

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**February 26, 2020**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present**

Chair Melissa Lindsay  
Commissioner Don Russell  
Commissioner Jim Doherty  
Darrell J. Green, Administrator

Kate Knop, Finance Director  
Justin Nelson, County Counsel  
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

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

**City & Citizen Comments:** None

**Open Agenda:** Commissioner Russell requested to discuss a letter of support requested by Bob Houser, Morrow County Health District, Chief Executive Officer.

**Consent Calendar**

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

- 1. Accounts Payable, February 27<sup>th</sup>, \$274,224.64*
- 2. Minutes: December 11 & 18, 2019*
- 3. KnowBe4 Cybersecurity Awareness Training Statement of Work, \$2,250*
- 4. 2020 Oregon Department of Agriculture, Wolf Depredation Compensation & Financial Assistance County Grant Program Application*

*Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Business Items**

Presentations by Ione Charter School FFA Students

Chair Lindsay said she heard the presentations at a recent ICABO (Ione Community Agri-Business Organization) meeting and was so impressed by the topics and overall quality that she invited them to the BOC meeting. She introduced FFA Advisor, Martin Vito, and students Grace Ogden and Madison Orem.

Mr. Vito said both students won at Districts, with Ms. Ogden advancing on to State.

Ms. Ogden's speech was entitled, "Want to know how to protect the environment? Ask a farmer." Ms. Orem's speech was, "Mental health in the agricultural industry."

Following the presentations, a brief question and answer session was held. Both students received kudos from the Commissioners, staff and audience members.

Legislative Updates

The weekly video conference with legislators was not held due to the walk-out by Republicans over the cap & trade bill.

Letter of Support, Public Health Department Grant Application to the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO) to Assist in the Purchase of Electronic Health Record (EHR) System

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve signing the letter of support that will accompany the grant application to the EOCCO to augment the purchase of the Patagonia EHR System. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Commissioner Doherty talked about constituents who have contacted him expressing concern over the Coronavirus. He said they want to know what the County's plans are to address the situation. He said he has been passing along the recommendations from the Public Health Department.

Administrator Darrell Green said he was in frequent communication with Shelley Wight, Communicable Disease/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and steps are being taken to mitigate this, and new information was expected from the State. When Ms. Wight receives the information, it will be before the Commissioners, he said.

Letter of Support for Morrow County Health District's Grant Application

Chair Lindsay explained the request was not included in the Agenda Packet because the Commissioners received it at 7:00 a.m. today.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve signing the letter for the Health District. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty said he did not anticipate any repercussions from this not being on the agenda, but these things need to come to the Board in a timely manner. Unanimous approval.*

Office Machine Survey Results

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Deanne Irving, Staff Accountant

Ms. Knop said the survey results were compiled and her office was now requesting permission to move forward with a request for quotes from the three vendors that currently provide copiers for the County. Brief discussion.

*Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the intermediate procurement process of a request for quotes from the three suppliers of copiers, with the possibility of adding additional machines as their leases expire. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said Fortis Construction received the Notice to Proceed, which allowed them to officially "kick things off." Becky Blankenship will be our Project Manager and weekly meetings will take place. Meetings will soon begin with the stakeholders and then subcontractors, he said.

Navy's Response to Request for Perpetual Easement

Chair Lindsay enumerated her concerns about the easement negotiations between the Navy and Idaho Power relative to the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line (B2H): 1.) The Navy wants to grant an easement for 50 years or less, 2.) The cost of what the Navy is asking for the easement and, 3.) A termination clause has been added to the discussion. She said if these things occur, they would be detrimental to Morrow County. Commissioner Russell and Commissioner Doherty also voiced their concerns and relayed concerns expressed by constituents. Commissioner Doherty suggested a response be written for the newspaper.

#### Consider Sponsorship Funding for the Eastern Oregon Economic Summit

Commissioner Doherty said the summit will once again be held in Hermiston. Last year was the first year and it attracted 700-800 participants, but in the future, it will rotate to other counties. Brief discussion.

*Commissioner Doherty moved to support the Eastern Oregon Economic Summit in the amount of \$2,500 and to continue to pursue a message we would like to get out; funds to come from the Court Discretionary Fund. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### Purchase Pre-Authorization Request, Road Department Hook Trucks

Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master

Mr. Imes talked about the capabilities of the trucks and the anticipated timeline for delivery. It was noted they were previously budgeted.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve the purchase and move forward with ordering the trucks and attachments with Kenworth Truck through Sourcewell Purchasing, amount to be approximately \$670,000. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty requested a working flowchart of equipment. Unanimous approval.*

### **Department Reports**

#### Road Department Monthly Report

Mr. Imes reviewed his report.

### **Correspondence**

- Livestock and Rangeland Programming Needs Assessment Survey from Chris Schachtschneider, Oregon State University, Morrow County Extension Service

### **Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Doherty said he will travel to Washington, D.C. for a National Association of Counties Legislative Conference, at the expense of the Association of Oregon Counties. While there, he will meet with the Department of Defense to talk about the challenges faced by counties with DOD facilities. He said when Commissioner Russell was scheduled to attend a meeting with DOD officials, the Whidbey Island folks (Naval Air Station Whidbey Island – command for the Boardman Bombing Range) asked him to pull his punches, which he did with the expectation the Navy would come back and work with us. Commissioner Doherty said they did that only to put us off and to continue to say no to the things we ask.

- Commissioner Doherty brought up the issues with the Olson Road/Wilson Lane intersection that were “foisted upon the County” and said constituents came to him and said they already had \$3,000 in legal fees over this. After that, he contacted the Oregon Department of Transportation’s North East Area Commission on Transportation for data on that interchange. He said the County had an email from ODOT that referenced nothing had to happen there. He asked ODOT to elaborate on that in light of the fact there were funds available. ODOT said it would be great if there was a willing partner but there was not enough empirical data to justify doing anything. He said he believed that was what the County should do. He added, if the County doesn’t give access through Olson Road, the City of Boardman would have to do a loop through Oregon Trail Boulevard. Commissioner Doherty asked ODOT to contact the folks with the church and pass along that data, as opposed to them spending additional funds for legal fees. He said the constituents also gave him some letters on the history of the situation and they agreed to letting him hold them and respond. The letters don’t shed a positive light on the County or the Commissioners, he said. Maybe there will be more discussion around this today but when constituents come to us in the public realm, it’s worthy to put it back out in the public realm, he concluded.
- Commissioner Russell said the Board of Property Tax Appeals hearing scheduled for last week was cancelled because the applicant settled with the Assessor’s Office. He then provided a report on the latest meeting of the Eastern Oregon Counties Association, where that organization was still working on a dues structure. He next discussed meetings with staff about the car crushing event and the need to amend the Code Enforcement Ordinance. He said he planned to use the Wasco County Ordinance to draft a template for Morrow County.
- Chair Lindsay reported on a meeting with Kimberly Lindsay, Executive Director of Community Counseling Solutions, about a tentative proposal by the State to pull a portion of services currently offered at the county level to the State level. Chair Lindsay said Ms. Lindsay was adamantly opposed. The two will continue to participate in phone conferences on this topic.

**Break:** 10:32-10:39 a.m.

**10:39 a.m. Executive Session:** Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) – To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations

**11:22 a.m. Closed Executive Session**

**11:23 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

**12:26 p.m. Closed Executive Session**

**Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 12:35 p.m.