

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of March 16, 2022
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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

County Counsel Doug Olsen (virtually)

Guests Present: Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer; Jennifer Blake, Human Resources; Bob Waldher, Planning Director; Mark Morgan, City of Hermiston; Cameron Anderson, Barnett & Moro; Scott Sager, BMIP; Holli Hill; Search & Rescue: Ms. Mueller, Ms. Carroll, and Mr. Morris; Kathy Aney (+ *see list of attendance, copy on file*)

Video link or Calling in: Tom Fellows, Public Works Director Sheriff’s Office: Sheriff Rowan, Undersheriff Littlefield, Capt. Paul Wolverton, Lt. Josh Roberts

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. There is time on the agenda to provide input or for hearings to provide comment. The meeting is being video and audio recorded and minutes will be taken. Also, meetings are now live-streaming. 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

Awards/Correspondence/Recognitions. Scott Sager, Blue Mountain Insurance Professionals, a non-profit community benefit organization. Today, in support of Search & Rescue, making a donation of \$5,000 in the name of Cody Watson. On 7/2/21 south of Pilot Rock, three young men were hiking in a remote area, where an accident occurred. Cody Watson died, and the other two were seriously injured – it was a very difficult rescue, which pointed out the need for additional equipment and training.

Minutes – Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the minutes of the meetings of 1/28/22 and 3/2/22. **Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried 3-0.**

Additions to Agenda – none.

Public Comments – Sheriff Rowan: sincere thank you to the BMIP for generous donation to S&R team. Built up of volunteers – equipment is a struggle for treacherous duties. In this case, a complicated rope rescue. Thank you again.

Business Items

1. **Umatilla Basin Watershed Council Presentation.** *Not available.*
2. **Audit Presentation.** Presented by Cameron Anderson, CPA, Barnett & Moro, Hermiston – shareholder in charge of this audit. Barnett and Moro has completed the audit for fiscal year 2021 (20-21). He found completed a complete review and found the statements are materially correct. Also, with federal funds (a lot more this year with pandemic, considerable work on single audit work) – did testing of federal grant awards.

No findings or negative findings – a clean audit. Thank you to Robert Pahl, Marie Simonis, and Finance office staff. Commissioner Murdock noted that although the report was not presented in great detail, he participated in exit interview earlier this morning. Chair Shafer thanked the entire Finance office for the impressive accomplishment. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrn to accept the FY2021 audit. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock** with additional comments: it was an absolutely totally clean audit – no comments in the letter – this is a rare achievement. In particular, with all unique and different funds last year, it was a spectacular accomplishment! **Carried, 3-0.**

3. Greater Hermiston Enterprise Zone Expansion. Presented by Mark Morgan, Hermiston Assistant City Manager and Zone manager since about 2012. The Zone has been in existence since the 1980's with prior expansions in early 2000s and more where prime industrial land is included. The City of Hermiston is seeking to expand the Greater Hermiston Enterprise Zone to include additional property outside the city limits. Approximately 1.34 square miles is proposed to be included in the zone, which was depicted on the map (projected on monitors). Zones have changed over time. Commissioner Dorrn noted the importance of the area in the future. Chair Shafer advised he has met with city as well as. **Motion was made by Commissioner Murdock to approve the GHEZ expansion as outlined and to adopt Order No. BCC2022-010. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn.** Comments: Ben Burgener, City of Stanfield, and Dave Slaght, City of Echo – Joint Managers of the Stanfield-Echo zone. They are aware of the expansion and also attended meetings. They agreed to consent and requested consideration of any future development fees to their towns as well. Mr. Slaght appreciated the process noting expansion is consideration beyond Hermiston. In future working, he requested including both cities with development and impact to their communities. Commissioner Dorrn: wasn't part of these discussions, but he is aware and agreed with the comments and goal to spend funds in areas where they are generated. The Board of Commissioners has honored the statement made by Commissioner Murdock. Philosophical discussions are important from the Board and communities. In follow-up, Mr. Morgan commented on good conversations. The west end of the county is different – a lot more individual communities forming a larger one. In the impact area, this is important and will consider all communities. **Carried, 3-0.**
4. Umatilla River Trail Concept Plan– public hearing. Chair Shafer called the public hearing to order at 9:21 a.m. and read the opening statement regarding the land use hearing. The purpose is for adoption of the Umatilla River Trail Concept Plan. #P -131-22. He explained the process and asked for the staff report by Bob Waldher, Planning Director (for Megan Davchevski, planner, out today). This plan is to be adopted into the transportation plan. The trail plan began with the county, cities, and a National Park Service award for the initial trail concept. An implementation committee with various interests/advisors facilitated the meetings. The objective is to adopt the plan by reference into the TSP in order to meet requirements for funding. Chair Shafer asked for any conflicts of interest? None. Mr. Waldher advised the plan is posted on the website.

Chair Shafer asked for proponents.

Bill Elfering, committee chairman, 1889 E Highland Ave., Hermiston. The project has been underway for about eight years. This trail is historical, cultural, promotes good health, improves the livability of the county, improves economic opportunities (amenities factor into it). There is excitement moving forward. Thank you to the Board for funding contributions as well as thanks to the planning department for their assistance and coordination--most important. Commissioner Dorrn commented that a walking path started at Umatilla, then on to Hermiston, then a lot of trail to Stanfield, and then Echo. There have been many small steps to get to complete/connect for a large trail. Chair Shafer commented it is great that many community representatives here today.

Tammy Williams, PO Box 273, Echo. Thank you to the Commissioners for work on the trail as well as the generous grant. And, thank you to Bob Waldher – super help. She spoke to balance of the county – the trail she feels will help with that. It is important to people/families – development is great, but we must remember people – health is most important. Trail is a positive thing for all. It is a place to be in nature – along the Umatilla River. This will allow access.

Dave Slaght, City of Echo, City Administrator, 20 S Bonanza. In 2019, since he started with the city, so much has gone on, e.g. floods. He appreciated Tammy's comments. It is great to have communications and coordinating the vision. Also, thank you to the Board for grant funds, which started it all.

Mark Morgan, City of Hermiston, Assistant City Manager, 180 N 2nd St. Plans provide a certainty – this will now be in transportation plan. It took eight years to get all included and move forward. Keep it going; it is a valued investment. Also thanks to county planning staff.

No public agencies were present. Mr. Waldher advised the Tribes commented and it is reflected in the Planning Commission meeting minutes.

Chair Shafer then asked for opponents. None were heard. He then asked for public agency comments? None; therefore, no rebuttal. He asked for any need for continuance or call to keep the record open? None were heard. Chair Shafer closed the public hearing at 9:39 a.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrان to adopt Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment #P131-22 (Umatilla River Trail Concept Plan) to the County Transportation System Plan and Ordinance No. 2022-02. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Scott Sager noted Sharon Gaines had arrived. They all came forward to complete the presentation. Introductions: Sharon Gaines, a member of BMIP and grandmother of Cody Watson, Holli Hill, mother of Cody Watson, Search & Rescue: Sherri Mueller, Carrol, and William Morris. Sharon Gaines commented about public service and its importance and hopes the donation will make a difference in the future. A photo was taken.

5. Blue Mountain Region Trail Plan– public hearing. Chair Shafer called the public hearing to order at 9:45 a.m. and read the opening statement. Same as prior trail item -- to be part of the county transportation system plan. #P132-22. He asked for any abstentions? Conflicts of interest, etc? None. Staff report was given by Mr. Waldher. Similar to the previous plan, it is a regional trail plan. Precursor to the first trail. This one only covered a small portion of the county. The county is part of the Metropolitan Planning Organization in Walla Walla, so this area includes Milton-Freewater to stateline. The plan was different since it isn't one specific trail and included various transportation modes plus a safe route to school due to its location and pedestrian crossings as well. MPO and other jurisdictions adopted this plan. Now, it needs to be part of the county's transportation system plan.

Chair Shafer asked for proponents. None. Chair Shafer then asked for public agency comments? There were none; therefore, no rebuttal. He asked for any need for continuance or call to keep the record open? None were heard. Chair Shafer closed the public hearing at 9:50 a.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dorrان to adopt Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment #P131-22 (Blue Mountain Region Trails Plan) to the County Transportation System Plan and Ordinance No. 2022-03. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

6. Sheriff Request for Vehicle Leases. Undersheriff Littlefield introduced Capt. Wolverton and Lt Roberts (all on-line). Capt. Paul Wolverton presented. This is a request to proceed with the lease of eight vehicles (available now, 2021 models) through a lease with Bancorp and Emergency Responder Services, [still waiting for order placed in November]. The request includes eight Dodge Durango Police vehicles with five fully equipped with Police Package at \$84,346.06/year for four years; one vehicle at 10,542.75 for four years (less for this vehicle as they are reusing equipment from another vehicle); one fully equipped Dodge Durango for the Captain at \$17,659.54/year for four years (includes equipment and installation costs for a transport van for the jail that is already owned); and one Dodge Durango for the Detective at \$15,089.71/year for four years. Chair Shafer commented: costs are good – reusing equipment where available - great due diligence. Capt. Wolverton also noted the pending order will reduce somewhat. Sheriff Rowan: last week, he spoke with a number of other Oregon Sheriffs who told of extreme difficulties getting any Dodge products. Dodge has

cancelled many of their orders; there's a lot of uncertainty. Using current equipment to put in new vehicles is a definite cost savings. In addition, regarding the City of Pilot Rock, they could be involved with older vehicles of the county; perhaps two vehicles could be transferred out of the county fleet to open up to Pilot Rock for its use in the 8 to 10-year future. Chair Shafer asked if this action stops the prior order? Capt. Wolverton wants to keep the order in place. Today's request is patrol vehicles. In the prior order, it is for pickups, K9, and evidence – those vehicles are still needed. **Commissioner Dorrn moved to approve leasing eight vehicles as described and outlined. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock.** Comments by Commissioner Dorrn: a very thorough package, after questions/modifications suggested by CFO Pahl, it went back to the sheriff's office for re-working. **Carried, 3-0.**

7. Community Corrections Position. Presented by Dale Primmer, Director of Community Corrections. Approval is requested to advertise and recruit a system specialist I/II position and double-fill if possible with the retirement of the employee after 23 years of service, effective 4/29/22. Any amount of training time would be very helpful. And, budget is available. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Dorrn. Carried, 3-0.**
8. BOPTA Summary of Actions. Presented by Doug Olsen, counsel. The Board of Property Tax Appeals held hearings on 3/9/21 with 32 appeals filed, 16 hearings were held, which resulted in adjustments to assessed values, presented for Board approval. Correct summary is included. **Commissioner Dorrn moved to adopt Order No. BCC2022-016. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
9. AOC Federal Land Management Subcommittee. Commissioner Shafer presented. Each member county of AOC holds one position on the AOC Federal Land Management Subcommittee. The Board is requested to appoint Commissioner Dorrn to the Subcommittee. **Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the appointment and sign a letter. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried 2-0.** Commissioner Dorrn abstained.
10. Board Meeting Schedule. Mr. Olsen presented. Due to Budget Committee hearings, the second Board meeting in April will need to be rescheduled. It is proposed to reschedule that meeting to Tuesday, April 19. **Commissioner Dorrn moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**
11. Supplemental Budgets – Public Hearing. Chair Shafer opened the public hearing at 10:04 a.m. The staff report was presented by Robert Pahl, CFO. There were three supplemental budgets, Budget Orders number 2022-36, (Foreclosed Property Program) requires increases in Beginning Cash of \$300,000 and in Materials & Services of \$300,000. 2022-37 (County Fair) requires increases in Local Revenue of \$130,000 and in Materials & Services of \$130,000. 2022-41 (Assessor Technology Reserve) requires increases in Beginning Cash of \$400 and in Materials & Services of \$3,500 and a decrease in Contingency of \$3,100.

Chair Shafer asked for public comments or questions. There were none. Chair Shafer closed the public hearing at 10:07 a.m. Deliberations. None.

**In the matter approving Supplemental Budgets pursuant to ORS 294.471 for FY ending 6/30/22:
Commissioner Dorrn moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2022-36 (Program 3017 – Foreclosed Property). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.
Commissioner Dorrn moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2022-37 (Program 4042 – County Fair). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.
Commissioner Dorrn moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2022-41 (Program 3029 – Assessor Technology Reserve). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.**

12. Budget Transfers. The staff report was presented by Mr. Pahl. There were five budget transfers, Budget Orders number 2022-35, (General Fund: Home Visit Program) requires an increase Materials & Services of \$60,000 and a decrease in GF Contingency of \$60,000. 2022-38 (Community Service Development) requires an increase in Materials & Services of \$15,000 and a decrease in Contingency of \$15,000. 2022-39 (Adams Community Benefit Program) requires an increase in Materials & Services of \$40,000 and a decrease in Contingency of \$49,000. 2022-40 (GIS Equipment Reserve) requires an increase in Materials & Services of \$10,000 and a decrease in Contingency of \$10,000. 2022-42 (Fleet Management Program) requires an increase in Materials & Services of \$40,000 and a decrease in Contingency of \$40,000.

In the matter approving Transfers of Budgets pursuant to ORS 294.463 for FY ending 6/30/22:

Commissioner Dorran moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2022-35 (Program 5510 – Home Visit Program). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Dorran moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2022-38 (Program 5260 – Community Service Development). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Dorran moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2022-39 (Program 1605 – Adams Community Benefit Plan). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Dorran moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2022-40 (Program 3030 – GIS Equipment Reserve). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Dorran moved to adopt Budget Order No. 2022-42 (Program 9076 – Fleet Management). Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 3-0.

Executive Session – none.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Murdock thank you to Bill Elfering for service on BOPTA.

Commissioner Dorran noted past weekend, county fair weighed in 79 steers. This is a great increase; the county continues a tradition of showing a large number of steers in the state and really on the west coast. The previous record was 52. He expects the numbers of animals will increase – hats off to the youth showing steers. Chair Shafer commented it is exciting to see what the youth can do.

Commissioner Dorran noted Dispatcher Scott Tassie’s funeral service will be in Hermiston, Friday, 3/18, 3 p.m.

Commissioner Shafer noted he worked many years with Sgt. Tassie. And, Sheriff Rowan commented Sgt. Tassie will be sorely missed in the dispatch center.

Adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary – Board of Commissioners