

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Meeting of March 13, 2019  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon

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**Commissioners Present:** Chair Bill Elfering, Vice-Chair George Murdock, and  
Commissioner John Shafer

**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen

**Members and Guests Present:** Robert Pahl, County Chief Finance Officer; Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director, Matt Kenny, County Survey Supervisor, Public Works Department; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director; Nancylynn Joynes, Hermiston; Gail Nelson, County Economic Development Coordinator; Martin Hopkins, Hermiston

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Chair Elfering welcomed all to the public meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Commissioner Shafer.

**Awards/Correspondence/Recognition.** None.

**Minutes.** Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the January 23, 2019 Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.

No additions to agenda.

**Public comments** – none.

1. **Road Vacation Tamarack Avenue/Public Road** – Public Hearing. Chair Elfering called the hearing to order at 9:03 a.m. He explained the process; started with staff report, which was made by Matt Kenny, Survey Supervisor, Public Works Department. A petition was received to vacate portions of public roads outside City of Hermiston, the east-west portion is named Tamarack Avenue and the north-south portion is unnamed but is extension of 11<sup>th</sup> Street. He included location, ownership, property uses, photos, correspondence received. He referred to the monitors with the report and exhibit photos. The department is recommending that it is in the public interest to vacate; he noted the City of Hermiston supports the action.

Mr. Kenny then read letters from Ken & Myrtle Thompson. One issue is pedestrians on Tamarack to Newport; found to be valid concern; however, public right of way will still be available. The other concern was regarding annexation and traffic barriers, which are not applicable.

He read an email from Clint Spencer, City of Hermiston, in support. And also noted support by Bob Waldher, County Planning Director, regarding annexation and development. Mr. Kenny followed up and there is concern about retaining some of the right of way.

The property is used for horse pasture; there are no residences on it nor access; it is from road to the South. Public access would be preserved.

Chair Elfering asked for proponents:

Nancylynn Joynes, petitioner, 1440 E Newport, Hermiston. She rents pasture out for cattle during summer months. Her residence is on a different parcel. She wants to clean up the area for future development of adding a barn. Chair Elfering asked about right of way and fencing. She responded she uses the right of way and the area is fenced.

Chair Elfering asked for opponents:

Marty Hopkins, 28872 Bridge, Hermiston, owns the property directly west of the parcel. He noted two elementary schools are in close proximity. In the future, more development will occur. He feels this action will be negative for the future.

Commissioner Murdock noted Mr. Hopkins' comments concur with Mr. Spencer's (City of Hermiston) and he is concerned with the north/south portion (same as mentioned by Hopkins and also Mr. Kenny).

Chair Elfering asked for rebuttal. Ms. Joynes advised she understands concerns and has spoken with the Mr. Spencer – she has a plot plan for the future – but action now is to clean-up the area. Streets are not 60 feet (a “skinny street”, per Mr. Spencer. She showed a future potential plat plan for “high end” homes (4,000 sq ft). The south end is not conducive to this type of development, but the north end would be.

To clarify, Commissioner Murdock asked Mr. Hopkins about his property – there are two pieces of property and he also clarified Kathleen Hartley owns adjacent property. Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director, asked about the possibility of leaving the north-south piece. If future consideration is there on the west side of it, valuation would enter into the consideration.

Mr. Olsen noted the Board can break action apart. Chair Elfering closed the public hearing at 9:34a.m. He noted he is in favor of the Tamarack portion (not abandoning the 11<sup>th</sup> Street part). **Commissioner Shafer moved to vacate the piece on E. Tamarack and adoption of Order No. RD2019-08. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. (Motion to include: but not on East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, and agreed by second). Carried, 3-0.**

2. Post Retirement Employment. Presented by Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director. Appraiser Terri Shelley previously retired and was authorized to continue working through March 31, 2019. The request is to continue that employment through June 30, 2019. She is currently training three people; she is willing to stay through the end of this fiscal year to handle back-log until certifications of new employees are made. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Motion Carried, 3-0.**
3. Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee Appointment. Mr. Olsen presented. The county commissioner representative on the Board needs to be updated. **Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt order BCC 2019-013 (appointing Commissioner Shafer). Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Columbia Development Authority Appointment. The County representative to the Columbia Development Authority has not been formally made. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt order**

**BCC 2019-014 (appointing Commissioner Elfering). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

5. JB Contractors Payable. Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director, presented. This is for removal and work done on the maintenance parking lot in amount of \$8,849.28. Initially, was to be less than \$5,000, but the lot did not have proper infrastructure so additional material had to be added to stabilize the area. Chair Murdock, as liaison, signed off on the cost overruns. This was unforeseen. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve payment. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Vegetation Solutions Payable. Mr. Lonai presented. This is for snow removal, which was late and unanticipated. Payable is to Vegetation Solutions. Staff was needed to keep the county facilities safe. Usually staff is able to keep up with snow removal (usually \$1,000 or so), but not with this extended snowfall. Commissioner Shafer commended staff for their hard work in keeping up with maintenance needs; they all do a great job. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
7. BOPTA (Board of Property Tax Appeals) Summary of Actions. The action taken by the Board of Property Tax Appeals for the 2018 appeals is before the Board for approval. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve Order BCC2019-015. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Shelco Electric Payable. Mr. Olsen presented. This payable is for electrical work done for the fair at the EOTEC sites. This amount is being reimbursed by the City of Hermiston, as it relates to EOTEC. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer.** Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer, added the \$7,500 is only a small amount; there is a balance on the bill, which is about \$18,000. There is still discussion about the remainder. Chair Elfering noted this seems to be negotiation between the Fair Board and Hermiston. He pointed out the fair is now a tenant and the landlord (EOTEC) is responsible for property actions. In response to Commissioner Murdock's question about who enjoys the major benefit of the improvements, Mr. Olsen advised the remainder relates to work for the security office. **Motion Carried, 3-0.**
9. EOAF Payable. Mr. Olsen presented. This is the 2019 contribution by Community Corrections for the detoxification program. Commissioner Shafer noted Community Corrections has historically paid bill to Eastern Oregon Alcohol Foundation. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the \$7,500 payable. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Watersheds/SWCD Payables. Presented by Mr. Olsen. This is a usual/annual payable for County support to the watershed councils and SWCD. \$10,000 each to the three entities. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
11. Supplemental Budgets. Chair Elfering called the public hearing to order at 9:52 a.m. Staff report was given by Mr. Pahl. Budget Orders: 2019-55 (General Fund – Building Maintenance Program) increases in Local Revenues \$175,000, Personnel Services \$75,000 and Materials & Services \$100,000. 2019-56 (Developmental Disabilities) increase Capital Outlay \$175,000 and decrease in Contingency in same amount). 2019-57 (County School Program) increases in Local Revenue \$12,000, Materials & Services \$6,000 and Contingency \$6,000. 2019-58 (CARE Program) increase in Capital Outlay \$18,000 and decrease in contingency of same amount. 2019-59 (Court Security) increases in State Revenue \$45,000, Transfers In \$35,000, Personnel Services \$30,000 and Capital Outlay \$50,000. 2019-61) Developmental Disabilities increases in beginning Cash \$477,000, Materials & Services \$281,000 and Contingency \$196,000.

There were no questions and no public comments. Chair Elfering closed the public hearing at 9:55 a.m. **In the matter approving Supplemental Budgets pursuant to ORS 294.471 for FY ending 6/30/19: Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Budget Order 2019-55 (Program 3506 – General Fund-Building Maintenance). Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**  
**Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Budget Order 2019-56 (Program 5490 – Developmental Disabilities). Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**  
**Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Budget Order 2019-57 (Program 2544 – County School Program). Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**  
**Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Budget Order 2019-58 (Program 5254 – CARE Program). Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**  
**Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Budget Order 2019-59 (Program 9079 – Court Security). Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**  
**Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Budget Order 2019-61 (Program 5490 – Developmental Disabilities). Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

12. Budget Transfers. Staff report was given by Mr. Pahl. Budget Orders 2019-60 (General Fund County) increase in Transfers Out of \$35,000 and decrease in Contingency in the same amount, and, 2019-62 (General Fund – Board of Commissioners) increase in Materials & Services of \$171,500 and decrease in Contingency in same amount. **In the matter approving Transfers of Appropriations pursuant to ORS 294.463 for the FY ending 6/30/19: Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Budget Order 2019-60 (Program 9001 – General County). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**  
**Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Budget Order 2019-62 (Program 1004 – Board of Commissioners). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

Executive Session none.

Commissioners' Reports.

Commissioner Murdock asked about next Monday (3/18) BOC Administrative meeting discussion items; he pointed out a lot of emergency expenditures (roof, sidewalks, parking lot and etc.). He expressed concern about big expenditures need to be discussed. Reserves have been maintained – but the County cannot do this type of thing many times. Chair Elfering agreed discussion can be had.

Commissioner Shafer advised that NACo has put out an app – “test IT” regarding broadband internet. Many smaller cities do not have this (adequate broadband). This new app would provide report of upload minimums. He feels it is important to have broadband internet in rural areas. Commissioner Murdock noted the NACo legislative event at Washington Hilton was below appropriate requirement; it happens not just in rural areas. Commissioner Shafer advised the app is free since it is a test. In addition, a link could be put on the County website for general public use.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt*

Executive Secretary Umatilla County Board of Commissioners