

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of June 18, 2024
1:30 p.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

Commissioners Present: Vice-Chair Cindy Timmons and Commissioner Dan Dorran

County Counsel Absent

Guests Present: Robert Pahl, Umatilla County Chief Financial Officer; Tom Fellows, Umatilla County Public Works Director; Dan Lonai, Umatilla County Administrative Director; Susan Christensen, Executive Director GEODC; Josh Roberts, UCSO Lieutenant; Hailey Roberts, UCSO Dispatcher; Karen Primmer, UCSO; Trevor Limburg, UCSO Deputy; Shainah Randall, UCSO Dispatch; Halle Pennington, UCSO Dispatch; Dale Primmer, Community Justice Director; Gina Miller, Planning Dept. SWAC; Jimmy Doherty, Bob Waldher, Umatilla County Community Development Director; Mike McHenry, President of Pendleton Sanitary Service and chair; Kevin Miracle, General Manager of Sanitary Disposal

Video link or Calling in: Chair John Shafer

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chair Timmons called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. She reminded all that the meeting is a public forum and there is a call-in option provided. There is time on the agenda to provide input (or for hearings) to provide comment. 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 and ask that they be three minutes or under. 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.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chair Timmons.

Awards/Correspondence/Recognitions Commissioner Dorran has 3 commendations, he called for Halle Pennington, Trevor Limburg, Hailey Roberts, Shainah Randall, Nicole Kellas, Captain Primmer and Josh Roberts to stand and come to the front. He then read a letter describing the great efforts when a fire call for came across. The tele-communicators on duty, Roberts, Randall and Kellas, that night did a stellar service and their combined efforts were accomplished with purpose and professionalism. They worked as a team! They were thanked for a job well done!

Halle Pennington is a newer tele-commuter, she was commended for her ability to handle multiple units, answering needs of responder units, assisting with evacuation procedures and more. Outstanding service and effort showed purpose and professionalism. Thank you to Halle.

Trevor Limburg commended for his ability and action in this situation. He directed multiple agencies in regards to a grass fire. Commendation is extra special, it was recommended by a co-worker. Thank you to Deputy Limburg.

Additions to Agenda – None.

Public Comments and Recognition of Visitors – None

Business Items

1. GEODC Projects Report – Presented by Susan Christensen, Executive Director GEODC. She gave an update on some of the work they have been doing in some of the cities and in the County. One program is the BTAC (Broadband) program. This has 3 parts, first a feasibility study to determine where broadband is lacking. Another part includes 3 ISP's to help obtain some preliminary costs. And then there will be a strategic plan to tie all of this information together. We are collecting more information so these entities can apply for more funding.

City of Echo flooded several years ago. There is an effort to look at how mitigate damages and prevent any future damages. FEMA process is lengthy, pre-application, sub-application this is in review we may not hear back until 2026. The other GEODC application that was submitted on behalf of Echo was through the U.S. Army Corps of engineers and is still under review. This would allow for project planning or project construction. We have coordinated with the City of Helix on the same 2 types of applications. GEODC has recently finished a comprehensive 5 year plan. We are a federally recognized economic development district. GEODC does cover 7 counties. It took us nine months to complete our Strategic Plan, what came out of that was focus on community development (childcare), regional collaboration (coordinating a better network of resources), rural frontier vitality, business support, infrastructure and resiliency (natural resources/hazardous mitigation activities).

GEODC was also working with the City of Pendleton on a large FEMA grant, for a couple of years. The City opted to work directly with the engineering firm. This was in regards to McKay Creek, FEMA provides large dollar, it does take time to acquire those dollars. Commissioner Dorran asks if the Strategic Plan is on the website. Ms. Christensen, it will be. Commissioner Dorran asks if GEODC writes the grant on behalf of the City and how many applications or projects GEODC has going. Ms. Christensen, that is correct, the City or County that we are writing for is the applicant. They are all a little different, 10-15. Ms. Christensen is thanked for coming.

2. Cemetery District Annexation - Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. The county has received a petition to annex property into the Weston Cemetery District. The petition has been signed by the property owner, as well as the district board. The next step will be to set the matter for a public hearing before the Board on July 17, 2024. **Chair Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2024-042. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**
3. Pendleton Sanitary Service Rate Increase – Presented by Gina Miller, SWAC liaison, Mike McHenry President of Pendleton Sanitary Service and chair. On April 9, 2024 the SWAC met and voted to approve recommendation of a rate increase request by Pendleton Sanitary Service. A 14-day public notice (ending June 3, 2024) was published in the East Oregonian and 3 prominent public places in the service area. No written comments were submitted in the time allotted. Mr. McHenry read a letter asking to consider the rate increase as it in line with the City of Pendleton's rate increase as well. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve rate increase of 3.5% for a July 1, 2024 effective date. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

4. Sanitary Disposal Rate Increase - Presented by Kevin Miracle General Manager of Sanitary Disposal. Waste Connections of Oregon, Inc. dba Sanitary Disposal has submitted a request for a rate increase to be effective July 1, 2024. The SWAC met on April 9, 2024 and again on April 23, 2024 in Executive Session and voted to recommend the rate increase to the Board of Commission as follow for final approval; 12.5% rate increase for collection services and 37.5% for disposal services. Commissioner Dorran commented, I appreciate Mr. Miracle coming and SWAC. I dug into the financials and have a hard time getting to either of these numbers. There are a lot of comparatives here. An issue I came across is our ordinance. A section of the ordinance was read. "The Committee shall recommend, and Board shall approve, no change in an established rate or schedule of rates except upon a finding that it is justified due to a reasonable change in the franchisee's cost of doing business, or due to added, better or more comprehensive service." So relative rates are not a criteria for us in setting rates. When you are paying 26% to corporate, I would like to see them invest in you. Mr. Miracle explained that they have spent over \$4 million in capital upgrading trucks and increasing wages. Commissioner Timmons ask about rate calculations. Mr. Miracle, we look at wages, insurance, the cost of parts, trucks and other things. The increase was discussed further. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve a 7% rate increase for collections and a 7% increase for disposal service for a July 1, 2024 effective date. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Monitoring Contract – Presented by Dale Primmer, Director of Umatilla County Community Justice. In early 2024 we were informed by our current Electronic Monitoring contractor that they were ceasing services to small contracts such as ours. We have discovered many other counties to include rural counties using Vigilnet as their provider with reliable services. He explained how the electronic monitoring worked in detail. Commissioner Dorran asks if that type of monitoring will fall into the definition of deflection. Mr. Primmer explains, probably not deflection works to keep them out of the justice system. Electronic monitoring is used more for low level crimes and mostly low risk people that had jobs, but had some form of custodial sentence. Commissioner Timmons asks what they look like. Mr. Primmer explains they are basically a strap with a puck that goes around the ankle. There are a whole host of varieties some can have a box that plugs into the wall that reports if they are in or out of range, some use GPS, there are even devices that can detect alcohol. They are able to be monitored 24 hours per day. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the service contract with Vigilnet services to provide electronic monitoring equipment, training and monitoring services. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Gravel Pit Contract - Presented by Tom Fellow, Umatilla County Public Works Director. The County issued a request for proposals for the drilling and blasting of the Ransier gravel pit. The project consists of 10,000 cubic yards of materials. Two proposals were received: Aggregate Resource Industries - \$5.65/yard; and Hatley Construction - \$3.10/yard. The recommendation from the department is to contract with the lower proposal. **Commissioner Dorran moved to authorize contract for the drilling and blasting of the Ransier gravel pit with Hatley Construction in the amount of \$3.10/cubic yard. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Public Works Purchase – Presented by Tom Fellow, Umatilla County Public Works Director. The Public Works Department is requesting board approval for purchase and application of BaseBind-X to I mile of Wells Station Road. This is a relatively new product that shows a great deal of potential for base stabilization and long term dust suppression. We are constantly looking for ways

to reduce maintenance cost for gravel roads and we see potential in this product, we feel the best way to judge products such as this is through actual use. Envirotech would supply the application equipment and guidance on preparation prior to application, and the County would do pre application preparation and follow up assessment of product performance. Commissioner Timmons watched a video on this and wondered what is in it? Mr. Fellows, it is a proprietary product so they don't disclose the full list of what is in it. It is mixed with a polymer product, there is a small amount of mag chloride, it should not cause corrosion. They won't say how long it will last because it has not been used in this area. **Commissioner Dorrان moved to approve purchase of BaseBind-X Soil Stabilization from Envirotech Services in the amount of \$15,653.00. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

8. Election Results – Vice-Chair Timmons opened the public hearing at 2:34pm. Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. The official results of the May 21, 2024 primary election for the county ballot measures are before the Board for review and acceptance. Also, as both ballot measures passed amending the Umatilla County Charter, proposed ordinances adopting the changes are before the Board for review and adoption. Vice-Chair Timmons called for public input, questions or comments, there were none. The public hearing was closed at 2:40 pm. **Commissioner Dorrان moved for acceptance of the elections for the County Ballot Measures 3165 & 3164. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0. Commissioner Dorrان moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-07. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0. Commissioner Dorrان moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-08. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0**
9. Contract Ratification - Presented by Jennifer Blake, Umatilla County HR Director. The AFSCME Road contract expires June 30, 2024. Approval is sought for the Board to approve a new 3 year contract effective July 1, 2024 with COLA's of 4%, 4%, 4%. This includes a change in insurance contributions to 80%/20% as well as elimination of longevity and creation of a monthly salary step system. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve a 3 year contract with the AFSCME Road Department Local 1393 with a 4% COLA effective July 1, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Executive Session – Employment/Real Property – ORS 192.660(2)(a,b,e,h) – None

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Shafer: None

Commissioner Dorrان: None

Commissioner Timmons: Veterans Services did a stand-down at Wildhorse last Saturday, there were lots of people and lots of vendors. They did a fantastic job!

Meeting adjourned by Vice-Chair at 02:09 p.m.

Kelsey Bailey

Executive Secretary – Board of Commissioners