

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Meeting of September 16, 2020  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon  
*Public Call in #: 541-728-0275*

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**Commissioner Present:** Chair John Shafer  
**Commissioners attending remotely:** Vice-Chair George Murdock and Commissioner Bill Elfering  
**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen  
**Guests Present:** Undersheriff Jim Littlefield; Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer  
**Video or Calling in:** Jennifer Blake, Human Resources Director; Joe Fiumara, UCo Health Director; Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director

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CALL TO ORDER: Chair Shafer 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 come to the podium, if in person, 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.** Commissioner Murdock: none, other than we will continue to receive thank you notes for livestock sale support at the county fair.

**Minutes** – Commissioner Murdock moved to acknowledge the Board minutes from the meeting of 9/2/20. **Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

Back to correspondence/recognition, Commissioner Murdock advised of a letter sent to the Forest Service thanking them for the conscious decision to keep ground crews, apparatus and the like for local fire-fighting to protect our communities while still sending some to help in southern and western Oregon. And, Commissioner Shafer added an update was received earlier from Darcy Weseman, USFS about improved mapping notes. The Birch Creek fire is about 35 acres and a stroke of luck was the Union County hotshot crew was on the way to Jefferson & Lake Counties in the area when the alert came in. They were able to get on top of the fire outbreak near Ukiah. Union Hotshots, thanks a lot!!

**Additions to Agenda** – add #9, an item regarding Assessment & Taxation, per Commissioner Murdock. In addition, Commissioner Elfering asked about possibly adding an item regarding waiver for vacation cap? Doug Olsen advised this can be done outside the meeting -- it doesn't need to be added to the agenda.

**Public Comments** – None were heard.

**Business Items**

1. **Position Expansion – Public Health.** Presented by Joe Fiumara, UCO Health Director (via Google Meet). This request is for expanding an RN position to full-time FTE from .6 FTE. This will provide for additional outreach for flu vaccination and hopefully planning for COVID vaccine. Funds are available from the state to include capacity building. Grants contribute to some of that. He is also hopeful the expansion of this position will work into a billable nurse home visit program. **Motion was made by Commissioner Murdock to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

2. Public Health Canopy Purchase. Presented Mr. Fiumara. Approval is sought to purchase three large canopies for drive-thru vaccine events, and hopefully COVID vaccine. The vendor has set a couple aside, so it would be helpful for action to be taken this week. **Motion was made by Commissioner Murdock to approve the purchase from Mastertent in the amount of \$20,660.10. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
3. Public Health Software Purchase. Presented by Mr. Fiumara. Authorization is sought for purchase of software for use by the new epidemiologist for compiling COVID data. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the purchase from IBM in the amount of \$6,670. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Designation of Newspaper. Presented by Doug Olsen. This is part of the annual tax foreclosure process with notice published in a general circulation newspaper. It is proposed to continue to use the East Oregonian. **Motion was made by Commissioner Elfering to adopt Order No. TX2020-04. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Public Road Dedication. Presented by Mr. Olsen. In 1980, the County foreclosed on a tax lot for delinquent property taxes. The property is part of Day Road. It is proposed to dedicate the property for public use as a public road. He referred to the location map projected on the monitors (north county area – near Walla Walla River Road). **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve dedication and sign the deed. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Courthouse Elevator Controls. Presented by Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director (via Google meet). Approval is sought to upgrade the courthouse elevator -- parts can't be found and aren't being made. New controls would require the elevator being down for one day. In response to Commissioner Elfering's question about extending the life, Mr. Lonai advised the new controls will make it multiple years ahead plus parts can be obtained. It is a 1959 elevator and new controls will make it in compliance. **Motion was made by Commissioner Elfering to approve purchase of a new control system from Otis Elevator Company for \$36,500. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Adams Community Benefit Plan Grant. Presented by Commissioner Elfering. This is for approval of a grant from the Adams Community Benefit Plan recommended in this round: Adams Public Library, \$1,244.14 for reimbursement. **Motion was made by Commissioner Elfering to adopt Order No. BCC2020-067. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification. Presented by Undersheriff Jim Littlefield. And on the phone, Capt. Karen Primmer. After negotiations, a tentative bargain agreement with the Umatilla County Law Enforcement Association is up for review/approval and ratifying. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve ratification of the agreement for 7/1/20 – 6/30/23. Commissioner Elfering seconded. Carried, 3-0.**
9. A&T. Commissioner Murdock advised that Paul Chalmers previously indicated his request to retire this Friday rather than at the end of year, which he had planned. He sold his home and doesn't want to move two times. In addition, Rachael Reynolds, A&T Deputy Director, is up for appointment as the county assessor beginning 9/21/20. **Commissioner Murdock made the motion to approve the appointment of the new director. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.** Congratulations to Director Reynolds and good luck to Mr. Chalmers!

Executive Session – none.

### Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Murdock: nothing

Commissioner Elfering: He recently met with Capt. Primmer and Sheriff Rowan about their need for dispatchers (four). One is starting today. They asked for waiver of vacation time since they will be shorthanded in training and hiring moving forward. As mentioned earlier, this will be taken care of outside the meeting.

Commissioner Shafer: He noted that Commissioner Elfering (and Morrow County Commissioner Jim Doherty) were on hand to send off the National Guard from around the Pacific Northwest as they left from the Hermiston Armory to go to Camp Rilea in Astoria for five days of firefighting training then off to western Oregon to fight fires.

And, Commissioner Murdock noted that in addition to fire crews, law enforcement is also assisting in the efforts for the Paisley fire in Lake County and also Klamath County area fires.

The meeting adjourned 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt*

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners