

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**May 1, 2019**  
**Bartholomew Building**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present**

Chair Jim Doherty

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay

Commissioner Don Russell

Darrell J. Green, Administrator

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director

Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:** 9:01 a.m.

**City & Citizen Comments:** Sheriff Ken Matlack presented a plaque to Operations Lieutenant Terry Harper for reaching the 30-year milestone of service to Morrow County. Sheriff Matlack talked about the subterfuge necessary to bring Lt. Harper to the meeting for the surprise presentation. The Commissioners congratulated Lt. Harper, as did the numerous colleagues and family members in attendance.

**Open Agenda:** No items.

**Consent Calendar**

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve the following items in the Consent Calendar:*

- 1. Accounts Payable, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, \$268,324.08; Two Payroll Payables, April 17<sup>th</sup>, \$24,390.88, Payroll Quarterly Tax & \$1802.27, Statewide Transit Tax*
- 2. Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, All-Terrain Vehicle Grant Program Agreement #ATV 19-14; OHV Park Operations & Maintenance; \$661,800 with a required match from Morrow County of \$167,173; effective when fully executed; the Project shall be completed by June 30, 2021; and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County*
- 3. Department of Environmental Quality Memorandum of Agreement #R010-19/I (EXP #116-19) Relating to Permitting and Inspection of On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems, Morrow County will perform duties of DEQ in Morrow County as specified in the MOA, through its cooperation and this MOA with Umatilla County; effective when signed by all parties, terminating on June 30, 2028*

*Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay requested that agreements not list the same employee as the administrator of the agreement and the billing contact. She said there should be a secondary employee listed in case that employee leaves the employment of the County. Unanimous approval.*

**Legislative Updates**

Carla McLane, Planning Director, said all of the bills related to Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) died, which was good news for Morrow County and the industry.

District Attorney Justin Nelson said Senate Bill 1008 passed, which related to juvenile offender sentencing. He said DAs opposed the changes and that it should be referred back to the voters.

Chair Doherty said he and Commissioner Lindsay have been working with the Association of Oregon Counties and our legislators on SB 2228. That bill seeks to make six housing “czars” around the state, but the question is whether to move forward on that idea or do a pilot project, he said.

## **Department Reports**

### Treasurer’s Monthly Report

Gayle Gutierrez, Treasurer

Ms. Gutierrez reviewed her report. A discussion took place on the \$1 million from the Finley Buttes Closure Fund that Ms. Gutierrez invested. Ms. Gutierrez clarified for the Commissioners that any interest from the investment would go to Finley Buttes, not the County, when the fund closes out in about 90 years. The Commissioners asked Mr. Nelson to review the contract to determine what would happen if the investment lost money, would the County have to make up the difference?

## **Business Items**

### Request to Relocate Union Pacific Railroad Easement along Highway 74, Ione

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Steven Biehler, Morrow County Grain Growers, Operations Manager

Kevin Gray, MCGG, General Manager

According to Mr. Biehler, the Grain Growers would like to add a seed plant and office to the property in Ione where their shop is currently located. The project just received the support of Ione’s Mayor, Rod Taylor, he said. He asked the County to consider forfeiting the 100’ UPRR easement it owns, which runs diagonally across the property, in exchange for a 25’ easement that would run along the southern border of the property. Without that, the plans cannot move forward, he said.

Ms. McLane discussed the history of the easement. Discussions took place as to whether or not the entire easement currently stands at 100’ or 25’.

Chair Doherty said while he did not hear anything to make him oppose the request, he reserved that right, but would first like to tour the property. Mr. Biehler and Mr. Gray welcomed the opportunity.

Commissioner Lindsay said she supported the request; Commissioner Russell’s comment was similar in that he supported moving this forward.

(Mr. Green was temporarily called away from the meeting.)

**Break:** 9:52 a.m.-9:58 a.m.

### City/County/Port Meeting Agenda Ideas

Since a quorum of the Board of Commissioners will attend the May 8<sup>th</sup> CCP Meeting, public notice is required. The Commissioners decided to list the following topics on the agenda:

- Future collaborations regarding economic development
- The Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Boardman for Building Department Services, Plan Review and Building Inspections
- Interchange Area Management Plans and Transportation System Plans

### Irrigon Building Update

Commissioner Lindsay said the proposals received from the Request for Proposals for Owner's Representative Services were opened and reviewed. All three were moved to the interview phase, which will take place this afternoon. She said she was pleased the County received three professional proposals because she feared the rural environment would deter interest.

### **Department Reports, continued**

#### Sheriff's Office Monthly Report

Sheriff Ken Matlack

Administrative Lieutenant Melissa Ross

Lt. Ross reviewed the report. Sheriff Matlack then discussed a new form his office is compiling to track calls related to Code Enforcement. He said it doesn't show the result or outcome, but he can provide the report in the future.

#### Finance Office Quarterly Report

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop reviewed the report of activity in the Finance Office for January-March, including activity of staff. Regarding the Retirement Plan redesign, Ms. Knop pointed out she, Commissioner Russell and Mr. Green met with the actuary for the Plan and she estimated they will present their findings to the Board sometime in May. A discussion about the RFP for Audit Services took place; Commissioner Lindsay asked that it come before the Board for review.

Commissioner Lindsay thanked Ms. Knop and her staff for the hard work they put in to the just-completed Budget Committee Meetings.

#### Assessment & Tax Quarterly Report

The report prepared by Assessor/Tax Collector Mike Gorman was reviewed in his absence. A few items in the report included:

- \$949,000 of current year taxes left to collect
- Appraisal staff started field work – new construction and the reappraisal of the outer Boardman area

#### Administrator's Monthly Report

Mr. Green's report was reviewed in his absence.

## **Correspondence**

- Letter to Governor Kate Brown, which stated, “We urge you to do what you can to limit multiple Coordinated Care Organizations in our regions so that we can continue to bring our best to the CCO model.” It was signed by Chair Doherty and a Commissioner from each of the following 12 other counties: Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Coos, Harney, Jackson, Lincoln, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill.
- Email from the Energy Facility Siting Division of the Oregon Department of Energy that outlined the tentative timeline of public hearings in eastern Oregon related to the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project.
- Form requested by Commissioner Lindsay – “Emergency Solutions Grant (EGS) Certification of Local Government Approval for Nonprofit Organization Receiving EGS Funds from State of Oregon.” She said this is to process emergency funds through CAPECO and that she will seek clarification at the next CAPECO meeting about what this organization specifically does for Morrow County. Chair Doherty and Commissioner Russell concurred with Commissioner Lindsay signing the form.

## **Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Russell said he will participate in another phone conference regarding the Retirement Plan redesign. He said the group is preparing a statistical analysis and once completed, will present it to the Board for review and a decision as to what direction the County will go. He also reported on the Candidate Form in Boardman.
- Commissioner Lindsay said she’s been working with representatives from GEODC (Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation) on the fee increase they proposed to the County. She said she pushed back and has been asked to join their Board. Commissioner Lindsay said she signed up for a 12-week leadership program offered through the National Association of Counties. It’s a minimum five hour per week commitment, but she said it’s been very good and she’s learned a great deal. Commissioner Lindsay has been researching Public Health Accreditation to better understand it and is looking forward to continued conversations on the subject. She reported she asked Public Works staff to analyze hangar rents in an effort to promote development there and will report back.
- Chair Doherty discussed the Budget Committee Meetings that took place April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. He said the budget has not officially been adopted and there is the possibility it could change. As the meetings drew to a close, some things the Committee said they would revisit, fell by the wayside. It’s safe to say we intended to revisit those, he said. Commissioner Lindsay agreed the Committee said it would revisit some issues.

Mr. Green returned to the meeting.

- Chair Doherty said Governor Brown nominated James Nash to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission, who also happens to be the son of Wallowa County Commissioner Todd Nash. James Nash is a hunter/outfitter from Enterprise but environmental groups pushed back because there were pictures of him on social media

with big game animals he killed. Commissioner Russell said most of ODFW's budget comes from fees from hunters and fisherman so why wouldn't James Nash be appropriate, instead of having a Commission comprised only of people opposed to hunting and fishing. Chair Doherty agreed, and added it would balance the Commission.

**Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 11:45 a.m.