

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**June 26, 2019**  
**Morrow/Grant County Off-Highway Vehicle Park**  
**71000 East of Morphine Lane**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present**

Chair Jim Doherty

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay

Commissioner Don Russell

Darrell J. Green, Administrator

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:** 9:05 a.m.

**City & Citizen Comments:** None

**Open Agenda:** No items

**Consent Calendar**

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

- 1. Accounts Payable, June 27<sup>th</sup>, \$413,176.03; Manual Check Run, June 20<sup>th</sup>, \$140,664.50; Void Check, June 18<sup>th</sup>, \$744*
- 2. Contract with Cartello Construction, Inc., for the Willow Creek Road Signing Project, amount \$55,389*
- 3. Oregon Department of Transportation, Rail & Public Transit Division, Intergovernmental Agreement #33587 – 5310 Grant; effective July 1, 2019 or when fully executed, expiring June 30, 2021; total project cost \$136,345; not-to-exceed amount \$122,342; local match amount \$14,003*
- 4. Oregon Health Authority 2019-2021 Intergovernmental Agreement #159824 for the Financing of Public Health Services; effective July 1, 2019, expiring June 30, 2021; amount \$223,344*
- 5. Anna Timpy and Richard Grigsby Subdivision Replat; Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, Block 31, Irrigon*
- 6. Standard Audit Contract with Barnett & Moro, P.C., to conduct an audit of the accounts and fiscal affairs of Morrow County for three one-year periods beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2021; fee for year ending June 30, 2019 will be \$35,000; fee for year ending June 30, 2020 will be \$35,700; fee for year ending June 30, 2021 will be \$36,400; and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County*
- 7. SAIF & CIS Insurance Payments (Manual Check), \$140,664.50*
- 8. Resolution No. R-2019-16: In the Matter of Support for New Local Workforce Development Area for Morrow and Umatilla Counties*

*Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Legislative Updates**

- The Commissioners discussed House Bill 2020, Cap and Trade, and the walk-out by 11 Republican senators.

## **Business Items**

### Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green briefly reviewed the topics discussed at the previous week's kick-off meeting with the County's consultant, Robynne Thaxton Parkinson, and the Owner's Representative firm, Hill International.

Commissioner Russell said the professionals at that meeting indicated basements are not the least expensive option. We may need to rethink this, he said, and that 12,500 square feet may not be enough space.

They said there are more cost-savings by going up, as opposed to down, said Chair Doherty. However, the challenge then becomes the addition of elevators, so those off-set costs need to be evaluated, he said. He then asked the timeline.

Mr. Green said the Request for Proposals/Request for Quotes (RFP/RFQ) should be released in August so the contractor can be selected by November and construction can begin in 2020. The idea is to have occupancy in December 2020, but, he cautioned, that is very tentative.

### Order No. OR-2019-10, Authorizing Treasurer to Invest Funds

Gayle Gutierrez, Treasurer

Mr. Green

Ms. Gutierrez requested the Board sign the Order that was tabled at the June 5<sup>th</sup> BOC Meeting pending additional discussion on an investment policy and the formation of an investment committee.

*For discussion, Commissioner Russell moved to approve Order No. OR-2019-10, In the Matter of Authorizing the County Treasurer to Invest Funds. Chair Doherty seconded. Discussion ensued; it was agreed to schedule a Work Session. Vote – Aye: Commissioner Russell; Nay: Chair Doherty, Commissioner Lindsay. Motion failed.*

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve Order No. OR-2019-10, In the Matter of Authorizing the County Treasurer to Invest Funds, striking out “for the fiscal year 2019-2020” and replacing it with “July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019.” Chair Doherty seconded and added in the interim, answers to questions brought forward by the Commissioners will attempt to be resolved. Unanimous approval.*

### Ellis Integrated Vegetation Management Project Update

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Brandon Houck, Heppner District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service

Ms. McLane discussed the County's request for Cooperator Status on this project. She said the County and Mr. Houck are in the process of drafting a memorandum of understanding that will eventually be brought to the Board.

Mr. Houck provided a status update on the project. He said this is a good time for the County to be engaged as they are in "alternative development mode" collecting data, including the public comment from the scoping phase, and looking at alternatives. He said the Forest Service is inviting partners such as Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help them work with adjoining private landowners. The project is aimed at fuel reduction and forest health and issues on private land with elk, he said.

Commissioner Russell thanked Mr. Houck for his openness in allowing the County to be involved and have input. He said that has not always been the case with our Federal partners. Commissioner Russell said Mr. Houck has been more engaged than his predecessors and he appreciated that; Commissioner Lindsay agreed.

Chair Doherty stated some people advocate for roadless areas and some do not. How does that get resolved, he asked.

Mr. Houck replied roads and access are passionate topics for some. He said he looked at road management from the standpoint of what the Forest Service can afford to manage to a safe standard. Some roads contribute to resource damage if they aren't maintained properly. Finding a balance for those differing views will be one of the most challenging aspects of the Ellis Project, he said.

The Upper Rhea Creek/Martin Prairie area was discussed and Chair Doherty commented it would be nice to have that as a fire route in an emergency. Mr. Houck said if that was an information request, he could look into what to do to get it fire ready.

#### Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Adoption Process Discussion

Ms. McLane

Ms. McLane recapped prior discussions about the do-adopt recommendation from the Planning Commission and that the Board wanted additional time to review the document before making a decision as to what process to use for adoption (public hearing, regular BOC Meeting, etc.). After a brief discussion, the Board opted for a public hearing on July 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Break:** 10:19-10:25 a.m.

#### Updates – Interchange Area Management Plan (IAMP) and Transportation System Plan (TSP)

Ms. McLane

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Ms. McLane and Mr. Scrivner discussed the meetings taking place with the City of Boardman and the Port of Morrow regarding transportation planning documents that need to be followed, as

well as, updated. Recent development in the area triggered the requirement that improvements be made at certain interchanges, which were then discussed in greater detail by Ms. McLane and Mr. Scrivner. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) promotes the use of roundabouts as a way to alleviate back-ups at interchanges, and several preliminary options were reviewed for the Port of Morrow interchange, both north and south of the interstate.

Ms. McLane put forward the idea of jointly hiring a consultant to update the transportation planning documents with the City and the Port, as a cost-saving measure. She proposed using Building Permit Funds for the County's portion. She concluded by saying meetings will continue over the next several months.

#### Updated Travel Policy

Mr. Green

An update of the Travel Policy recently took place and the recommendations of the Travel Policy Team were approved by the Board. Since then, he said, several suggestions were made by an employee, with which the team concurred. Mr. Green reviewed the latest recommendations.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the changes to the Travel Policy. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### Resolution No. R-2019-15 – Year-End Budget Resolution

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop reviewed the increase in appropriations within the General Fund, Fair Fund and CAMI Fund (Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Fund). The totals for each were: General Fund: \$349,000; Fair Fund: \$2,000; and CAMI Fund: \$3,000.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve Resolution No. R-2019-15 – In the Matter of Appropriations for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018, in the amount of \$354,000. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### Contract with Community Counseling Solutions, Inc. (CCS)

Mr. Green

Mr. Green explained the County enters into an agreement every two years with the Oregon Health Authority to receive funding for mental health, developmental disability, and alcohol and drug abuse treatment services, which it then contracts out to CCS. The County has not yet received the OHA agreement for the next biennium, therefore, he suggested the County extend the existing contract with CCS to allow time to review the OHA agreement after it's received. During the discussion, Mr. Green proposed that a small group review the OHA agreement since it involves a substantial amount of money, and also because efforts have been made to look at every contract.

Ms. Knop said in the last biennium, it was approximately \$4,000,000, including amendments.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to extend the contract with Community Counseling Solutions, Inc., which expires June 30, 2019, for an additional 90 days (the contract extension document will be prepared for the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Consent Calendar). Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

## **Department Reports**

### Road Department Monthly Report

Mr. Scrivner

The Road Report for June 2019 was reviewed. Discussions took place about blowing dust in the Boardman area that caused stop-and-go traffic on the interstate. Chair Doherty said he received complaints and subsequently learned there is a City of Boardman code that requires dust be kept down during construction and that such complaints should be forwarded there. He also said those doing the construction are “mandated” to take care of the dust. He added he did not want a situation similar to what’s happened in the area between Hermiston and Pendleton in the past.

### Parks Department Update

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Mr. Close reviewed his report. He noted a three percent increase in parks visitors over last year. Mr. Close also took the opportunity to thank Mr. Houck for use of the Forest Service’s coolers to store trees prior to planting, and for their assistance and advice in planting them.

## **Correspondence**

- Letter of invitation to join the Training & Employment Consortium out of La Grande.
- Invitation to the August 22<sup>nd</sup> retirement celebration for Philip Hamm, Director, Oregon State University, Hermiston Agricultural Research & Extension Center.
- Letter from Judge Ann Spicer that she plans to retire. Last day to be December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Russell reported on the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting with the Vice President of Human Resources at Oregon Health & Sciences University about how they rolled out their retirement plan change. He said it was a good meeting and Mr. Green and Ms. Knop also attended.

## **Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 12:06 p.m.