

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Administrative Meeting of June 26, 2019
11:00 a.m., Room 121, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

Commissioners Present: Chair George Murdock and Commissioner John Shafer
Commissioner Absent: Commissioner Bill Elfering

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Members and Guests Present: Janice Holden, Milton-Freewater Ambulance Area Health District, Board Member; George White, Milton-Freewater Ambulance Area Health District, Board Member and Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Murdock called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. He reminded those present that the meeting is a public forum, and minutes will be taken.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Business Items

1. **Milton-Freewater Ambulance Area Health District.** Doug Olsen gave the staff report. The Milton-Freewater Ambulance Service Area District was formed in 2011 after being referred to the voters, along with a permanent tax rate. The current rate is not adequate and the board is requesting the Commissioners initiate formation of a new district to be referred to the voters to include a new permanent tax rate. The next step is to set a public hearing on the potential new district.

They are looking for a rate of \$1.40/\$1,000. George White noted the current rate is .25/\$1,000. Commissioner Shafer advised he has talked with Janice Holden as well as Rick Saager (fire chief and private owner of Milton-Freewater Emergency Medical Services, contractor ambulance service) about the issues they are facing. Ms. Holden noted Medicare keeps reducing payment and there will be another decrease coming soon. In response to Commissioner Shafer's question, Mr. White did not know what is the percentage of billables collected. Ms. Holden elaborated on budget concerns noting they had approached Walla Walla to perhaps help. Walla Walla is not interested.

Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2019-055, setting a hearing on formation of the Milton-Freewater Ambulance Health District for July 26, 2019, 10:00 a.m. in Room 130, at the courthouse. Motion seconded by Chair Murdock. Carried, 2-0.

It was suggested that a district board member to attend the 7/26 hearing and also a provider could attend, if possible, for questions.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Melinda Slatt*, Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners