

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting of April 20, 2021
9:00 a.m., Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon
Video link or call in

Commissioner Present: Chair George Murdock
Commissioners attending remotely: Vice-Chair John Shafer and Commissioner Dan Dorran
County Counsel: Doug Olsen
Guests Present: none.
Video link or Calling in: Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director; Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director; Sgt. Josh Roberts, Sheriff's Office [*+ see list of video or call-in, copy on file*].

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. Also, meetings are now live-streaming. 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. Commissioner Murdock recognized Chip Zessin, Harris Park Manager. He read a thank you from Barbara J. Hetrick & the Blues Crew -- a million thanks on behalf of class leaders and students that used the park for sawyer training. All are hoping to get the park open soon! Under your hands, the park is looking fabulous!

Minutes – Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the Board minutes from the meeting of 4/7/21. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.

Additions to Agenda – none.

Public Comments – Chair Murdock noted this is the time the meeting is open to the public for items not otherwise on the agenda. No comments were made.

Business Items:

1. **Wireless Headsets Purchase – Sheriff's Office.** Sgt. Josh Roberts, presented. This is request to purchase wireless headsets for use in the marine division. There is need for good communication between marine patrol & dispatch; these headsets are a versatile tool that would meet that need. In response to Commissioner Shafer's question about the quality for dispatchers, since he is familiar, Sgt. Roberts advised these systems are in use all over the country and he feels the quality will be very good. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorran to approve the purchase of three wireless headsets from SetCom in the amount of \$8,330.35. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
2. **Health Insurance Renewal FY21-22.** Presented by Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director. The annual renewal for county employee health insurance is before the Board for consideration. She noted that Doug Beamer, Wheatland Insurance, is also on the line. This is a request for renewal with a 5.9% increase in both medical and dental coverage, which she feels is extremely fair. Approval is requested to renew with Pacific

Source with no changes in coverage. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer agreeing 5.9% increase is very fair and to approve the FY21-22 rate proposed through Pacific Source of health/vision and dental coverages. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.**

3. Insurance Agent of Record. Presented by Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director. A request for proposals for agent of record for insurance was approved at the February 17 Board meeting. Approval is now requested to name the County's insurance agent of record (for property and liability) and also workers' comp insurance. Of three bids, the review board considered factors and services with cost as the deciding factor. The recommendation is to go with the Graybeal Group, with experience of 20 years as the county agent. Next was Wheatland, but at more cost. In response to Commissioner Dorrn's question about carryover or liability/facilities concern, Mr. Lonai noted mostly claims are liability, but he's unsure which area. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrn to approve the contract with the Graybeal Group for insurance agent of record for property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Election Payable. Presented by Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director. This is a request to approve a payable for ballots for the upcoming election (May 18, 2021) to Ryder Elections Services in the amount of \$18,567.92. This is a yearly routine expense for conducting an election and has been budgeted. There are over 47,000 registered voters in the county, which is an increase of about 10,000-12,000 from 10 years ago. There are a lot of special districts also involved. Special elections are down to between 20-30% voter return. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve the payable. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Property Conveyance. Presented by Doug Olsen. The county foreclosed on two tax lots earlier this year. The property in question consist of buildings on leased property at the Pendleton Regional Airport. The real property is owned by the City of Pendleton. The city is requesting conveyance of the buildings, which is for Board consideration. A request also came from the former property owners to re-purchase. Mr. Olsen advised the city already owns the land and must hold it for a public purpose for 20 years; the city is willing to accept the property with that condition. In this instance, the building owners can continue the lease with the city and can rent the buildings along with the real property. The recommendation is to accept the city's proposal. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrn to adopt Board Order No. BCC2021-033. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
6. LUBGWMA Subcommittee. Presented by Bob Waldher, Planning Director. The Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area is initiating a bi-county study of the area and desires to establish a subcommittee with nomination of Commissioner Dorrn to serve as a co-chair. The study is an effort to look for ways to reduce nitrates in the soil and also to remove that designation. Recommendation is to form the subcommittee to oversee this work and to have the Department of Environmental Quality appoint co-chairs Commissioner Dorrn and Commissioner Lindsay, Morrow County. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to adopt Board Order No. BCC2021-032. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Emergency Declaration - Drought. The adoption of an emergency declaration due to drought was before the Board for action. Presented by **Commissioner Dorrn, who moved to adopt Board Order No. BCC2021-034. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer.** Discussion before the vote. Commissioner Dorrn commented about geography, weather -- different over a wide area -- as well as a complex county with large area in the western region that is in severe drought stage now (identified on maps), plus an equally large area in extreme drought. He thanked Bob Waldher for the information on the drought map, which is very telling about various geography and land mass. Commissioner Shafer added the need to protect farmers and the county will do all it can. In addition, he read a letter from the Governor, who also designated Union County a disaster area of drought with more than eight consecutive months of drought. Contiguous disaster counties are Umatilla,

Baker and Wallowa. Requirements are met for the disaster designation and, thus, eligible for emergency assistance/loans. Local FSA offices can provide assistance upon request. **Motion carried, 3-0.**

8. Emergency Management Payable. Presented by Tom Roberts, Emergency Manager. Request is made to purchase signs from Alert Safety Supply Inc. in the amount of \$5,517.40. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrان to approve the payable. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer.** Comments/more information: The County received a grant that included funding for items for Morrow County. Primary purpose is contiguous support of a neighbor county. Funding is a grant with 100% reimbursement. Signs can be used in various applications, and are stored in inventory in each county. One large sign is kept at Pendleton. Some smaller signs are in use now in various areas in the county. **Motion Carried, 3-0.**
9. Human Services Position – Temporary Double-fill. Presented by Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director. With a recent resignation of an employee in Human Services, there is need for cross-training of the billing position. Request is made to double fill one-half of the position through 6/30/31 for this training. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Hermiston Payable. Presented by Commissioner Dorrان. A payable to the City of Hermiston is before the Board for approval due to the amount. This is the county’s portion for a lobbying group requested by the City of Hermiston for the west end area. It is funded through contributions by each city – Echo, Stanfield, and Umatilla. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrان to approve \$10,000 payment to the City of Hermiston. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
11. Echo Community Benefit Plan Grants. Presented by Commissioner Shafer. The Echo Community Benefit Plan latest grants are before the Board for approval. Chair Murdock thanked him for attending in his stead. The Echo folks rolled out the red carpet – they are great to work with. He elaborated on grants awarded in the total amount of \$9,823.17. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to adopt Board Order No. BCC2021-031. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**

Executive Session – none.

Commissioners’ Comments –

Commissioner Dorrان: appreciated the last agenda item. He’s amazed at how well small city councils perform their obligation – hats off to those council members for the job they do with what they have.

Commissioner Shafer: agreed with those comments. Nothing to add.

Chair Murdock: for the record, noted the Community ROCKit program was holding the second of two half-day workshops today. They will turn over process to the county that will be responsible to carry it forward after review of bids and revising mental health services. About 30 people have given their time to work on this project. Second, budget committee/hearings will be tomorrow and Thursday – a lot of volunteerism this week!

The meeting adjourned 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners