UMPQUA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

Special Board of Directors Meeting

Umpqua Public Transportation District

Wednesday, May 27, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Zoom

Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order 5:30 pm**

2. **Roll Call**

Doug Mendenhall – P	Michaela Hammerson – A	Jeana Beam – P	Natasha Atkinson - P
Gregg Kennerly - P	Bill Hagedorn - P	Phil Morton - P	

3. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

4. **Budget**

4.1 Adoption of FY 26-27 Budget

Board Chair Jeana Beam opened discussion regarding adoption of the FY 2026-27 Budget following the Budget Hearing. Sheri confirmed that the proposed budget included an amendment approved by the Budget Committee to increase the Legal Services line item by $15,000 for investigative services, bringing the total allocation to $20,000.

The Board then discussed compensation for the General Manager/CFO position. Director Doug Mendenhall noted that in April 2025, the Board had previously established a salary of $130,000 for the General Manager position. He stated that Sheri Bleau had served in the role for six months at a lower salary and recommended that, upon appointment to the permanent position, compensation be adjusted to the previously established salary level.

Director Bill Hagedorn expressed concern regarding the timing and public perception of a salary increase given recent service reductions and ongoing financial considerations. He suggested a more moderate increase and future consideration of additional adjustments through standard COLA increases.

Board members discussed the financial impact of the proposed adjustment, including the distinction between annual COLA and merit increases already included in the proposed budget and the additional amount necessary to align the position with the previously established salary level. Sheri clarified that after application of the budgeted COLA and merit increases, approximately $10,000 would remain necessary to reach the $130,000 salary level.

Board members further discussed fiscal responsibility, organizational recovery, reserve growth, employee retention, compensation equity, and long-term budget sustainability. Additional discussion included consideration of future compensation strategies, including one-time bonuses versus permanent salary adjustments.

Motion: Adjust the General Manager/CFO salary to $130,000 annually, consistent with the salary previously established by the Board for the position, with the COLA and merit adjustments applied first and the salary then adjusted to reach $130,000 made by Director Doug Mendenhall. Seconded by Director Natasha Atkinson. **Motion passed.**

Recorded votes:
Jeana Beam – Yes
Natasha Atkinson – Yes
Bill Hagedorn – Nay
Phil Morton – Yes
Gregg Kennerly – Yes
Michaela Hammerson – Absent
Doug Mendenhall – Yes

Adoption of FY 2026-27 Budget

Motion: Adopt the FY 2026-27 Budget as presented, including the additional $15,000 allocation for investigative services made by Director Phil Morton. Seconded by Director Natasha Atkinson. **Motion passed.**

Recorded votes:
Jeana Beam – Yes
Natasha Atkinson – Yes
Bill Hagedorn – Nay
Phil Morton – Yes
Gregg Kennerly – Yes
Michaela Hammerson – Absent
Doug Mendenhall – Yes

5. **Not on Agenda**
   No comments were made.

6. **Public Comment for on Agenda Items Only**
   No comments were made.

7. **Public Comment for Not on Agenda Items (Limit to 2 minutes per speaker)**
   No comments were made.

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8. **Adjournment at 5:51 PM.**