

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**March 25, 2020**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present In-Person**

Chair Melissa Lindsay  
Commissioner Don Russell  
Commissioner Jim Doherty  
Darrell J. Green, Administrator  
Roberta Lutchter, Executive Assistant

**Via Electronic Means**

Kate Knop, Finance Director  
Justin Nelson, County Counsel  
Rick Stokoe, Port of Morrow  
Lisa Mittelsdorf, Port of Morrow

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

**City & Citizen Comments:** The County's new Community Development Director, Gregg Zody, introduced himself and said it was a pleasure to be in Morrow County.

**Open Agenda:** Commissioner Russell asked to add a discussion regarding the Olson Road/Wilson Lane intersection.

Chair Lindsay said she wanted to add discussions about: 1.) Transitioning to electronic tablets during Board meetings; 2.) Clarifying the intent of yesterday's decision regarding the use of the rodeo arena; and 3.) This afternoon's Work Session on the Columbia River Enterprise Zone Re-designation will be for information gathering only. A decision will be scheduled for a future regular BOC meeting.

BOC Meeting Notebooks

It was agreed to move away from hard copy notebooks and use the tablets provided by the County. There will continue to be one hard copy notebook available for presenters to use.

Rodeo Arena

Chair Lindsay said she was concerned that yesterday's motion did not clearly convey the Board's intent, which was to not allow events, such as Wranglers Club, Rodeo Club, etc.

Commissioner Russell agreed and added if social distancing becomes a problem with those using the arena, the County will shut it down. He emphasized the number of people who could be there was 10.

*Chair Lindsay moved to allow no formal events where people come in to participate. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Consent Calendar**

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

- 1. Accounts Payable, March 26<sup>th</sup>, \$331,448.93; Void Check, March 19<sup>th</sup>, \$3,760*
- 2. Minutes: March 18<sup>th</sup> Work Session*
- 3. Amendment No. 1 to Criminal Justice Commission, Justice Reinvestment Grant Program, Grant Agreement #JR-19-025; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*

4. *Fiscal Year 2020 Scope of Work Agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Morrow County Weed Control District; October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020; not-to-exceed amount \$2,500; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*
5. *Eighth Amendment to Oregon Health Authority Intergovernmental Agreement #159824 for the Financing of Public Health Services; additional \$35,966 for COVID-19 Response; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*

*Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### **Business Items**

#### Columbia Development Authority, Umatilla Depot Property Update

Commissioner Russell said Greg Smith, CDA Project Manager, and other members of the CDA Board recently attended a BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) meeting and learned the transfer date of the Depot property has been pushed back to the fall of this year. Brief discussion.

#### Economic Development Resiliency Ideas

- Commissioner Russell said the last Regional Solutions/Business Oregon meeting conflicted with a BOC meeting but he planned to listen to the audio recording. He then suggested the next distribution of funds from Columbia River Enterprise Zone II Board to economic development entities in the County perhaps include ways to incentivize businesses impacted by the COVID-19 closures. He went on to say the County should partner with the economic development entities, chambers of commerce, and the Port of Morrow to come up with ideas to help everyone through this economic and health crisis.
- Chair Lindsay said she was beginning to explore options for no- or low-interest loans using a combination of funds/sources, such as the Equity Fund, grants, unanticipated excess County funds, future Enterprise Zone dollars and those already distributed.
- Assessor/Tax Collector Mike Gorman proposed using local CREZ funds to support a program for new businesses to assist with the Business Personal Property Tax and Real Property Tax. He said a new business usually fails within the first three-five years and this could mean the difference for new businesses, especially in south County.
- Interim Public Health Director Diane Kilkenny said this might not be the last pandemic or isolated disease outbreak. She suggested there be something to help businesses cope in the future, such as drive-throughs and other ways to change the mode of interaction for businesses.
- Chair Lindsay brought up the need for someone to take the lead on broadband to the home. She said the federal government was not going to figure it out for us.
- Lisa Mittelsdorf, POM Economic Development Director, said the Boardman Community Development Association (BCDA) already discussed how to help small businesses using CREZ funds, and in addition, \$500,000 was set aside to work on broadband as many areas are without coverage.

#### Food Processing Requests for Support

- Chair Lindsay said the Commissioners were contacted by food processors for support in defining that industry as a “needed service” in the food supply. She asked if it should be formalized in some way.

- Ms. Mittelsdorf said the Port was contacting all processors to let them know the Port was up and running. She said she had not heard any concerns from them based on the guidelines the Governor issued. Brief discussion.

#### Discussion in Advance of Works Session on CREZ Re-designation

Chair Lindsay referred to the Agenda Packet for the Work Session and said Mr. Gorman and Enterprise Zone Manager Greg Sweek, assisted in compiling the information. She added any decision would come to a future regular meeting agenda and would not be made at a Work Session.

#### Olson Road/Wilson Lane Update

Commissioner Russell said when he and Administrator Darrell Green initially met with the pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Fr. Luis Flores-Alva, the plan was for a meeting to take place with the pastoral council in order to decide if and when the Commissioners could meet with them. However, the Coronavirus caused the Bishop to cancel all unnecessary meetings. Commissioner Russell said we've all wrestled with this for a long time and it needed to be brought to a conclusion. If the County continues to build the road and does not get the 700 square feet of right-of-way from the church that we've asked for, then we should build the best road we can within the existing right-of-way, said Commissioner Russell. Maybe in the future they'll change their mind and we round the corner at that time, he added. Brief discussion.

Chair Lindsay said this needed to be added to an agenda for a formal decision.

#### Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green

- Presentations by furniture vendors are being scheduled.
- The replat of the lot in Irrigon will be completed soon.
- Stakeholders were asked to review the information from CIDA (architecture and engineering design firm) and provide feedback to Commissioner Russell by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Department Reports**

#### Road Department Written Report

The written report was reviewed.

Mr. Green asked the Commissioners if department reports should be submitted in written format only or was the preference to have presenters available via Zoom. The answer was "either/or."

### **Correspondence**

- Oregon Water Resources Department, Summary Report of Watermaster Activities in Morrow County
- Email correspondence from the American Red Cross encouraging people to continue to donate blood (deemed an essential service)
- Letter from Teamsters Local 223 urging employers to share COVID-19 contingency plans with labor representatives and negotiate any plans that impact its members

- Sixth Judicial District Presiding Judge Order No. 20-006 – Order Limiting Services in Morrow County Circuit Court because of Emergency

### **Commissioner Reports**

The Commissioners provided reports of activity, and noted they were not travelling to meetings but were instead participating electronically.

### **Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 10:15 a.m.