

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Meeting of August 21, 2019  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen

**Members and Guests Present:** Bob Waldher, Planning Director; Alisha Southwick, UCo Health Deputy Director

\*\*\*\*\*

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Murdock called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He reminded those present that the meeting is a public forum. It 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 come to the podium in order to be heard on the record, identify yourself and state where you live; 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** was led by Commissioner Murdock.

**Awards/Correspondence/Recognition** – none.

**Minutes** – none.

**Additions to Agenda** – none.

**Public Comments** – none.

**Business Items**

1. **Presentation by Umatilla Basin Watershed Council.** No one to present.
2. **Purchase of Vision Screening Device.** Alisha Southwick, UCo Health Deputy Director, presented. The request is to purchase a vision instrument funded as part of a HRSA grant. Budgeted amount was \$6,500; 1 unit has a rebate available (by 9/14/19). Recommendation is to purchase the Welch Allyn Vision Spot screening instrument for visual acuity and is more sophisticated. The cost is \$7,031.25. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the purchase of the device. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
3. **B2H Transmission Line Comments.** Bob Waldher, Planning Director, presented. EFSC has issued notice for final comment period on the proposed B2H transmission line. He prepared a draft comment letter. The Board of Commissioners serve as the special advisory group. Public hearing was held at end of June by the Planning Commission. The county has been working on this since 2007. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the comments and to authorize the chair to sign the comment letter. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.** Chair Murdock expressed appreciation for Mr. Waldher’s hard work through the last several years on this project, noting Umatilla County is supportive of this project.

4. Echo Community Benefit Plan Grants. Commissioner Elfering presented. The Echo Community Benefit Plan committee met and recommended two grants for approval totaling \$22,000 (leaving about \$43,700 in the benefit plan). **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. BCC2019-062. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Post Retirement Employment. Doug Olsen presented. This request is to seek authorization for the employment of a post retirement employee (Paul Chalmers, Assessment & Taxation Director) retiring 12/31/19, for a period not to exceed 12/31/2020. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Watersheds & SWC Contribution Payables. Mr. Olsen presented. This is the request to pay the annual contribution of \$10,000 each for the Umatilla Basin Watershed Foundation, the Walla Walla Basin Watershed, and Umatilla County Soil & Conservation District. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the three payables. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Board 2019-20 Goals. Chair Murdock presented. The goals reflect the commissioners' focus for the coming year. This is significant with tangible things hoped to be accomplished with the commitment and the ability to move forward of all three commissioners. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2019-062. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

**Executive Session** – none.

**Commissioners' Reports** – none.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt*

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners