

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of March 04, 2026
9:00 am, Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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Commissioners Present: Chair Dan Dorran and Commissioner Cindy Timmons
Commissioner Absent: Vice-Chair John Shafer
County Counsels: Doug Olsen, Nicholas Warner

Guests Present: Lieutenant Josh Roberts, UCSO; Captain Paul Wolverton, UCSO; Undersheriff Jim Littlefield, UCSO; Robert Pahl, Umatilla County Chief Financial Officer; Jason Jensen, CFO; Sage DeLong, Emergency Manager; Megan Davchevski, Planning Manager; Captain Sterrin Ward, UCSO; Jesalyn Cole, Stepping Stones Executive Director; Marty Campbell, Pendleton FFA Advisor; Evelyn Hayes, Pendleton HSS/FFA Speaker; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director; Mark Browning, BMCC President; Bob Waldher, Economic Development Director;

Video link or Calling in: Jennifer Blake, HR Director; Dan Lona

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CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dorran called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. 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 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 Dorran.

Awards/Correspondence/Recognitions – None

Minutes – Commissioner Timmons moved to approve the minutes from February 18, 2026 Board meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 2 - 0.

Additions to Agenda – None

Public Comments and Recognition of Visitors – None

Business Items

1. **FFA Presentation – Evelyn Hayes** – Presented by Marty Campbell, FFA Advisor Pendleton High School. Mr. Campbell introduced Evelyn Hayes. She has qualified through District and Sectional competitions to attend the State Convention. Evelyn Hayes is a junior at Pendleton High School and is preparing to go to the State FFA convention on March 19th in Redmond. Evelyn delivered a confident, informational speech in favor of hydroponics. Evelyn chose hydroponics as the topic for her speech as a result of her and her family’s passion for gardening all plants combined with concerns of food insecurities. She was commended on a great presentation.

2. Mark Browning, BMCC - Mark Browning, BMCC President, 2411 NW Carden Ave, Pendleton, presented a request for expansion of the embedded navigator program. The partnership entered into a couple years ago included augmenting the available workforce of Spanish speakers into the English community and English into the Spanish community and has been a tremendous success. Conversion language communication classes have been taking place in Hermiston and Milton-Freewater, also showing success. The desire is to expand these efforts by reaching into the high schools, and utilizing the unused funds from the amount that was previously allocated in this agreement to do so. The request to the Board is for consent to imbed personnel into 7 high schools on both the East and West sides of the County to facilitate workforce development. Students need more help, when students can connect they build more confidence. The agreement will need to be amended and brought back before the Board for decision.

3. PATH Annual Report – Presented by Jesalyn Cole, Stepping Stones. Ms. Cole distributed the 2025 annual report for PATH and explained its contents. 2025 is the first year operating all three programs--the Sleep Center, Individual Shelter Units and the Navigation Center. An overview of 2025 highlights, continued outreach, successes, finances and even information about the Board of Directors and staff were included in the report. 2025 Highlights included campus projects funded by grant dollars, hosting a community event to raise awareness about homelessness and a save-the-date for the 3rd Annual Gala fundraiser. 2025 also celebrated the third year of serving guests in the Sleep Center. The Navigation Center continues to grow allowing guests to attend classes teaching necessary life skills like financial education, resume building and linking them with resources such as computers and internet. Volunteers and donations hugely support the Sleep Center, most meals are donated by either local restaurants or individuals. Funding comes from the State, grants, fundraisers and lastly individual/private donations. A partnership formed with Marlette Homes has provided two new HUD compliant shelter units made with remnant materials and constructed by volunteers. Once City services reach the facility they hope to take advantage of adding more units.

The threat of loss of Medicaid and SNAP benefits have encouraged members to come together and combine resources like making family meals. Meals are not provided for members who live on site, only guests are served breakfasts and dinners. Stepping Stones Alliance has a Facebook page where a “List of Needs” can be found, they are always in need of volunteers and donations.

4. Maintenance Payable – Heat Pump – Presented by Dan Lonai, Director of Administrative Services. There was an emergency repair needed of a Mitsubishi Heat Pump at the CDDP/Juvenile Building. **Commissioner Timmons moved to approve the payable to Murphy’s Heating and Air LLC in the amount of \$8,331.00. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 2-0.**

5. Sheriff Purchase – Laptop Computers - Presented by Lieutenant Josh Roberts, Criminal Division UCSO. UCSO has several old laptop computers being used as Mobile Data Terminals (MDT’s) in the patrol cars. They cannot be updated to Window 11, and IT has recommended they be removed from service. IT has obtained a quote from Price Computers for seven (7) Lenovo ThinkPad computers at a price of \$1595.00 each, for a total purchase price of \$11,165.00. **Commissioner Timmons moved to approve purchase of (7) Lenovo Thinkpad computers from Price Computers in the amount of \$11,165.00. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 2-0.**

6. Sheriff Payable – Vehicle Repair – Presented by Captain Sterrin Ward, Administrative Services UCSO. Vehicle repairs were made to vehicle #387, 2019 Ford Explorer, assigned (at the time) as the primary work vehicle for a Civil Deputy. Crack in the evaporator canister and other issues were found. Actual repairs needed/discovered were above the initial estimated damage and cost, requiring BOC approval after the fact. The total cost is \$5,724.74. A delay in payment of bill resulted in a finance charge because of out of the office time for an extended period and it was overlooked upon return. Cost is above the FY2026 line item budgeted amount of \$3,500 but can be covered within the total 15590 budget without negative impact. Commissioner Timmons asked Captain Ward to request the finance charge be reversed. **Commissioner Timmons moved to approve payment for vehicle repair in the amount of \$5,724.74 or less if the finance charge is reversed or revised. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 2-0.**
7. ODOT Grant Request - Presented by Megan Davchevski, UC Planning Manager. Umatilla County has previously received ODOT Transportation Safety grant funding for safe driving education and marketing activities along Highway 11 in Milton-Freewater. This request is for a similar grant along Highway 395 in Hermiston. The grant would provide funding for marketing driver safety and provide overtime funding for Sheriff’s Office patrols. If awarded, the grant requires a 20% match from the County which can include in-kind match. Staff are requesting approval for in-kind match in the amount of \$7,500. **Commissioner Timmons moved to authorize staff to submit the grant application. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 2-0.**
8. UCF Purchase – Entertainment Contract – Presented by Nick Warner, Deputy County Counsel. Entertainment for Wednesday, August 12, 2026, on the Main Stage. UCF is making alternate arrangements for Wednesday night entertainment in hopes of cost savings and still being a successful evening. **Commissioner Timmons moved to approve Tylor and The Train Robbers in the amount of \$5,000.00 with a deposit of \$2,500.00 due upon signing contract. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 2-0.**
9. Drought Declaration - Presented by Sage DeLong, UC Emergency Manager. Current drought conditions affect 100% of Umatilla County, with approximately 55% classified in Severe Drought according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Adoption of the resolution positions the County within the State drought process and supports coordination across agricultural, municipal, natural resource, and public safety partners as the region approaches the spring and summer season. **Commissioner Timmons moved to adopt Order No. BCC2026-011. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 2-0.**
10. Wolf Depredation Payables – Presented by Nick Warner, Deputy County Counsel. The Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee met and reviewed the applications for compensation for wolf deterrents. The grants and the payments are before the Board for approval. Payments include requests from eight producers that incurred expenses. **Commissioner Timmons moved to adopt Order No. BCC2026-010. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 2-0.**
11. Executive Session – Employment/Real Property – ORS 192.660(2)(a,b,e,h) – None

Commissioner Reports: None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Dorran at 9:54 am.

Kelsey Bailey

Executive Secretary – Board of Commissioners