

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**August 14, 2019**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present**

Chair Jim Doherty

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay

Commissioner Don Russell

Darrell J. Green, Administrator

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:** 9:00 a.m.

**City & Citizen Comments:** No comments

**Open Agenda:** No items

**Consent Calendar**

Permit Application #OOL was removed for discussion.

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

1. *Accounts Payable, August 15<sup>th</sup>, \$126,242.98; Retirement Taxes, August 8<sup>th</sup>, \$20,563.41*
2. *Minutes: July 17<sup>th</sup>*
3. *Contract with Kirby Nagelhout Construction for Bartholomew Building Lower Level*

*Remodel Project, \$77,629, and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval. Unanimous approval.*

Permit Application #OOL from Umatilla Electric Cooperative for a 115kV electric transmission line at Olson Road, .75 miles from intersection with Wilson Lane

Chair Doherty said as meetings continue between the involved parties and the County's Planning and Road Departments, it might be worthwhile to table this as they work through potentially re-engineering and resubmitting this permit.

*Chair Doherty moved to table Permit Application #OOL from Umatilla Electric. Commissioner Lindsay noted there were no conditions within the permit to indicate it was temporary. She said it was important to clarify that and that input should be received from Public Works Director Matt Scrivner; she then seconded the motion. Brief discussion. Commissioner Russell called for the question. Unanimous approval.*

**Business Items**

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said any time a building will be demolished, an asbestos survey is necessary. To that end, he initiated contact with several asbestos removal companies. He also began researching

State-contracted companies that provide furniture, and working on the overall procurement schedule for the project.

2019-2021 Intergovernmental Agreement #5854 with the Department of Corrections for Correctional Services

Lieutenant Dan Robbins, Director, Parole & Probation

Lt. Robbins requested the Board approve the IGA from the Department of Corrections that supports Morrow County's Parole & Probation Division.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve Intergovernmental Agreement #5854 with the Department of Corrections, effective July 1, 2019 until June 30, 2021; amount \$1,160,562; and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Commissioner Lindsay asked Lt. Robbins to provide semi-annual updates to the Board, similar to the updates he provides to the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC).

Reclassification Appeal Committee Recommendation

Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director

Ms. Carlson requested the Board concur with the findings of the Appeal Committee regarding one of the requests for reclassification (two were received this year). The Appeal Committee recommended the position remain at its current placement on the AFSCME General Scale, Pay Range 8. Ms. Carlson reviewed the methodology of the Appeal Committee in reaching its recommendation. As the next step in the process, Ms. Carlson said she will send a Final Notice of Decision to the employee about today's findings. The employee will then have 30 days upon delivery of that notice to request an appeal to the Board of Commissioners.

The Commissioners agreed the update to this policy that is currently taking place was very much needed as the process has been quite "convoluted."

Commissioner Russell and Chair Doherty concurred with the findings of the Appeal Committee.

Commissioner Lindsay said to concur with the decision was to already make a decision, and as the appeal body tasked with the final decision, how could they already make that decision? She said she stood behind non-concurrence. Furthermore, Commissioner Lindsay asked how she could agree with a decision without reviewing all the information that led to the Appeal Committee's recommendation.

Grants to Cities Discussion

The Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget included \$400,000 for Grants to Cities, those being the County's five incorporated cities/towns: Boardman, Heppner, Ione, Irrigon and Lexington. During the discussion, Chair Doherty and Commissioner Russell commented they were in favor of using the same distribution formula as the previous few years.

*Commissioner Russell moved to distribute the \$400,000 using the formula of 50% based on population and 50% to be split evenly between the five entities; and authorize the Finance Director to send the checks. Commissioner Lindsay said the funds in prior years were distributed based roughly on the 60/40 formula, but seconded the motion for discussion. It was requested Finance Director Kate Knop join the meeting. Commissioner Lindsay also suggested the motion include the caveat that funds must be used for infrastructure. Ms. Knop verified the funds were distributed based approximately on the 60/40 split. Commissioner Russell said he wanted to be consistent with previous years and moved to amend his motion to strike the 50/50 split and distribute it in a consistent manner as past practice: 37.5%, or \$150,000, to be distributed based on population; and 62.5%, or \$250,000, to be split evenly, resulting in the following totals: \$123,118 to Boardman; \$75,661 to Heppner; \$56,539 to Ione; \$89,432 to Irrigon; and \$55,251 to Lexington. Commissioner Lindsay seconded the amendment. Chair Doherty said the five entities need to understand the County never knows when there may be higher needs that have to be supported...the dollars that supported a lot of these things can be shifted. Vote on the amended motion: unanimous approval.*

## **Department Reports**

### Veterans Services Office

The written report submitted by Veterans Services Officer Linda Skendzel was reviewed. Commissioner Lindsay said the County received additional suicide prevention funds in the amount of \$3,000. Ms. Skendzel is planning a one-time event and the Board will be updated as details are firmed up, said Commissioner Lindsay.

## **Correspondence**

- Article entitled, “The Economic Impact of Cows and Crops in Eastern Oregon”
- Oregon by the Numbers – Key measures for Oregon and its counties (a publication of the Ford Family Foundation and Oregon State University Extension Service)
- Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO) 2018 Community Needs Assessment

## **Commissioner Reports**

- Chair Doherty said the Eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA) will meet in Pendleton on August 26<sup>th</sup> where dues will be a discussion item. The Commissioners requested staff notice it as a public meeting since a quorum will attend.
- Commissioner Russell discussed the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Board Retreat he attended in Oregon City.
- Commissioner Lindsay reported on a meeting with Roy Blaine, Trial Court Administrator for Morrow & Umatilla Counties. They discussed the use of the space on the second floor of the Courthouse in light of the fact the County did not receive any State funding for Courthouse improvements. While the County transitions to a new Justice of the Peace, there’s an opportunity to discuss what works and what doesn’t in that space, she said. Meetings will continue. Commissioner Lindsay said meetings surrounding road use agreements occupied a great deal of her time, as well as that of staff members. She

said the talks are nearing the point of no return where the other parties can either take it or leave it.

- Chair Doherty said there were several questions regarding the Columbia Development Authority (CDA) at last week's meeting when Commissioner Russell was not present. Commissioner Russell, who serves as Chair of the CDA Board, took the time to answer those questions. They mainly pertained to the role the CDA will play once the Umatilla Army Depot land is turned over to the five entities (Morrow & Umatilla Counties, Ports of Morrow & Umatilla, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation).

**Break:** 10:30-10:40 a.m.

**10:40 a.m. Executive Session** - Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) – To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions

**10:52 a.m. Closed Executive Session**

**10:53 a.m. Executive Session** - Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(g) – To consider preliminary negotiations involving matters of trade or commerce in which the governing body is in competition with governing bodies in other states or nations

**11:03 a.m. Closed Executive Session**

**Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 11:15 a.m.