

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**October 14, 2020**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present In-Person**

Chair Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Darrell J. Green, Kate Knop, Roberta Lutcher, Tamra Mabbott, Justin Nelson, Brian Snyder

**Present Via Zoom**

Staff: Lindsay Grogan, Gayle Gutierrez, Eric Imes, Katie Imes, Diane Kilkenny, Ian Murray, Matt Scrivner, Linda Skendzel, LeAnn Wright, Gregg Zody. Non-Staff: Raymond Akers, Torrie Griggs, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Karen Pettigrew, Lori Roach, David Sykes

**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call:** 9:01 a.m.

**City & Citizen Comments:** Boardman Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Torrie Griggs, requested additional information on the County's small business grants program. Community Development Gregg Zody said he would send her the information and noted it was available on the County's website. Brief discussion on the sources of the grant funds and how the County planned to make the grant program known to as many people as possible.

Chair Lindsay then said October was breast cancer awareness month and she'd heard the statistics for postponed tests and doctor appointments were "horrible." She reminded everyone to get screenings and blood tests, and to not let COVID-19 cause the next health issues.

**Open Agenda**

Commissioner Doherty requested the County contact the West Extension Irrigation District regarding an easement near the intersection of Miller Road and Kunze Lane to ensure there aren't "dueling plats" there.

**Consent Calendar**

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

- 1. Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
- 2. Sheriff Station 2 Budget Transfer Resolution No. R-2020-23*
- 3. Notice of Award to Allstott Construction, LLC, Sheriff Station 2 Request for Bids (\$564,702)*
- 4. Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee Reappointment Request: Sheryll Bates, representing the Heppner Community, term to be January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024*
- 5. Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Committee Reappointment Request: Sheryll Bates, representing Heppner Senior Citizen Community, term to be October 14, 2020 through January 30, 2023*
- 6. Order No. OR-2020-9: Appointing Members to the Board of Property Tax Appeals: Don Russell appointed as Chairperson and member of the County Governing Body pool; term shall be October 15, 2020-June 30, 2021; Ed Rollins and Dean Kegler appointed as members of the Non-Office Holding pool and Chairperson pool; terms shall be October 15, 2020-June 30, 2021*

*Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### **Business Items**

#### Draw Applicant Names for 2020 Youth Hunt – Spike Elk

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Mr. Scrivner recommended accepting the seven Morrow and Grant County residents who applied for the special hunt.

*Commissioner Russell moved to follow the recommendation of Public Works/Parks and allow the seven qualifying hunters to participate in the Special Youth Hunt: David Rietmann and Katie Spivey from Ione; Lane Rowe, Zackariah Jones and Kassadie Griffin from Irrigon; Riley Percy from Boardman; and Fallan Griffin from John Day. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion took place on the logistics that take place at the OHV Park on the special hunt days. Unanimous approval.*

#### Request to Surplus Equipment & Materials, Public Works

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Mr. Scrivner discussed the process to surplus the listed equipment through a silent auction and then requested permission to move forward.

*Commissioner Russell moved to authorize Public Works, Finance and the Administrator to dispose of items declared surplus. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### Purchase Pre-Authorization Request, Public Works, Two Dump Pup Trailers

Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master

Mr. Imes talked about the features of the trailers and the bid review process.

*Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the Purchase Pre-Authorization Request for two 2021 Workman dump pup trailers in the amount of \$154,000 from Northwest Equipment Sales, Inc. Commissioner Russell seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty asked Mr. Imes how things compared since switching to the new style of paving trucks/trailers about a year ago. He talked about the improved safety aspects and the efficiencies that have been realized. Unanimous approval.*

#### Purchase Pre-Authorization Request, Two 2021 Kenworth T370 Hook Trucks & Components

Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master

Mr. Imes explained the purchase was part of the Replacement Plan for this fiscal year and that Kenworth Sales provided its quote through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing program.

*Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the Purchase Pre-Authorization Request for two 2021 Kenworth T370 trucks and listed components in the amount of \$570,857.74 from Kenworth Sales Company, Inc. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### Invoice from Enterprise Zone Manager Greg Sweek

Chair Lindsay said she brought this forward for discussion since the invoice was higher than the \$2,000 amount set aside for the work. Brief discussion.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve the invoice from Greg Sweek in the full amount of \$2,250. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### Morrow County Retirement Trust – Actuarial Valuation as of July 1, 2019

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop reviewed her memo and written summary. The following is from the Summary: “The July 1, 2019 actuarial valuation report reflects an actuarial market loss in Morrow County’s Retirement Plan assets, an increase in active and non-active participants, and increase in the Plan unfunded liability.

During 2019-20, the Morrow County Board of Commissioners approved steps toward mitigating the County’s financial risk, moving toward a sustainable retirement plan for eligible employees. The steps included:

1. Closing the Morrow County Defined Benefit Retirement Plan to new members, effective July 1, 2020.
2. Opening a new Defined Contribution Retirement Plan for all non-safety eligible employees and elected officials...
3. Approved Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) coverage to all Sheriff’s Office employees...hired on or after July 1, 2020...

Commissioner Russell stated the return on investments substantially under-performed the market. He asked who sets the tolerance risk.

Ms. Knop replied, the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Russell said in his six years on the Board, he didn’t remember anyone asking that question.

Ms. Knop said she was working to schedule a meeting in November with McGee Wealth Management, the financial advisors, and Milliman, the actuary.

### Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

- The Board participated in a meeting with CIDA to review interior finish options. He said the Board narrowed the options down to three or four.
- Groundbreaking ceremony in Irrigon will take place Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.
- The first meeting to discuss furniture options will be next week.

### Emergency Operations Center Update

- Chair Lindsay discussed the positive COVID-19 statistics in recent weeks, which were dropping. She said residents were doing something right and this might lead to conversations about reopening schools.
- Interim Public Health Director, Diane Kilkenny, talked about the need for a student to read at grade-level three in third grade. If that milestone isn’t reached at the appropriate time, it can impact a student’s trajectory in life, she said. Ms. Kilkenny encouraged residents to keep up the good work and remember to follow good practices by social

distancing, wearing a mask and washing hands frequently. Doing so could allow students to return to school. She said everyone has COVID fatigue and is ready for this to be over but a vaccine is coming but it likely won't be until 2021.

### **Department Reports – Written**

The Commissioners decided to return to in-person or Zoom presentation of reports by Department Directors and Elected Officials, starting next week.

The following written reports were reviewed:

- Community Development Department Monthly Report, submitted by Gregg Zody
- Planning Department Monthly Report, presented by Tamra Mabbott
- Justice Court Quarterly Report, submitted by Judge Glen Diehl
- Veterans Services Quarterly Report, submitted by Linda Skendzel

### **Correspondence**

- Fund Exchange Workgroup – slide presentation from the Oregon Department of Transportation, Association of Oregon Counties, and Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors workgroup.
- Public Notice – Boardman Planning Commission Public Hearing, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Mabbott explained the County was an adjoining property owner to the action on the agenda. After she outlined some items of concern, the Board directed Ms. Mabbott to draft a letter to the City of Boardman to be reviewed at next week's BOC meeting.

### **Commissioner Reports**

- As the Board's liaison to the Columbia Development Authority, Commissioner Russell talked about the CDA meeting of October 8<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting, a successful vote was taken to deed the industrial ground of the Umatilla Army Depot property to the Port of Morrow and the Port of Umatilla, instead of the five entities (Umatilla and Morrow Counties, the Ports and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation). He said his research indicated that was the intent more than 25 years ago when the process began to transfer the land from the Army to the five entities, and it needed to be officially memorialized.

Chair Lindsay and Commissioner Doherty expressed their displeasure with the vote having taken place when the subject wasn't on the agenda and came as the meeting was ending and participants had disconnected electronically. Discussion continued on the need for Commissioner liaisons to bring information about potential decisions back to the Board of Commissioners for vetting.

### **Comments before Executive Sessions**

Commissioner Lindsay read the Executive Session citations and said no decisions were anticipated following either Executive Session.

**11:43 a.m. Executive Session:** Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) – To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed

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

**Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 12:20 p.m.