

**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting of May 18, 2026 at 2:00 pm
Umatilla County Courthouse, Room 130
Pendleton, Oregon

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

County Counsels: Doug Olsen, Nicholas Warner

Guests Present: Robert Pahl, Chief Financial Officer; Jason Jensen, Chief Financial Officer; Jennifer Blake, HR Director; Bob Waldher, Community Development Director; Joseph Fiumara, Public Health Director, Alisha Lundgren, Public Health Deputy Director; Eddy Antoniella, Candidate for Commissioner; Kevin Miracle, Waste Connections; Derek Ranta, Waste Connections; Shaina Lilley, Waste Connections;

Video link or Calling in: None

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dorran called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. He 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 two 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 Dorran.

Additions to Agenda – None

Public Comments and Recognition of Visitors – Eddy J Antoniello, 1104 SW 37th St, Pendleton OR, is running for County Commissioner. He is here today to showcase some designs that he created for a challenge coin for the United States’ 250th anniversary. Copies of the designs were submitted to the Board.

Business Items

1. **Crisis Stabilization Center** – Presented by Commissioner Shafer. Previously it had been discussed that the Detox Center in Pendleton could be renovated using Rural Health Transformation funds into a Crisis Stabilization Center. It was previously used as a Detox Center.

Commissioner Timmons expressed concern with not having a Detox Center in the County. Commissioner Shafer agreed that there is a need for a Detox option in the County, but that a Crisis Stabilization Center (CSC) could offer the ability to manage both behavioral and mental health needs where a Detox does not address mental health. Both facilities accept people under the influence of drugs and or alcohol and they are both volunteer only, people cannot be held if they wish to leave.

A Detox Center requires a medical provider at the facility 24/7, a CSC requires a doctor to be on-call, making it easier to staff with less financial impact. The staffing required for a CSC includes a Qualified Mental Health Professional and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with the bulk of staff being peers. If medical detox or medical treatment is needed the patient would not be admitted to the CSC but taken to the ER. CSC's are the model that is being seen state-wide.

2. **Rate Increases** - Presented by Bob Waldher, Community Development Director, and advisor to the Solid Waste Committee along with franchise representatives, Kevin Miracle, Sanitary Disposal, 81144 N Hwy 395, Hermiston OR; Shaina Lilley, Controller for Sanitary Disposal, 4536 23rd Ave, Longview WA; Derek Ranta, Sanitary Disposal, 7645 SE 22nd Ave Portland OR. Waste Connections of Oregon DBA Sanitary Disposal, Inc., having a solid waste franchise through Umatilla County, proposes to increase its rate within its franchised area of unincorporated Umatilla County by 14.0%. If approved, the proposed rate increase will go into effect on July 1, 2026. On April 14, 2026 the Umatilla County Solid Waste Advisory Committee met and voted to recommend approval of the proposed rate increase requested by Sanitary Disposal, Inc.

Chair Dorran inquired about the basis of a 14% rate increase. Mr. Ranta explained that last year they provided financial statements to support the request for a 30% rate increase, the Board granted a 15% increase. After running the financial reports again this year, they are requesting a 14% increase to cover costs of general operations and align with industry standards.

Commissioner Shafer asked for clarification of who would receive the rate increase. Mr. Miracle responded that the increase would be affect those outside of the city limits within their service area. Many other cities in the county over the last two to three years agreed to a 37.5% rate increase. Chair Dorran commented that the County rates have increased over 44% in the last three years. Ms. Lilley adds that the financials show a loss before taxes for transportation in Umatilla County.

Questions regarding the application of "walk-in" and "drive-in" fees were discussed, constituents are reporting being charged an additional \$7 to \$10 for services on private roads. The "walk-in" or "drive-in" fees apply when the automated arm cannot be used and a driver has to get out of the vehicle and walk to the can or drive down a private road off the regular route (County Road) to dump the can. These fees are being assessed to compensate for extra time, fuel, and vehicle wear and tear. Chair Dorran stated that the original agreement when they took over was to provide the same service the previous service franchise did.

There was concern that changes in fees were not being approved through the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the franchise terms not being followed per the agreement. Mr. Ranta offered to review service levels, the franchise agreement along with rate sheets and compare to other haulers within the County to ensure consistency. Mr. Miracle adds that the "walk-in" or "drive-in" fee was previously being assessed, but not properly. As the company identifies a customer that should be charged the fee, they are adding it to their bill, it is not a new fee.

To improve efficiency, a complete reroute of all lines of business was completed and drivers' shifts were changed from four 10 hour shifts to five 8 hour shifts. These changes have reduced drivers' hours from 55-57 hours per week to 45-48 hours per week, a savings of \$20,000/month in overtime expenses.

Commissioner Shafer asked if the \$8 recycle rate would have been approved, would they still be here asking for a 14% increase. Yes, Mr. Ranta concluded that they are trying to get all of the service areas to a probability margin of 8-12% on net income, the standard for this industry.

Mr. Waldher recommended making a distinction between whether or not customers are being charged the “walk-in” or “drive-in” fees on County roads versus public roads versus private roads. The rate increase request will be brought to the Commissioners’ meeting 6/3/2026. There will be another, separate discussion about county, public and private roads and “walk-in” versus “drive-in” rates.

3. Expansion of Home Visiting Services – Presented by Joseph Fiumara, Public Health Director and Alisha Lundgren, Deputy Director. OHA has carved out catalyst awards to be distributed to LPHAs via Program Element 82. This has not yet come through as a contract amendment. UCo Health is required to submit a project proposal and budget that must meet the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) funding criteria and guidelines. UCo Health has put forth a project idea based on expanding our Maternal Child home visiting programs. Commitment to this project idea will likely have some sort of General Fund impact in the future. UCo Health would like to present details of the project expansion, and potential fiscal impacts, prior to seeking board approval for the project and resulting FTE increase. The project was submitted to OHA last week.

A slideshow presentation outlined highlights of the program. Currently clients of the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program must live in Umatilla or Morrow Counties, qualify for OHP, be a first time mom and enroll by week 28 of pregnancy. NFP will meet clients wherever they choose, in their home, in the Public Health office, a public location etc. NFP works with Yellowhawk and Umatilla-Morrow Head Start home visiting programs, who have different eligibility requirements, in an effort to reach more clients.

Expansion of the NFP program to NFPx would allow for clients to enroll anytime during pregnancy and they would not have to be a first time mom. NFP is the only program of the three that has an RN doing home visits, so they are able to reach more high-risk families.

Expansion of the program would require hiring a full-time Nursing Supervisor and full-time Community Health Worker (CHW). The CHW would focus on bilingual outreach and increasing referrals, while conducting billable visits under nurse supervision. Initial costs would include training for new and existing staff and the purchase of a fleet vehicle. While RHTP funds cannot cover costs that are considered billable under other programs they can be used to cover the non-billable portion of the Nursing Supervisor and CHW roles in addition to onboarding and training.

This program would require some support from the General Fund estimated at the highest number for FY27 to be a \$40,000 ask and for FY28 an additional \$180,000 ask. There are other topics being considered that could financially support NFPx and lower the impact to the General Fund. If OHA approves the project and funds are received, the funds can be back dated to April 1st. After that, Public Health would then come to the Board with an official ask.

With no other items, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Dorran at 3:34 pm.

Kelsey Bailey

Executive Secretary – Board of Commissioners