

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting of August 4, 2021
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon
Public call-in phone number: 541-728-0275

Commissioners Present: Chair George Murdock, Vice-Chair John Shafer, and Commissioner Dan Dorran

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Guests Present: Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director; UCSO: Capt. Thoren Hearn and Lt. Kenny Franks Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer (+ *see sign-in sheet on-file for complete list*)

Video link or Calling in: Joe Fiumara, Public Health Director; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director; Mark Tanner, Facilities Manager; Capt. Karen Primmer, Dispatch Manager; Sheriff Terry Rowan [*+ 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. Talked about confusion in recent weeks – BCC is required to have a public meeting, but not a meeting with the public. Time on agenda is to provide input or for hearings to provide comment; but not to involve themselves in meetings. 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 Shafer spoke about the Challenge Coin Program. 1) From Jennifer Blake, HR Director, coin recipient is Riley Wortman. The pay system had big issues and Riley spent nearly three days in processing payroll – even without knowing the system, he made it work! 2) Recipient Melvalee Carter, from Mark Royal, Interim Human Services Director. She is a true asset – reliable, knowledgeable, operational knowhow – in transition period, she’s been outstanding in coordination and point person. 3) Recipients John and Marie Gard, from Elections. Great service over many years.

Chair Murdock read thank you cards from Danner Farms for their Eurus grant – along with extensions for projects from 2020, and from Athena Mainstreet Association for donation for community events.

Commissioner Dorran recognized the Fair Board for their efforts, despite issues, have been able to coordinate with public health and will have an incentive program during the fair (re: vaccinations). At the parade, there will be vaccination places at the start and end of the parade with opportunity to receive vouchers for food or carnival rides. Chair Murdock also added, appreciation after a meeting the day before with west county mayors where the suggestion came about for the vouchers for carnival rides.

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

Additions to Agenda – None. However, under commissioner comments, Chair Murdock requested adding discussion about letters presented to the Board regarding EOCA business, including the Rivers Democracy Act and CDC new/ updated recommendation about mask wearing indoors.

Public Comments – None.

Business Items

1. **Board of Commissioners’ (Public Health) Payable.** Presented by Joe Fiumara, Public Health Director. Approval is sought for payment to EO Media Group for additional COVID vaccination ads, in the amount of \$7,879.56. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to approve payment. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
2. **Creation of Position – Public Health.** Presented by Mr. Fiumara. This is for the creation of a new position. There is need for a Communication Coordinator for ongoing communication initiatives and accreditation efforts. This would be Range 25. He explained the primary duties are related to COVID-19 – daily updates to social media, messaging needs and coordination with management team and outward messaging to improve vaccination rates, and more. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve creation of the new position. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**
3. **Contact Tracer Office Improvements.** Presented by Mr. Joe Fiumara. This is request to approve payments toward office upgrades to the contractor tracers center. Moving forward the center will be in place for some time to come and the work environment needs to be set up as permanent location for next couple of years (cubicle walls, matching sit/stand desks and chairs). **Commissioner Dorrان moved to approve the expenditure of \$32,290.14. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.** Chair Murdock asked Mr. Fiumara to pass on gratitude for their hard work. And, Commissioner Shafer commented about a phone call he received from someone who had spoken to a tracer named Rowen about his great customer service!
4. **Jail Food Services Contract.** Presented by Sheriff Rowan. The County issued a request for proposals for jail food services. Four responses were received. After review by the Sheriff’s Office and contact with other counties who use the providers, the recommendation is to contract with Trinity Services Group. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to award the contract for jail food services, including commissary, to Trinity Services Group. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer** Before the vote, Chair Murdock asked for any comments from Capt. Hearn or Lt. Franks. Capt. Hearn advised he was the person who reached out to various jails, etc. It was determined Trinity is the best choice. Commissioner Dorrان noted a lot of work going through proposals; he agreed totally with the recommendation, which includes commissary as well as food service. Trinity appears to also be responsive in correcting problems if they come up. He appreciated such a complete request for proposals. Chair Murdock echoed Capt. Hearn’s comments as well as the exhaustive study and good comments from other jails about Trinity. **Carried, 3-0.**
5. **Dispatch Payable.** Presented by Capt. Karen Primmer, 911 Manager. A payable is before the Board for approval, due to the amount. This payable is for services to replace the uninterrupted power supply – first installed in 1999. Thank you to the county maintenance crew and data district that properly installed the system. A lot of hours were spent. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to approve payment to Pendleton Electric Co. in the amount of \$17,041.88. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
6. **Community Service Van Lease.** Presented by Doug Olsen for Dale Primmer, Community Justice Director. Community Justice seeks permission to enter into a lease for a used vehicle through Enterprise Fleet Management to replace the 2006 Community Service Work Crew van. A work crew supervisor has been rehired and will be using the Juvenile Division van in the interim. For flexibility in this process, since a specific vehicle has not been identified, request is made for approval of an amount not to exceed \$45,000. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve lease agreement in the amount not to exceed \$45,000. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**

7. Maintenance Payable. Mark Tanner, Facilities Manager, presented. A payable is before the Board for approval due to the amount. Request is for approval of payment to HMS Commercial Service for repairs to the chiller at Stafford Hansell Government Center in Hermiston. **Motion made by Commissioner Dorran to approve payment in the amount of \$6,540 to HMS Commercial Service. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Department Reorganization. Presented by Commissioner Shafer. The transfer of the Alcohol and Drug Program to Community Counseling Services has created a need to reorganize departments and also for placement of the Veterans Program. The proposal would create a new department, separate from the Human Services program to include Developmental Disabilities Services and Veterans Services. Reorganization would include reclass of the CDDP Supervisor to the Director of CDDP/Veterans (at Range 37) to provide oversight over both programs. Funding will be split across both funds. Human Services Department will be eliminated and oversight of the contract for Mental Health, Addictions Treatment, and Problem Gambling Services will remain with finance and legal staff. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve reorganizing departments as outlined, effective 9/1/21. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran --** with a question about eliminating CDDP? Commissioner Shafer responded no, the CDDP supervisor will take on oversight role for both departments (CDDP and Veterans). Robert Pahl, CFO, added if, for some reason CDDP is not under the county's umbrella, other changes would occur. Veterans will continue under county oversight. And, Chair Murdock added veterans doesn't require a director position in and of itself. **Carried, 3-0.**
9. EURUS Community Benefit Plan Grant. Mr. Olsen presented. The EURUS board has recommended changes to two previously awarded grants and to allow for extension to complete the projects. It includes a different purpose from original awarded grant request. Commissioner Shafer advised he serves on the committee, is aware of the situation, and approves of the recommendation. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve grants and adopt Order No. BCC2021-067. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Local Community Investment Project. Chair Murdock presented. Some ARA funds were allocated for local community investment projects. This is for the City of Ukiah area [\$37,500 for park area – Camas Prairie Cowboy Convention Event Center]. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the grant and payment. Comment by Commissioner Dorran –** it is a great cause – if possible, he encouraged taking time to visit the center; **he seconded the motion. Carried, 3-0.**
11. Foreclosed Property Payable. Presented by Mr. Olsen. Approval is sought for payment to the City of Weston for its utility lien against property that was foreclosed on for delinquent property taxes. If the lien is recorded, state law provides the lien is superior to the tax lien and is paid from foreclosed property sale proceeds. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve payment of \$8,508.50 to the City of Weston. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Murdock commented, in a public setting, there appears to be confusion about wearing masks. Our public health director recommends following guidelines of the Governor, President, and CDC about wearing masks indoors. Thus, the county is not mandating wearing masks indoors due to the inability to enforce. Secondly, regarding the River Democracy Act, the county continues to get letters from other EOCA members on this subject. It is somewhat controversial -- it impacts different counties in different ways. EOCA has a meeting next Monday (8/9) and if this comes up, he wants awareness known of discussion by this board. Commissioner Dorran agreed some counties have more impact, however, there is impact on the Umatilla River, the South Fork of the Walla Walla River, and Meacham Creek. The latter is barely running water, but he's not sure how it would fit into the wild and scenic category. Senator Wyden's office is working on a clear and definite map, but it's not available at this time. It is a complex issue and he doesn't feel this is great legislation. In addition, he doesn't feel this board should recommend it. Chair Murdock asked, what about opposing it? Commissioner Dorran didn't want to go that far. He felt more discussion with senators would be appropriate. At this point, he felt that

informational meetings are needed. Chair Murdock summarized, as matter of record, the county will continue to participate in the conversation, but neither endorse nor oppose as there are concerns about the bill in its current form. Commissioner Dorran advised that Senator Wyden has been sent a letter requesting further information.

Chair Murdock went back to the other topic of discussion regarding the EOCA meeting about the fact the state has now mandated that masks will be used for the entire 2021-22 school year. EOCA is asking for Umatilla County's involvement. Commissioner Dorran noted he would like to see transparency from the Governor's office – he feels the letter is fairly neutral. Commissioner Shafer agreed with Commissioner Dorran's comments after reading the letter. Chair Murdock's concerns are local school districts need to be in the heart of the conversation and also should include Oregon school boards association. He's not sure the entire '21-22 school year should be included feeling a lot can change. Commissioner Shafer was also concerned with the Governor removing local control on this issue – this fits in the middle of that local control. Chair Murdock added he's also concerned with exceptions from local control are more than schools plus there are a lot of confusing messages regarding athletics – it is not clear at all.

Commissioner Shafer advised Congressman Bentz will have a town hall Monday at the Convention Center, Pendleton at 10 a.m.

Executive Session – Chair Murdock called executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(a,b,h) [employment discussion] at 9:41 a.m., in Room 121. If action is to be taken, the Board's regular meeting will be called back to order.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners