

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of March 11, 2020
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Members and Guests Present: Tom Fellows, Public Works Director; Matt Kenny, Public Works–Survey; Bob Waldher, Planning Director; Joseph Fiumara, UCo Health Director; Sheriff’s Office: Kathy Lieuallen, 911 Manager; Sheriff Rowan; Sgt. Josh Roberts; Sgt. Karen Primmer; Teresa Smith, Dry Creek Recreation; Jackie Sielaff; Lloyd Piercy; Alex Castle, EO

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Shafer 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, 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 was led by Commissioner Shafer.

Awards/Correspondence/Recognition – Commissioner Shafer read a thank you letter from Kittee Custer regarding LG Bullock’s (Public Works-road crew) incredible and efficient work at the time of the flood in early February. Tom Fellows, Public Works Director, noted he is not present – he is busy working on roads!

In addition, Commissioner Shafer read a second thank you card from the Weathers family to the road department for their hard work to fix the flood damage.

Minutes – Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the Board minutes from the meetings of 2/19/20 and 2/24/20. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.

Additions to Agenda – none.

Public Comments – none.

Business Items

1. City of Hermiston Ordinance Co-Adoption – Land Use Hearing. Chair Shafer called the public hearing to order at 9:09 a.m. and read opening statement. This is for Plan Map Amendment #P-125-19, for the purpose of co-adopting City of Hermiston’s Ordinance 2289 amending its comprehensive plan map from urbanizable to urban status for a 7.5-acre tract. The subject property was annexed by Hermiston City Council. Staff report was presented by Bob Waldher, Planning Director, who gave an overview and referred to a map of the subject area projected on the monitor. This process has been used before where the city first takes action and then requests co-adoption with the county. This is pursuant to the joint management agreement.

Chair Shafer asked for those in favor to come forward. Lloyd Piercy, 33927 Riverview Rd, Hermiston, is the petitioner. This is a multi-use planned neighborhood. Good development located with 2 schools adjacent and 1 more planned. Also part of the plan is a walking path, which will provide a better arrangement for congestion. It will interconnect for city plans of a looped trail around the city. In response to Commissioner Elfering’s question, Mr. Piercy noted all roads are existing. There would be two points of

ingress and egress based in part on a DOT study. Commissioner Murdock commented about the improvement of walking paths (next to ditch and where walking is dangerous). Mr. Piercy added the plan will pull traffic off of 10th street and move it to Diagonal Road. In addition, Commissioner Murdock and Mr. Piercy remarked about the water tower being part of the growth and connection.

Chair Shafer then asked for any opposing? There were none. He asked for any in opposition? There were none. He asked for any public agencies? There were none. He closed the public hearing at 9:23 a.m.

Commissioner Murdock moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-02 (co-adopting City of Hermiston Ordinance No. 2289, amending the city's Comprehensive Plan Map) Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.

2. Motorcycle Hill Climb Event. Presented by Teresa Smith, Cry Creek Recreation, 509 S Johnson, Kennewick. Last year, she came to the Commissioners to provide an event in Umatilla County as a potential alternate location for the event at Sunnyside, Washington if it didn't occur – which it did. This is for Nitro National – a North American Hillclimbers Association sanctioned event – 3rd of a 5-part series. This year, they are hoping for 1,000 to attend and which could double in coming years.

When the county receives an application for a hill climb event for an “outdoor mass gathering” in EFU zones; a permit is issued and the plan is reviewed. The event is planned for May 29-31 on Jim Whitney's property (Taylor Lane, outside Reith). Events were held in 2015 and 2017 under a different promoter.

Commissioner Shafer noted the importance of law enforcement and medical safety for all. Ms. Smith noted she has been working with locals in planning the event adding a detailed plan and map lay-out had been submitted with a permit. Commissioner Shafer asked Ms. Smith to provide her contact information to the Sheriff's Office/Dispatch (which can be provided to Melinda Slatt for dissemination).

Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the permit for the event. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.

3. Butler Grade Legalization. Presented by Matt Kenny, Public Works –Survey Supervisor. At a meeting in December 2018 with Nextera Wind Energy, maintenance access – roads were discussed. Butler Grade Road does not follow the established course of the road (the record deviated from the actual road). The goal is to pursue realignment around the “clear zone” by purchasing adjoining properties, etc. thereby establishing a legal road. Action today is to establish a hearing date to move forward with road legalization. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. RD2020-06. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
4. Vehicle Purchase. Presented by Tom Fellows, Public Works Director. Request is made to purchase a pickup through the State of Oregon surplus property program. It is an F550 truck with 75,000 miles, in good condition. The purpose is to replace older fleet flatbeds (for bridge and pressure crew). It is a good buy (\$8,000) and is on the equipment list approved by board previously. They will use the flatbed from the old pickup. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Culvert Purchase. Presented by Mr. Fellows. Authorization is sought to purchase culvert. Due to the flood, he checked inventory for pipe on hand and for future needs. His department still needs to continue with regular road repairs. Culvert would be purchased from EORS/NW Construction Supply for \$12,764.55. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Grader Purchase. Presented by Mr. Fellows. He has been upgrading the entire fleet with purchases as prior authorized by the Board. This is authorization to purchase a new grader – continuing the process to keep the fleet in a well-maintained manner. This is John Deere all-wheel drive grader through Sourcewell contract at a 42% discount. At the end of 5 years and if machine is working well, there is a guaranteed buy back of

\$250,000. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

7. Rock Purchase Payment. Presented by Mr. Fellows. This is to authorize payment for rock material. Also as result of flood event, they needed a huge amount of rock. There is an old quarry site up the river where material was shot years ago. They took about 10,000 yards of material out and the bill is from R&D Construction Company & Daughter for \$29,640. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Sheriff's Office Position. Presented by Rowan Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff is seeking to double-fill a position. This request is to obtain pre-authorization for transition of the lead 911 Dispatch position and to allow for training opportunities for Capt. Kathy Lieuallen, who will be retiring the end of June. It is hoped the position can begin May 1. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Laptop Purchase. Presented by Sgt. Josh Roberts, Patrol Division-Sheriff's Office. This is to request approval to purchase 7 laptops for outfitting patrol vehicles to replace old phased-out tablets. The County IT was consulted and recommend Dell Latitude 7490; total cost is \$6,719.23 and budget is available. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Dispatch Recorder System. Presented by Capt. Lieuallen, 911 Manager-Sheriff's Office. Requesting approval to purchase a recording system to be compatible with new radio system. Request for quotes was issued and four quotes were received. With the new radio system project, there is need to get the recording system to match up. This wasn't budgeted this year or next; however, it is needed. She elaborated about quotes. The recommendation is to go with Goserco, Inc. (the second lowest bid recommended due to low bid not able to connect). With the partnership with Morrow County splitting the contract, half of the purchase cost is requested at \$42,242.79 based on the GSA buying contract; budget is available. She will work with County Finance to consider the 2022-23 budget year for the 911 server project. This system will be an improvement; it comes from the same vendor who provided the current/last system. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
11. Septic Inspection Fees. Presented by Joseph Fiumara, UCo Health Director. This is for a waiver of on-site septic inspection fees and notices. As a result of the recent flooding, Oregon DEQ has suspended certain requirements and fees for these purposes. Umatilla County performs inspections and charges fees in this program. The proposal is for the county to match state action and suspend certain fees for applications filed from 2/27/20 until 9/1/20 necessitated by the flood. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**

Commissioner Murdock requested Mr. Fiumara to stay the remainder of the meeting to provide an update regarding the coronavirus.

12. Tax Appeal Summary. Presented by Doug Olsen. The Board of Property Tax Appeals concluded action on 3/4/20 by hearing tax appeals for 2019; the summary is included in the Board Order and is before the Board for review and approval. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. BCC2020-017. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
13. West Umatilla Mosquito Control District Board Appointment. Presented by Doug Olsen. A term on the board is expiring and reappointment is recommended. Mr. Fiumara added he is the current ex-officio member on this board. Marie Baldo is a very active member on this board. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. BCC2020-016. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

Commissioner Murdock, for the record, asked for a report of the current status of coronavirus situation. Mr. Fiumara advised he can share public information: there is one presumed positive case, confirmed by the CDC -- word was received last night. The Health Department is still doing follow up with individuals and monitoring

and responding as needed. He is also trying to get staff back to normal as much as needed and possible. In response to Commissioner Murdock's question, Mr. Fiumara spelled out the organization and work staff did. There were ramping up activities whereby a system was established for phone calls; staff in three different teams were investigating, screening, monitoring. Last week was all hands on deck. A lot of information bombarded all last week -- it was "a really long Monday". Information on the virus is changing quickly -- all is new. Decisions have to be made as soon as possible. Best educated guesses are based on current information. Public safety and confidentiality is of utmost importance.

Commissioner Shafer talked about nationally he heard that New York is having the National Guard quarantining a certain part of NY. This is significant -- especially for elderly with underlying conditions. However, some are marginally affected, but can be spread to those that are frail. He felt that mass gatherings should not be canceled; however, as UCo Health has said for years -- wash hands, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home if you are sick. Oregon has been more a slow, creeping in vs. what has happened in Washington.

Mr. Fiumara added that day to day work is not seen. For example, with inspections health staff is doing a good job to educate and guide vendors. Broader general public doesn't hear about most things -- that is more individual contact.

Commissioner Murdock pointed out that the Emergency Board allocated \$5 million and there is more coming, federally. Mr. Fiumara added he received word and is looking at meeting to decide on a plan for how funds are coming and who will get it. He and staff are compiling information as to what has been spent and what to ask for at Friday's meeting -- it is a large job. He noted the best word is from the Oregon Health Authority -- its website is up to the minute.

Commissioner Murdock applauded health staff, which was echoed by Commissioners and Mr. Fiumara, who added his staff has been amazing.

Executive Session -- none.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Elfering noted there is a lot going on -- flood and coronavirus outbreak. In addition, he recently attended CIS (CityCounty Insurance Service) board conference and then went on to the National Association of Counties legislative conference, Washington, DC (all commissioners attended). He spoke about a meeting of the Base Realignment Committee with more and continued discussion about turning back depot property. The Army is still not ready to turn over the property back to local control.

Commissioner Murdock had to cut his trip to NACo short; however, he was able to meet with the Immigration Reform Task Force before he came back. Upon return, he worked hand in hand with UCo Health staff. Again, he commended their hard work.

Commissioner Shafer last night attended a meeting at the Pendleton Convention Center for multi-jurisdictional presentations for flood "response" -- it turned heated, then calmed down. It was helpful.

Commissioner Murdock appreciated Commissioner Shafer stepping forward to stop the conversation moving to racism as it related to the coronavirus outbreak in our County.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners