

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of March 26, 2025
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

Commissioners Present: Chair Cindy Timmons, Vice-Chair Dan Dorran and Commissioner John Shafer
Commissioner Absent:
County Counsel Doug Olsen
Guests Present: Robert Pahl, Umatilla County Chief Financial Officer; Undersheriff Jim Littlefield; Jennifer Blake, Umatilla County HR Director;
Video link or Calling in: Sue Oliver, Irrigon

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Timmons called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.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 - led by Chair Timmons.

Awards/Correspondence/Recognitions - None

Minutes – Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the minutes from March 12, 2025 Board meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3 - 0.

Additions to Agenda – None

Public Comments and Recognition of Visitors – Sue Oliver is visiting the Boards for each member of the signatory parties of the 2014 Intergovernmental Agreement concerning the Columbia Development Authority. She attended the CDA meeting yesterday and the month prior. She expressed her frustration with lack of action to create policies and procedures to correct the issues that have created the situation the CDA is in now. She encourages the Board to review the requirements of the IGA and discuss with the representative of that board. There are actions that could be taken even with the litigation that is ongoing.

Business Items

1. **Gate Permit** – Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. The County received an application for the placement of 3 gates on County Road. No. 1046 (Ross Road). The application has been signed by all of the impacted property owners. A gate would be placed at the intersection of Ross Road and McKay Creek Road, and on two other sections of the road. The Public Works Director is in support of the gate permit. **Commissioner Dorran moved to authorize placement of gates and sign permit agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

2. Sheriff's Office Payment - Presented by Undersheriff Jim Littlefield, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office. In April 2022, UCSO purchased the CordicoShield Wellness App for our staff. There was a short video shown in recognition of First Responder Wellness Week. The video discussed the elevated risks that come along with being a first responder. This job takes its toll on those in this line of work both mentally and physically.

The app provides numerous health and wellness resources to our staff, via a download to their phones, on a confidential and anonymous basis, 24/7/365. The annual subscription for 2025-26 is due, and we would like to continue using the app. Our agency's usage analytics for 2024 shows that our staff have and are using this app on a regular basis. We budgeted for this expense in this fiscal year's operating budget, and the cost will be split between the Communications, Corrections, and Criminal.

Commissioner Dorran asked how many programs are purchased through Lexipol and can they be bundled on one bill? Mr. Littlefield, the policy manual, a daily training bulletin that accounts for 36 hours of training annually and the Cordico App. Bundling the billing will be addressed with Lexipol. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the renewal of the annual subscription for CordicoShield Wellness App and payment in the amount of \$15,000.00. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

3. AWERE Grant – Presented by John Shafer, Umatilla County Commissioner. The Athena-Weston Education and Resource Enhancement (AWERE) Grant Committee convened on March 12, 2025, to review grant applications. For the 2025 funding cycle, a total of \$79,000 is available. The Committee received one application and recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve funding up to \$79,000 to the Athena-Weston School District for the completion of the Land Lab Swine Barn Project. Additionally, the AWERE Grant Committee recommends approval of a request from the Athena-Weston School District to extend the 2024 grant for the Community Track Lighting Project, in the amount of \$20,000.

Bob Waldher sent out a press release informing all that 2025 will likely mark the final year of AWERE grants and highlighted the great projects accomplished since its establishment in 2003. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2025-015. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

4. Fair Forklift – Presented by Dan Dorran, Umatilla County Commissioner. The Fair is seeking to purchase a used forklift. The equipment would allow access to second floor storage area. The cost would be through the fleet management fund. **Commissioner Dorran moved to authorize issuance of request for proposals for purchase of a used forklift. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Budget Committee Appointment - Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. The term of Marie Linnell on the Budget Committee has expired and she does not want to be reappointed. Mike Flemmer is eligible and is willing to be appointed. The appointment is before the Board for approval. **Commissioner Dorran moved to adopt Order No. BCC2025-008. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

6. Emotional Support Animal Program – Presented by Jennifer Blake, Umatilla County Human Resources Director. The District Attorney would like to integrate an emotional support animal (ESA) into the victim witness program to assist victims of crime during victim meetings, during court proceedings, while providing testimony, or potentially at crime scenes. This animal will undergo specialized training through the Eastern Oregon Corrections program, offering a valuable opportunity to support and give back to victims of crime. **Commissioner Shafer moved to authorize the Victim Service Emotional Support Animal Policy and the acquisition of this dog from the Joys of Living Assistance Dog program trained through EOCL. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.**

7. Executive Session – Employment/Real Property – ORS 192.660(2)(a,b,e,h) – None

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Shafer: None

Commissioner Dorrn: Concerns was expressed for the region and the county with the forecasted storm moving in that could cause some havoc. Discussions have happened with Emergency Management on preparation. Everybody stay safe.

Commissioner Timmons: None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Timmons at 9:29 a.m.

Kelsey Bailey

Executive Secretary – Board of Commissioners