented by Mr. Olsen (for Gina Miller, Planning-Solid Waste Coordinator – technical difficulties on video connection). There is a vacancy on the Solid Waste Committee as a result of a resignation. Klaus Hoehna is recommended as the member-at-large position #1 to fill the vacancy left by Dennis Olson. Mr. Hoehna brings many years of civic service and community knowledge to the committee. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2021-012. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.**
10. STF Funding Grants. Presented by Staci Kunz, Transit Coordinator. Approval is sought for the Special Transportation Fund grants for 2022 and 2023. The STF committee met January 21 where they reviewed project requests for FY2022-23. With allocation requests a bit higher than available funds, all agreed to a 9% cut to come within the ODOT contribution. Funds were split between Pendleton, Hermiston, and Milton-Freewater. The STF allocations total \$379,293. The STF 5310 and Small Urban allocations total: City of Pendleton = \$281,214. City of Milton-Freewater = \$207,288. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve the STF grants. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.**
11. Consultant Services – Human Services. Presented by Mark Royal, Interim Human Services Director. With major recent changes in the Human Services Department and its programs, he requests consultant services to evaluate the department. He is looking to Health Management Associates to help with evaluation of process for behavioral health services. Most of the funding the services was received from GOBHI for purposes of this study, the remaining is available within his department. Chair Murdock commended GOBHI for their contribution. He has met with Mr. Royal and is fully on board with the direction. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve the contract. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
12. Budget Committee Appointments. Presented by Chair Murdock. Appointments to the Umatilla County Budget Committee are before the Board for approval. With Bobby Levy's move on to the state legislature, the proposal is to appointment as her replacement, Marie Linnell, who is agreeable. In addition, Beth O'Hanlon's term expired. She is eligible for reappointment and is agreeable to serve another term. **Motion was made by Commissioner Murdock to adopt Order No. BCC2021-013. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.**
13. Compensation Committee Appointments. Presented by Marie Simonis, Assistant Director-Finance. This is for annual appointments to the Compensation Review Committee. The recommendation is to continue with those appointed last year, George Anderson, Pat Hagan, and Molly Tucker Hasenbank. All have agreed to serve again. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to adopt Order No. BCC2021-015. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.**

14. Supplemental Budgets – Public Hearing. Chair Murdock opened the public hearing at 9:31 a.m. The staff report was presented by Marie Simonis, Assistant Director-Finance & Budget. There were three supplemental budgets, Budget Orders numbered: Order 2021-23 (General Fund: Elections Program) requires increases in State Revenue of \$118,000, in Materials & Services of \$71,000, and in Capital Outlay of \$47,000. Order 2021-24 (General Fund: Communicable Disease Program) requires increases in State Revenue of \$2,030,000, in Personnel Services of \$1,030,000, and in Materials & Services of \$1,000,000. Order 2021-25 (Human Services: Alcohol Drug & Gambling Program) requires increases in State Revenue of \$55,000 and in Capital Outlay of \$105,000.

Chair Murdock asked for public comments or questions. With none being heard, Chair Murdock closed the public hearing at 9:33 a.m. Deliberations. None.

**In the matter approving Supplemental Budgets pursuant to ORS 294.471 for FY ending 6/30/21: Commissioner Dorrان moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2021-23 (Program 3530 – Elections). Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

**Commissioner Dorrان moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2021-24 (Program 5513 – Communicable Disease). Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

**Commissioner Dorrان moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2021-25 (Program 5487 – Alcohol Drug & Gambling Treatment Services). Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

15. AOC Annual Membership. Approval is sought to pay for the 2021 AOC dues in the amount of \$27,989.61. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to approve payable for the full membership. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
16. Wolf Program Payments. Presented by Commissioner Shafer. The payments from the Wolf Depredation Program are before the Board for approval. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrان to adopt Order No. BCC2021-014, granting awards of \$59,270. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer.** Commissioner Dorrان commented about depredation evaluations – this committee does a very thorough job. Chair Murdock identified a conflict of interest. **Carried, 2-0. Chair Murdock abstained.**
17. FEMA Grant Application. Presented by Commissioner Shafer. Approval is sought for the county to commit to paying a portion of the local match for a FEMA grant. This goes back to the flood of 2019 on McKay Creek. To help mitigate future flooding, the City of Pendleton has applied for a FEMA grant for a watershed analysis of the McKay Creek Basin with an estimated cost of \$400,000, requiring a local match of \$100,000. The proposal was to share 1/3 each for grant match requirements – split with the city, county and the Lower McKay Creek Flood Control District. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve the County’s \$33,000 contribution for matching funds. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**
18. Community Development Payable. Presented by Chair Murdock. This is a recommended payable for \$10,000 through the Community Services Development budget to Meacham Store & Café. A number of grants have been awarded over the last year; unfortunately, Meacham is an area that is small with the store and café the only business enterprise in that community with a central source of food and take-out meals. He met with the proprietors Tuesday who say they need assistance to keep the business open. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrان to approve the payable. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
19. Letter to Governor Brown. Approval of a letter to the Governor regarding her budget proposal to address racial equity. Chair Murdock noted highlights of the letter dealing with the fact the proposal by Governor Brown for \$250 million is an investment for racial equity purposes. This letter is to make sure that, instead of just developing programs at the state level, have local input and control. There is urgent need for local

investment, cooperation, and support, and the letter requests that funds be sent to counties to be actively and directly involved in advancement of the racial aspects for equity.

Commissioner Dorran totally endorsed the letter and requested reading some paragraphs into the record. With Chair Murdock’s agreement, he read paragraph 7 ... “The racial equity sub-committee serving our area has made it clear there is no singular conversation. What we are hearing from the metro area has only limited relevance for Umatilla County and Eastern Oregon. When we are simply reviewing proposals made at the state level, we dutifully respond. However, when the conversation shifts to issues that matter to us, and how we can make a difference here, the enthusiasm rate grows and the energy and interest level is much different.” In addition, our population is nearly 30% Hispanic and POC, who want to engage in the discussion of equity..

Commissioner Shafer was blown away by the letter. He can’t wait for the Governor to read it. Chair Murdock is confident that Umatilla County wishes to move forward on these initiatives. With a \$250 million investment, he felt the state must acknowledge grass roots level support.

**Commissioner Dorran moved to approve and authorize the chair to sign the letter with distribution as noted. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

**Executive Session** – none.

**Commissioners’ Comments**

Commissioner Dorran - none  
Commissioner Shafer - none.  
Commissioner Murdock - none.

The meeting adjourned 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt*

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners