

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

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

Present Via Zoom

Staff: SaBrina Bailey Cave, Lindsay Grogan, Katie Imes, Deanne Irving, Ian Murray, Sandi Pointer, Nazario Rivera, Linda Skendzel, Richard Tovey; Non-Staff: Sheryll Bates, JoAnna Lamb, Karen Pettigrew, David Sykes

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

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items to add

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Lindsay requested to remove the Accounts Payable (Aps) and June 2nd minutes for discussion.

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

1. *Payroll Payables*
2. *Minutes: May 26th*
3. *Good Shepherd CareVan Purchase Service Agreement; medical transportation services for elderly and handicapped residents of Morrow County; effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023; \$6,500 per year to provider*
4. *Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Public Transportation Division (PTD) Agreement #35074, Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Discretionary – Bus Barn Planning; agreement funds the first phase of planning work to develop a bus barn facility for the public transit system serving Morrow County; effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023; \$78,832 not-to-exceed amount for the project with a local match of \$19,708*
5. *ODOT PTD Agreement #35075, STIF Discretionary – Intercommunity services between Heppner and Boardman; agreement funds the establishment of scheduled intercommunity services between Heppner and the Port of Morrow, also serving Lexington; effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023; \$138,400 not-to-exceed amount for the project with a local match of \$34,600*
6. *ODOT PTD Agreement #35076, STIF Discretionary – Boardman/Port of Morrow Circular; agreement funds a high frequency route between Boardman and the first/last mile connections between intercommunity and commuter services and the employers at the Port of Morrow; effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023; \$148,000 not-to-exceed amount with a local match of \$37,000*
7. *ODOT PTD Agreement #35185 – 5310 FTA Grant – salary & benefits, preventive maintenance and contracted services; effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023; \$122,043 not-to-exceed amount for the project with a local match of \$13,968*

8. *U.S.D.A. Animal & Plant Health Inspection Services & Wildlife Services Agreement #21-7341-5126-RA; to provide professional wildlife management assistance to reduce or manage damage caused by coyotes, predatory animals and other nuisance wildlife to protect property and human health and safety; effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022; agreement amount \$60,000*
9. *Amendment 21 to Oregon Health Authority 2019-2021 Intergovernmental Agreement #159824, Public Health Services; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County*
10. *CityCounty Insurance Services insurance coverage for property, automobile and general liability - \$336,625.73; and authorize Chair Russell to sign the proposals on behalf of the County*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

June 2nd Minutes and Accounts Payable

Commissioner Lindsay said she would like to see more detail added to a section of the minutes and she would work with BOC staff to bring them back next week.

Commissioner Lindsay requested information come back to the Board on several items:

1. The bill from Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative for three campsites that totaled more than the bill for an entire building.
2. The invoice from Pea Ridge Embroidery & Signs for Morrow County logo items. This warranted a broader discussion, she said.
3. Whether or not the State of Oregon pays for any expenses from the District Attorney's Office, other than the D.A.'s salary. In particular, she was asking about invoices in the APs from a continuing education conference. Justin Nelson, D.A./County Counsel said the State pays the salary and benefits for one D.A. per county and counties pay for everything else, including the salaries of Deputy District Attorneys. Chair Russell commented the State used to pay the entire budget for D.A. Offices and questioned if it was right for counties to have to do so, adding it must be difficult for some of the smaller counties.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Accounts Payable for July 7th, with additional research to come back to the Board. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Legislative Updates

Chair Russell said the session ended and mentioned he appreciated the frequent Zoom meeting updates held by Representative Mark Owens (House District 60 – Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur and part of Lake Counties) and Senator Lynn Findley (District 30 – Baker, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Malheur, Wasco, Wheeler and parts of Clackamas, Deschutes, Lake and Marion Counties). Commissioner Lindsay agreed and said their outreach efforts were impressive.

Business Items

Road Committee Appointment Request

Sandi Pointer, Public Works

Ms. Pointer addressed the issues raised in the APs:

1. The CBEC bill was for the on-site Park Hosts and for Parks General Manager Greg Close's trailer.
2. Pea Ridge Embroidery & Signs – for the purchase of hats with logos for volunteers and for signs for the side of Parks Department pickups. All were purchased using grant funds specifically designated for such purchases. No County funds were used, she said.

Regarding the appointment request, Ms. Pointer said Lori Seitz would be a valuable addition to the Road Committee with her past experience as a Forest Service Road Engineer. Commissioner Lindsay stated she would refrain from voting since Ms. Seitz was her sister.

Commissioner Doherty moved to appoint Lori Seitz to the Road Committee, Alternate Position representing Lexington, term to be three years – July 7, 2021 through July 7, 2024. Chair Russell seconded. Vote – Aye: Chair Russell, Commissioner Doherty; Abstained: Commissioner Lindsay. Motion carried.

Request to Reorganize Two Nurse Positions

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Manager

Ms. Grogan explained the Public Health Director, Nazario Rivera, would like to reorganize two nurse positions. Yvonne Morter currently works .60% as a CaCoon nurse (CaCoon is a home visiting program for children with special health care needs). Ms. Morter would like to move to full-time. Mr. Rivera proposes adding Nurse-Family Partnership duties to Ms. Morter's position to make it full-time (Nurse-Family Partnership is a home visiting program for women who are having their first baby). If approved, this would leave a part-time Babies First nurse position vacant (Babies First is a home visiting program for pregnant women and for children up to age five). Also vacant since 2019 is the Maternal and Child Health nurse position (Maternal and Child Health promotes health from preconception to early childhood to create a path for lifelong wellness). Ms. Grogan said the budget impact would be an increase of \$4,600 per year.

Commissioner Doherty moved to reassign the part-time duties of the Nurse-Family Partnership nurse and combine them with the current part-time duties of the CaCoon nurse to make the current incumbent's position full-time. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty said as he talks to people and encounters them in their living situations, he has wondered, in some cases, why the County doesn't have a nurse helping them. He also wonders how these people are made aware of the resources available at the County. He specifically referenced the displaced residents of the trailer park in Boardman that was damaged during last year's windstorm. Commissioner Doherty said he wanted to see as much visibility from the Public Health Department as possible in the communities in the County. He then asked how the department was interfacing with the public. Mr. Rivera said the County receives information from the State on pregnant mothers and birth rates for the Nurse-Family Partnership program. He said he would ask Ms. Morter about the CaCoon program as it's referral based. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Lindsay asked Ms. Grogan to provide an update on nurse recruitment efforts. Ms. Grogan said \$50,000 of the incentive funds received by the County were allocated to nurse recruitment. She said she was working with a recruitment agency and exploring the possibility

of retention bonuses. (The incentive funds were from the Department of Administrative Services Grant Agreement #2625, Vaccine Distribution and Equity.)

Discussion – Order No. OR-2021-10: An Order Declaring a Local State of Emergency Due to COVID-19

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said the County's Order will expire July 9th and asked the Commissioners if they wanted to extend it or let it expire. He added Governor Kate Brown rescinded the State's COVID-19 restrictions, effective June 30th, but her Emergency Executive Order was extended through December 31, 2021.

Commissioner Lindsay said indications from her contacts at the Governor's Office were it would not be a mistake to let the County's Order expire. She said this was echoed by Undersheriff John Bowles who said a new Order could be approved, if needed.

Commissioner Doherty concurred and then talked about the County's Order dated June 2nd, saying he voted against it but his signature appeared on the Order. He asked County Counsel, Richard Tovey, if it needed to be revisited or a notation made it was signed in opposition.

Mr. Tovey said it was a 2:1 vote so it was approved, but as far as records or for history, there may be a question about the need to modify it. Brief discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to let Order No. OR-2021-10 expire. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Building Project Updates

Darrell Green, Administrator

North Morrow Government Center: Delivery of the hollow interior doors has been delayed three weeks. This, combined with some work stoppages due to the extreme heat, could cause the completion date to be extended by a week. In the meantime, the contractors are working on other tasks. Mr. Green shared photos on the progress of the construction.

Chair Russell said the parking lot issues continue with the City of Irrigon. The County received a letter from the City which wasn't as positive as expected. The City didn't site any code requirements, but the letter was more "they want" rather than "they can make us do something." Irrigon wants the County to pave the gravel parking areas of surrounding property owners. To be fair, he said, the City of Heppner had the County improve the street behind the Bartholomew Building in 2015 as that building was being completed. It's a common theme, but that probably doesn't make it right, stated Chair Russell.

Chair Russell reported the three conference rooms will be named after Don Adams, Don Eppenbach and Steve Myren.

Sheriff Station 2 Building: Allstott Construction is experiencing similar supply issues that could push the completion date out a week. The plan is to remove the items stored at the Fairgrounds in time for that area to be cleaned prior to Fair.

Courthouse Feasibility Study: The Request for Qualifications was drafted and will be issued within the next two weeks. This will help the County know what remodeling and upgrading can be done at the Courthouse.

Department Reports

- The Administrator's Monthly Report was reviewed by Mr. Green.
- The Sheriff's Office Monthly Report was reviewed by Sheriff Ken Matlack.
- The Fair Office Quarterly Report was reviewed by Ann Jones.
- An oral update was provided by Mr. Nelson as his District Attorney's Quarterly Report.

Correspondence – No items

Commissioner Reports

The Commissioners provided reports of activity.

Break: 10:41-10:52 a.m.

Chair Russell read the Executive Session citation and said there would be no further business following the Executive Session.

10:53 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

11:32 a.m. Closed Executive Session

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:45 a.m.