

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

Meeting of June 2, 2026 at 12:30 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;

Video link or Calling in: None

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dorran called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. 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. Also, meetings are now live-streaming.

Pledge of Allegiance - Led by Chair Dorran.

Additions to Agenda – Review the 6/3 BOC meeting agenda

Business Items

1. **PATH IGA/Invoice** - Presented by Chair Dorran. An invoice and proposed IGA has been received by Umatilla County for the PATH Project. There is a desire to put this contract on the Board of Commissioners agenda. Commissioner Timmons inquired about the reason for several cities being invoiced by PATH. Chair Dorran explained that when PATH was established, a joint meeting between Umatilla, Hermiston and the County resulted in an MOU. Included in the MOU were calculations for each city to pay a portion annually.

Commissioner Timmons inquired about the budget, there are not any grants listed in this budget. Previously multiple grants have been received. There is uncertainty regarding whether the grant timing differed—resulting in them not yet being accounted for—or if no application was submitted for the current year. Stepping Stones must make a request from PATH’s board for the distribution of funds from this invoice.

Statistically, three people have been re-housed in a four month time span. There are 23 huts that are typically all full while overnight beds are available each night with transportation to and from the facility. The addition of more huts is reliant upon the expansion of water and sewer services. Anyone can go to the sleep center, but occupying a hut requires a 14 day wait period spent in the shelter portion. A solution to homelessness is a much broader, more complex discussion separate from today’s issue. The contract and IGA will be added to the agenda for the next BOC meeting.

2. Sagebrush Road – Presented by Chair Dorran. ODOT has a roundabout project scheduled at the Highway 395 and Punkin Center intersection. When this project takes place, Sagebrush Road will be the alternative route and would benefit from being chip sealed. The State thinks they will have surplus funds to pay for or help pay for sealing the road. Public Works does not have the funds in this budget to cover the estimated \$80,000 chip seal project. Hopefully the State can come through with funding, if not the County may have to look at other options.
3. Summer BBQ – Presented by Commissioner Timmons. She would like to see an employee summer BBQ happen again. It boosts employee morale and allows for staff to mingle interdepartmentally. In the past when HR has coordinated such an event and would be willing to do it again. They were able to hold it on the roof, but it is not certain when the roof repairs will be completed. There is not a date selected at this time.
4. Concert - The 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is this year. There is going to be a celebration and free concert provided by Inland Northwest Musicians Organization on July 4th at the Pendleton Convention Center. Due to it being a holiday there was going to be additional costs to reserve the convention center, but two employees volunteered to work for free. This event is partially sponsored by the County.
5. Review of the 6/3 BOC Agenda:
 - The budget can be adopted tomorrow
 - Dispatch has a couple of software requests, both have a portion of AI included. Eventide is the recording system and is in conjunction with Morrow County, they will be invoiced for their portion. Aurelian provides AI powered call handling for non-emergency lines freeing up staff time.
 - IMESD CARE IGA – this is a renewal of the IGA for a CARE specialist. The agreement lists the County’s responsibilities to include providing a vehicle and funds for training, subject to availability of grant funding. IMESD will employ and pay a CARE specialist. There were questions about who is liable if there is damage to the vehicle if it is an IMESD employee and a County owned vehicle, does insurance cover? The agreement states IMESD shall be responsible for any damages or liability arising from the use of the vehicle by the IMESD employee.
 - AWERE grant - the committee unanimously agreed to give the final funds to the Parks Department for the pool renovation.
 - Solid Waste Franchise letter – to discuss the walk-in/drive-in fee, they have already refunded some of the people that were charged for the “drive-in” fee
 - Rate increase for Pendleton Sanitary, this was tabled from the May 20th
 - Solid Waste Franchise renewals for collection and disposal
 - Rejection of RFP for the SAR building – the RFP will be reissued
 - Wolf depredation payables for 2025 – these will be paid at market value
 - Knerr Contract Amendment – improvements for the PATH project through CDBG grant
 - Fee Ordinance – Public Health is increasing most of their fees, A&T/GIS are increasing some fees, and Planning is increasing their solar project fees.
 - A few more items will be added, UCSO sale of vehicle, a Fair entertainment contract and the IGA for PATH, discussed earlier in this meeting.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Shafer: Nothing

Commissioner Timmons: She has been receiving many calls on the Fair increased camping prices.

Commissioner Dorran: He is starting to look for dates for Strategic Planning. – There is an open Fair Board position after a recent resignation.

Jennifer – Hopefully Fair campers will be saving money being able to plug in and won't have to use as much fuel in generators.

Doug – He asked if there were any Charter Review Committee volunteers. – Two volunteers are expected.

Jason – Nothing

Robert - Nothing

With no other items, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Dorran at 1:30 pm.

Kelsey Bailey

Executive Secretary – Board of Commissioners