

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**May 5, 2021**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present In-Person**

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Darrell J. Green, Roberta Lutcher, Justin Nelson

**Present Via Zoom**

Staff: SaBrina Bailey Cave, Stephanie Case, Mike Gorman, Deanne Irving, Kate Knop, Tamra Mabbott, Ian Murray, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: Greg Barron, Sheryll Bates, Torrie Griggs, Debbie Pedro, Karen Pettigrew, David Sykes

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

**City & Citizen Comments:** None

**Open Agenda:** No items

**Consent Calendar**

Commissioner Lindsay removed the Accounts Payable from the Consent Calendar to Business Items.

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

- 1. Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
- 2. Minutes: April 14<sup>th</sup>*
- 3. Resolution No. R-2021-14: Applying for a County Assessment Function Funding Assistance (CAFFA) Grant (Correcting error in R-2021-11)*

*Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Business Items**

Accounts Payable

Commissioner Lindsay said last year's invoice from the Columbia Development Authority had supporting documents regarding the grant match. She asked if payment could be postponed as it was important to better understand it. Chair Russell said he and Commissioner Doherty have seen the budget paid by the federal government with a five-way match from the entities that make up the CDA (Morrow County, Umatilla County, Port of Morrow, Port of Umatilla and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation). Commissioner Doherty asked that Finance Director Kate Knop bring the information forward next week.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Accounts Payable, minus the Columbia Development Authority grant for \$2,531.80. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Public Hearing:** Code Enforcement Ordinance Update

Stephanie Case, Planner II

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Chair Russell called for the Staff Report.

Ms. Case explained there were some items inadvertently left out of the 2019 Code Enforcement Update originally meant to be included. This update included those items:

1. A new section addressing Compliance with Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances (5.400)
2. A new section in the Vehicles portion that addresses Nuisance Vehicle Storage (4.700)
3. Updates the Definitions in the Ordinance related to the above changes

Chair Russell called for abstentions and conflicts of interest. He and Commissioner Doherty stated they had no conflicts of interest or reasons to abstain. Commissioner Lindsay said they all owned property and would be affected. She said she had a question on the farming section, adding she had an interest in the lands being included in this but didn't have a problem with the vote as it was not impacting her directly. A discussion took place on what constituted a nuisance vehicle, especially concerning farm related equipment. In Section 4, Vehicles, 4.700 Nuisance Vehicle Storage, it was decided to:

- Strike B3: "Multiple pieces of equipment are stored together, not spread out across the property."
- In the last sentence of B, strike the word "actively"
- Sections A and B, remove the word "automotive" in reference to leaking fluids, in order to not limit it to just fluids leaking from autos

Ms. Mabbott said staff would make the changes and bring back a revised document for the Board's review.

Chair Russell asked if anyone wanted to offer any rebuttal to the comments; no response.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to continue the Public Hearing and hold the second Public Hearing to May 12<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Ms. Case asked if the First Reading would take place next week. Chair Russell said the second Public Hearing would take place next week with the First Reading to follow the week after, or May 19<sup>th</sup>. Unanimous approval.*

**Public Hearing:** Application to Rename Threemile Road to Marty Myers Road

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Stephen Wrecsics, GIS Planning Tech

Applicant Jeff Wendler with Threemile Canyon Farms requested the name change. Mr. Wendler's application included the following statement, "Marty Myers developed Threemile Canyon Farms. We wish to honor his contributions to this area by renaming the road that leads to Threemile Canyon Farms from I-84."

Ms. Mabbott said the Planning Department was responsible for processing and maintaining applications for road naming and renaming, in compliance with Ordinance MC-C-3-92. She outlined the procedure followed by Planning staff and referenced the letter of support from Beef Northwest.

The Commissioners discussed the change to exit signs on I-84. Commissioner Doherty said he learned the Oregon Department of Transportation will be updating signs in the area, so the timing was beneficial.

*Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the application and rename Threemile Road to Marty Myers Road; and sign Order No. OR-2021-8: In the Matter of Renaming Threemile Road to Marty Myers Road. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

The Commissioners asked about the level of County involvement since it was a public access road. Ms. Mabbott said the County coordinates the names of public and private roads in order to issue addresses and ensure the addresses tie into GIS coordinates for emergency dispatch and proper signage, etc. Commissioner Doherty noted the Findings of Fact, I. A., referenced the road as a “paved/gravel County Road.” He clarified it was a road in the County, not a County road. Ms. Mabbott said he was technically correct.

### **Legislative Updates**

Commissioner Lindsay said during the legislative conference call this morning, there were two main topics of discussion:

- The \$20 million going only to the 15 counties that have been in the Extreme Risk Level for a very short period of time.
- The decision to make masks and six-foot distancing a permanent mandate, not tied to an emergency declaration.

Commissioner Doherty said there was a proposal at the legislature on whether they should hold a debate about the Governor’s authority to declare an emergency, perpetually. The vote, solely on the question of holding a debate, failed 28/27, mostly on party lines, with five Democrats voting with Republicans. He said he found it discouraging they would not even allow the debate to occur.

### **Business Items**

#### Reappointment Requests to the North Morrow Vector Control District Board

Greg Barron, Manager, North Morrow Vector Control District

Mr. Barron said three current Board members submitted letters requesting reappointment. Their terms will expire soon, or have expired, he said.

*Commissioner Doherty moved to appoint the following to the North Morrow Vector Control District Board:*

1. *Kevin Gilbertson, Boardman, four-year term (term expired July 31, 2020)*
2. *Smokey Joe Wightman, Boardman, four-year term (current term expires May 31, 2021)*
3. *Lenn Greer, Irrigon, four-year term (current term expires July 12, 2021)*

*Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty asked Mr. Barron to advertise future Board openings to the public, as is current practice for BOC appointments. Unanimous approval.*

Mr. Barron briefly reviewed the North Morrow Vector Control District 2020 Annual Report.

#### Ducote Consulting Agreement for Grant Writing and Environmental Services

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott said Ducote Consulting would assist with grant writing and environmental work related to the Heritage Trail project. She said while the amount was below the threshold requiring BOC approval, she and Administrator Darrell Green wanted to inform the Commissioners of the activities that will take place on this project. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to Ms. Mabbott signing the agreement.

#### Emergency Operations Center Update

- Vaccination event today at the City Park in Heppner. Another vaccination event has been scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> at Lamb Weston's Boardman east plant; the employer is offering incentives to employees. Vaccine events are coming to an end but the County will continue to publicize where people can go for the vaccine.
- Health Department staff will have an informational meeting with Tillamook but will bring the vaccine in case people want to be vaccinated.
- EOC Team members continue to look at ways to help students since the Morrow County School District was not allowing students to be vaccinated on-site.

#### Building Project Updates

Darrell Green, Administrator

- An overflow parking plan was submitted to the City of Irrigon but no feedback has been received yet.
- Furniture has been ordered and work will begin with the contractor on dates for moving it into the building.
- Irrigon employees were asked to determine what has to be moved to the new building, since it's now six months away.

#### **Department Reports**

- Administrator's Monthly Report, provided by Mr. Green
- Sheriff's Office Monthly Report, provided by Administrative Lieutenant Melissa Ross
- Finance Department Quarterly Report, provided by Finance Director Kate Knop
- Assessment & Tax Quarterly Report, provided by Assessor/Tax Collector Mike Gorman

#### **Commissioner Reports**

Reports of activity were provided by the Commissioners

**Break:** 10:48-11:00 a.m.

**11:00 a.m. Executive Session:** Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i) – To review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing

#### **Signing of documents**

#### **Adjournment**