

**WALLOWA COUNTY
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
STATE of OREGON**

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JEAN JANCAITIS, PLANNING SP.

COMMISSIONER TODD NASH
COMMISSIONER SUSAN ROBERTS
COMMISSIONER JOHN HILLOCK

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September 1, 2021

**Wallowa County Board of Commissioners (BOC)
Regular Session Board of Commissioners Meeting
09:00 a.m. Thornton Conference Room
VIA Zoom Meeting
Wallowa County Courthouse**

MEMBERS PRESENT: COMMISSIONER SUSAN ROBERTS
COMMISSIONER JOHN HILLOCK
COMMISSIONER TODD NASH

STAFF PRESENT: JEAN JANCAITIS, PLANNING SPECIALIST, CHRYSTAL ALLEN, GRANTS MANAGER, TERRA ELLIOTT, WC FAIR BOARD SECRETARY/BOC SECRETARY, PAIGE SULLY, COUNTY COUNCIL

OTHERS PRESENT: BILL BRADSHAW, WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN, DAVID HURLEY, TODD RODGERS, HILARY MILLER

9:00 a.m. - Chair Nash opened the meeting with pledge of allegiance and prayer.

Consideration and/or approval of: Consent Agenda

1. **Payment of Claims on County Funds**
2. **Minutes:** August 18, 2021 - Regular BOC Minutes - Approval
3. **Employee Action Notices:**
 - **Wes Garth** – New Hire – WCSO Deputy
 - **Hailey Collier** – Resignation – 911 Dispatch
 - **Amy Stangel** – Resignation – Dept of Youth Services
 - **Katie Nesbitt** – Step Increase – NRAC

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Director

Commissioner Hillock moved to approve the consent agenda.

Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Agenda Items:

*** Mandatory Reporting Training**

Paige Sully, Wallowa County Counsel, briefed the Commissioners on new legislation including all elected officials in mandatory abuse reporting requirements. Counselor Sully requested direction from the Commissioners to work with Brenda Micka, Administrative Director, to identify and schedule an appropriate training to educate elected officials on the new requirement.

Commissioner Hillock moved to direct Counselor Sully and Administrative Director Micka to identify and schedule mandatory abuse reporting training for all Wallowa County's elected officials.

Commissioner Nash seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

*** Vaccine Mandates**

Todd Rodgers introduced Hilary Miller. Miller read a prepared statement included as Exhibit A.

Commissioners thanked Miller for her testimony, noting that they have tried to work with Governor Brown, but have not had success. The Governor did not accept Wallowa County's plan for responding to the pandemic because a local plan must start with the state-wide plan as a basis and add to it. Local plans must be more stringent than the state-wide plan.

Commissioner Nash noted that he will not interfere with how private businesses work with their employees. He also fears that attempting legal action against the Governor's vaccine mandate could inadvertently strengthen state government's authority over local government.

Commissioner Nash recessed the regular board meeting to enter executive session.

Commissioner Nash reconvened the regular board meeting after returning from executive session.

*** Property Purchase**

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*Commissioner Hillock moved to adopt the Option
Agreement and Agreement of Purchase and Sale prepared
by counsel.*

Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Other Business:

No other business.

Adjournment: The official meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jean Jancaitis, Planning Specialist

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Commissioner Todd Nash

Commissioner John Hillock

Commissioner Susan Roberts

Attest: Stacey Fregulia, E. A.

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**Exhibit A
Statement by Hilary Miller**

Good morning, my name is Hilary Miller. I am a wife, mother, Registered Nurse, Veteran, Co-creator of and Wallowa group leader of NEO Stop the mandate Coalition. I am speaking on behalf of this coalition. We are a grassroots group erected from the recent COVID-19 vaccination mandate from Governor Brown which threatens our livelihoods and liberties. With almost 500 members just by word of mouth, we are comprised of Healthcare workers, Law Enforcement, State Workers, Teachers and others affected by this mandate. In addition, HOKs Members joined us in this endeavor adding 120 people.

To be clear, we are NOT antivaccine. We are joined in a common goal of pro-medical choice and freedom in health care decisions. We are solely focused on this vaccine mandate in relation to maintaining bodily autonomy at this time. Upon initiating this group we obtained guidance from those already bringing lawsuits forward and an attorney to be able to present information for our members.

We are here to let you know our stance! We will not tolerate the threats and coercion from Governor Brown into medical treatment. It strikes me to the core as a medical professional. We have heard our leadership in Oregon say they are counting on healthcare workers "bluffing". We will talk big but in the end comply. Let there be no question, No one is bluffing. A poll in our coalition resulted 83% of respondents will NOT get the vaccine despite the mandate. 13% have already received the vaccines and stand against the mandate. We are educated and intelligent people in these professions. "We have either had COVID, had the vaccine or been offered the vaccine." This is not about a vaccine at this point. Our group, and most of the members of the healthcare and law enforcement professions stand with the Constitution of the United States supporting Bodily Autonomy, Freedom, Right to pursuit of happiness and liberty for ALL!

We Nurses know how to stand up for bodily autonomy as it's the #1 principle in our Nursing Code of Ethics. Autonomy is recognizing each individual patient's right to self-determination and decision-making. As patient advocates, it's imperative that nurses ensure patients receive all medical information, education and options in order to choose the option that is best for them.

This includes all potential risks, benefits and complication to make well-informed decisions. This ethical principle requires nurses support the patient in their medical wishes and ensure that the medical team is remembering those wishes. Healthcare professionals stand up for their patients' right to choose related to their healthcare options. If we don't stand up for OUR rights, all patients will eventually lose their right to choose. I work in the mental health field and unfortunately have witnessed when someone loses their rights and must have treatment they would not choose. They are informed they are losing their rights, it is determined, at that time, they are an imminent threat of physical harm to self or others and also there is a review process that takes place after to ensure this step was appropriate and that this course of treatment is not abused, and if it was abused there are penalties. In contrast, we professionals, your citizens, are coerced and threatened with losing our jobs, our livelihoods, our licenses, if we do not comply with measures that have little scientific data to support them.

The repercussions of these vaccine mandates will be severe. Fire departments and ambulance services comprised of family-like workers will be non-existent leaving no emergency response. Our hospital won't have staff to care for patients and will struggle to stay open.

And if that's not enough, the crippling will extend much further then just the healthcare system.

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Teachers who haven't already retired early or quit will leave their profession; public schools will shut down. _State workers not given options for exemption will leave our state aching for forestry employees for prevention and protection of forest fires, social services, child protective services, state police force, department of transportation road services and many more core services that will be non-functioning due to the mandate.

We are standing up here and now saying this is going to end. We don't want this for our community. We want to work with you to help put an end to this. We recognize that your power is limited, but on August 26th, the Governor stated that counties across the state are vying for local control but not one county has come forward and offered a plan on how to control the spread. This is a huge opportunity and we are seeking an open format to dialogue and put together a plan to present to the Governor. I know this is not the end of mandates from Governor Brown.

Many studies done show masks, frequent testing, lockdowns don't work and we may be looking at vaccine failure with the new variants—let's not double down on failed measures.

I have some questions I would like to pose to you today.

- 1) How can we arrange a meeting with you to build a plan to give to the Governor
- 2) Point two removed
- 3) Would you openly encourage businesses to allow Religious and Medical exemptions.
- 4)** Are you willing to join other commissioners denouncing the Governor's mandates and would legal action be something you would consider?