

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting of February 17, 2021
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon
Public Call in #: 541-728-0275

Commissioners attending remotely: Chair George Murdock, Vice-Chair John Shafer, and Commissioner Dan Dorran

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Guests Present: None in person

Video or Calling in: Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director; Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director; Capt. Thoren Hearn, Sheriff's Office-Jail Commander [*see list of video or call-in, copy on file*].

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Murdock called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He reminded all that the meeting is a public forum and there is a call-in option provided. The meeting is being video and audio recorded and minutes will be taken. Comments will become part of the meeting record. 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. He noted there is a point for public input before business items for other than agenda items.

Pledge of Allegiance

Awards/Correspondence/Recognition. None.

Minutes – Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the Board minutes from the meetings of 1/6/21 and 2/3/21. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.

Additions to Agenda – none.

Public Comments – Sheryle Crowell, Hermiston (calling in). Chair Murdock noted receipt of materials she provided yesterday afternoon and had been read by all Commissioners. She highlighted materials: Quote of interview of Mark Levin and Shawn Hannity – talking about President Biden's orders that are unconstitutional; federal and/or state election laws violate articles of the Constitution – i.e. proposed statehood of Washington, D.C.; an executive order destroying protections of females; EO article (7/31/20) re: Governor Brown, COVID, a political stalemate for rollback of counties; as well as various statistics and data reported by the UCo Health Department and OHA; etc.

Upon her viewing the 2/3/21 Board of Commissioners' meeting on-line, she was encouraged by the letter from Commissioner Murdock to the Governor about "voices not being heard". In addition, she is elated Americans are responding with solutions. [other materials are on file in the Commissioners' office].

In closing, based on documents she highlighted, she asked the Commissioners to vote on a resolution supporting the protection under the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence – the three founding documents of the US. County Commissioners make a difference! Thank you for the time today.

Chair Murdock thanked Ms. Crowell for her presentation and comments. As practice and protocol, comments by Commissioners are not made, but if there are any questions, more discussion can be had. There were none. Both

Commissioners Dorran and Shafer advised they had received the subject documents and also thanked her for her time.

Business Items

1. **Insurance Agent RFP.** Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director, presented. This is a request to issue an request for proposals for agent of record for insurance. The last time issued was 2013, and periodically has been done in the past. Currently, Ferranti Graybeal is the agent of record for property and liability. Commissioner Dorran pointed out Dick Ferranti retired 12/31/20; Mr. Lonai added that Britney Beamer has been acting as agent since January 1. Mr. Ferranti was a good agent and had a great relationship with the county. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorran to approve issuing an RFP. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
2. **Maintenance Position.** Presented by Mr. Lonai. Approval is sought for hiring a maintenance II position to replace a 15-year employee retiring at the end of August. This position is primarily assigned to the jail, which facilities are complicated to maintain. The request is to double fill for training with hopes to start in April. Commissioner Shafer reiterated Mr. Lonai's comments that the employee has done a great job with complex facilities and it's most important to have time to help train his replacement. And, Chair Murdock added kudos to Mr. Doherty especially for being on-call and so experienced and knowledgeable plus a great fit for the job. Undersheriff Littlefield also commended his value and he just takes care of things -- he will be missed for sure. The Sheriff's Office supports this move requested today. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve authorizing recruiting and double-fill the Maintenance II position for four months beginning 4/15/21. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
3. **Radio Purchase.** Presented by Capt. Thoren Hearn, Sheriff's Office-Jail Commander. Approval is sought for purchase of a new radios for use at the jail to get to 100% digital. The current system is outdated and needs upgrading. A quote was received from Business Radio (Kennewick, WA) in the amount of \$17,584 for the base set and all supporting equipment. At CFO Pahl's request, he also attempted to get two more quotes, but was not successful in obtaining any other bids or proposals. Funds are available and Finance is supportive of this purchase. In response to Commissioner Dorran's question Capt. Hearn advised he is unsure of warranty. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorran to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
4. **Position Reclassification – Public Health.** Presented by Joe Fiumara, Public Health Director. This is a request to reclass of the current Environmental Health Specialist III (lead) position to a supervisor position. With prior department reorganization, some duties were taken on by himself, but with the pandemic and increased workload for last year and into the coming year, the request is to have the reclassified position of Environmental Health Supervisor and take on other duties he hasn't been able to handle in environmental health. One duty will be to become the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Coordinator. **Motion was made by Commissioner Murdock to approve the reclassification at pay range 30, effective 3/1/21. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
5. **Creation of Position – Public Health.** Presented by Mr. Fiumara. With approval of the prior item #4, approval is sought for a new position beginning 7/1/21. The new position would be either an EHS I or II depending on qualifications. Normally a starting position is I, with training in the first year, which has happened in his department. They won't know until recruiting if a candidate possesses required certifications. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorran to approve creation of 1 FTE Environmental Health Specialist I or II position effective 7/1/21. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

Chair Murdock, for Commissioner Dorrان's benefit, asked Mr. Fiumara to elaborate on environmental health inspections. UCo Health, in addition to food, pool, and lodging, performs on-site septic inspections in Umatilla and Morrow Counties -- approximately 1,600 to 1,700 inspections in a year. The state (DEQ) is very supportive of work done by our health department. They have said they would have the county do inspections in the entire region if staff were available. He is not ready for that, but maybe in the future. In addition, inspections are done under contract at the prisons as well as other facilities. Chair Murdock commented that inspections are very welcome at the larger events.

6. Wolf Committee Appointment. Presented by Mr. Olsen. There is a vacancy on the Wolf Depredation Committee created by the change in Commissioner assignments, and the proposal is to appoint Commissioner Dorrان as the county representative. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2021-018. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Board Meeting Schedule. Presented by Mr. Olsen. Due to a meeting conflict with the Budget Committee meeting on April 21, it is proposed to change the second Board meeting in April to Tuesday, April 20. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Vehicle Leases. Presented by Olsen. The Fleet Management Committee is proposing to lease six new vehicles - four 2021 Jeep Compasses and two 2021 Ram pickups for use by A&T only. Funding will be through the Fleet Management Fund. **Motion was made by Commissioner Shafer to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrان. Carried, 3-0.**

Executive Session – none.

Commissioners' Comments

Chair Murdock noted that Commissioner Dorrان is now the representative on the McKay Creek Recovery flood committee. Commissioner Dorrان noted bad weather is being watched throughout the county and Morrow County, but the good news is for next 7-10 days no flooding is forecasted. And, the long-term forecast is the same due to recent snow in the mountains having less water content. In addition, the ground hasn't frozen deep, which means the floodplain should absorb moisture. The 21-day forecast now shows there isn't potential for flooding. Apprehension is justified with the last couple years. Commissioner Dorrان added that the group plans to virtually (conference call) meet weekly for next couple of months to keep on top of flood watch.

Commissioner Dorrان thanked the Public Works Department for their extra hard work over the last several days with a reminder of the historic storm being county wide, whereby equipment had to be used locally – not shared as past practice. Those crews are out again widening prior work with the huge amount of snow where only one lane was graded in some places.

Commissioner Shafer - nothing.

The meeting adjourned 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Melinda Slatt*, Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners