**Special Board of Directors Meeting**

**Umpqua Public Transportation District**

Friday, June 27, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

3076 NE Diamond Lake Blvd, Roseburg, OR 97470

**Meeting Minutes**

1. **Call to Order 4:09 pm**
2. **Roll Call**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Doug Mendenhall – P  | Michaela Hammerson – P | John Estill – A | Todd Vaughn - P |
| Gregg Kennerly - P | Cathye Dewhirst-Curreri - P | Lisa Lanza – P |  |

1. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
2. **New Business**

**4.1 Certification of the Election Results**

The board reviewed a notice from the county clerk to UPTD regarding election certification. It stated that the district is required to canvass the abstracts to determine the results of the election, declare the results (per ORS 255.295), and return the letter to the County to verify receipt of the Official Abstract of Votes from Douglas County Clerk.

The board reviewed the abstract of votes from the Douglas County clerk and determined that four positions were uncontested, while one position involving Todd Vaughn versus Natasha Atkinson is legally being challenged in Circuit County Court. The initial motion was, if satisfied, to approve the 2025 Certification of Election Results.

Director Cathye Dewhirst-Curreri expressed discomfort with certifying the full election results while one of the positions is being contested. She suggested it may be more appropriate to certify only the uncontested positions. Chair Michaela Hammerson advised that making a motion would allow the Board to open discussion and consider amendments as needed.

**Director Cathye Dewhirst-Curreri made a motion to certify the uncontested positions and not certify the contested positions. Director Gregg Kennerly seconded the motion.**

CEO, Ben Edtl, raised concerns about suspicious election results in Todd's seat, noting a significant swing in votes after an 8-day blackout period. He emphasized that while the data cannot definitively prove manipulation, the Board should investigate the unusual discrepancy. Todd, who filed a contest to the election, agreed that the numbers did not add up and supported further legal discovery to examine the results more closely. Todd said he will abstain from voting due to there being a conflict of interest.

The board discussed an amendment to a motion regarding the certification of election results, with Gregg providing a second. Michaela explained that if the positions are not certified by July 1st, there would be five board vacancies, which could impact the district's ability to function. Cathye expressed concern about the potential for the county to require all races to be certified or none at all, and requested a clearer motion be made for the record. Cathye would like to amend her initial motion to make it more specific.

**Motion** to **amend** the current motion to “We, the Board of the Umpqua Public Transit District gives our CEO, Ben Edtl, permission to certify all results of the Special District Elections with the exception of Position 4, Todd Vaughn versus Natasha Atkinson. If it is necessary for all the positions to be approved and certified, we request that Ben Edtl not certify the Special Elections” made by Director Cathye Dewhirst-Curreri. Second by Director Gregg Kennerly. **Motion passed with 5 “yes” and 1 “absent” and 1 “abstain”.**

Director Todd Vaughn inquired about the cost UPTD would be charged by the County for conducting the election, confirming with Chair Michaela Hammerson that the amount is approximately $30,000. Vaughn questioned whether the District should pay the full amount if only some positions are certified, particularly given that Position 4 is being contested. Hammerson responded that she was unsure, and while the invoice had been sent to the finance office, it had not yet been paid, as confirmed by Finance Director Sheri.

The board discussed and passed a motion to certify all election results except for Position 4, where the election is being challenged.

**Motion** We, the Board of the Umpqua Public Transit District, gives our CEO, Ben Edtl, permission to certify all the results of the Special District Elections with the exception of Position 4, Todd Vaughn versus Natasha Atkinson. If it is necessary for all the positions to be approved and certified, we request that Ben Edtl not certify the Special Elections made by Director Cathye Dewhirst-Curreri. Second by Director Gregg Kennerly. **Motion passed with 5 “yes” and 1 “absent” and 1 “nay”.**

**Todd made a motion to reduce the payable election costs to the County by 1/5 of the total cost of $32,112.76 until such time that this election challenge is resolved. Cathye seconded the motion.**

Director Lisa Lanza expressed concern about decertifying only one position from the election and not certifying all, noting her hesitation to approve the other due to uncertainty about the broader implications. She supported the idea of including a caveat, as suggested by Director Cathye Dewhirst-Curreri. Lanza agreed with prior remarks from Director Todd and emphasized the community's right to transparency and fairness in the process. She stated that the Board members have nothing to gain personally, but they want assurance that the process is conducted properly. Lanza voiced support for the motion, viewing it as a fair and reasonable step to ensure clarity and accountability in the certification process.

Chair Michaela Hammerson acknowledged she was speaking outside of standard protocol but felt it important to share her perspective. She expressed support for temporarily withholding full payment related to the election, while emphasizing the need for follow-up to determine any legal obligations. Hammerson noted that the invoiced charges likely cover legitimate expenses such as ballot printing, mailing, and processing. While not opposing the concerns raised by other board members, she stressed the importance of resolving the matter promptly.

**Motion** Towithhold 1/5 of the invoice costs to the County until such time that this challenge is resolved**. Motion passed with 5 “yes” and 1 “absent” and 1 “nay”.**

1. **Adjournment at 4:55 pm.**