

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**October 13, 2021**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present In-Person**

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Darrell J. Green, Lindsay Grogan, Roberta Lutchter

**Present Via Zoom**

Commissioner Jim Doherty, Erin Anderson, Kirsti Cason, Crystal Jaeger, Kate Knop, Aaron Moss, Justin Nelson, Jaylene Papineau, Nazario Rivera, Matt Scrivner, Heidi Turrell, Vickie Turrell; Non-Staff: JoAnna Lamb, Karen Pettigrew, David Sykes

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

**City & Citizen Comments:** None

**Open Agenda:** No items

**Consent Calendar**

The Commissioners removed the Accounts Payable, Law Enforcement Services Agreements with both school districts, and Permit Application #OSG to Business Items.

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

1. *Payroll Payables*
2. *Property Use License with Oregon State University to Conduct Oregon ATV Safety Youth Rider Endorsement Classes at the OHV Park, effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County*
3. *Amendment 1 to Oregon Department of Transportation Grant Agreement #35185*
4. *Mid-Columbia Economic Development District's grant application letter of support to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce regarding the Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better Regional Challenge*
5. *Order No. OR-2021-14: Appointing Members to the Board of Property Tax Appeals: Don Russell to the County Governing Body Pool; Ed Rollins and David Sykes to the Non-Office Holding Pool and the Chairperson Pool; all terms to be October 15, 2021-June 30, 2022*
6. *Cattle Guard Permit Application #CG01 from James Kirkpatrick*
7. *Cattle Guard Permit Application #CG02 from Colin Anderson*

*Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Business Items**

Accounts Payable (APs)

Commissioner Lindsay questioned charges in the Visa APs for out-of-state travel, which according to policy, is to be approved by the Board in advance of the travel.

District Attorney/County Counsel, Justin Nelson, said it was for one of his employees to attend a conference in San Diego and he neglected to obtain Board approval. He apologized and said he planned to present the request to the Board next week. Discussion.

*Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the out-of-state travel for Mr. Nelson's department. Chair Russell seconded. Discussion: Chair Russell said the Commissioners emphasized to Mr. Nelson the need to follow process on this. Vote: Aye: Chair Russell, Commissioner Doherty. Nay: Commissioner Lindsay. Motion carried.*

Law Enforcement Services Agreements – Morrow County School District; Ione School District  
*Commissioner Doherty moved to forego, or discontinue this. Motion died for lack of a second.*

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve both Law Enforcement Services Agreements - between the Morrow County School District and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office; and between the Ione School District and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office for the provision of School Resource Officers; effective commencing the date of execution by the parties and shall continue to the end of the 2021-2022 school year.*

Permit Application #OSG from Windwave Communications to Build in the County Right-of-Way

*Commissioner Doherty moved to approve Permit Application #OSG from Windwave Communications. Chair Russell recused himself, stating he had a conflict of interest because he had a financial interest in Windwave. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty said the Agenda Cover Sheet still indicated the project started at Kunze Lane and travelled south and he wanted it noted for the record it travelled north. Commissioner Lindsay added an engineering firm was paid in the APs to be an observer on the project and for consistency in the future with any company, there should be a 10% administrative fee when the County has to step in and oversee, as has been done on other road agreements with partners. This needs to be a part of permit conversations, she said, and we should be compensated for that effort. Vote: Aye: Commissioner Doherty, Commissioner Lindsay. Abstained: Chair Russell. Motion carried.*

#### Compensation Board Direction Discussion

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director

Ms. Grogan reviewed her memo (provided in the Agenda Packet) that outlined her recommendations for the information to be presented to the Compensation Board in February. She asked the Commissioners for input and direction. They were agreeable to most everything, with these exceptions:

1. The compensation for the District Attorney position should not be considered by the Compensation Board as that salary is paid by the State, not the County.
2. The Commissioner positions should not be referenced as part-time.

**9:24 a.m.** – Commissioner Doherty signed-off to attend the meetings at the Western Interstate Region Conference.

Intergovernmental Agreement for the Procurement of Medical Malpractice/Liability Insurance

Nazario Rivera, Public Health Director

Mr. Rivera said this was a new IGA in response to some of the issues with the Health Officer agreement (originally presented at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> BOC Meeting). To relieve some of those issues, it was decided to do a separate contract with the Health District, which states they will cover Dr. Edward Barretta under their policy when he is working as the County's Health Officer, he explained.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the IGA for the Procurement of Medical Malpractice/Liability Insurance with the Morrow County Health District; effective upon execution of the agreement. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Morrow County Health Officer Agreement

Nazario Rivera, Public Health Director

Mr. Rivera explained there was a major hold-up with the language on the first version of this contract, but those issues have been addressed in this new agreement.

Commissioner Lindsay said the prior contract did not come to fruition so it becomes null and void and she wanted that in the record.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Morrow County Health Officer Agreement with Dr. Edward Barretta; effective October 1, 2021, or as soon as the document is executed, and shall automatically renew for successive one-year periods. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Command Team Update

- Ms. Grogan said the County was still waiting for official rules pertaining to the vaccine mandate. Staffing levels of emergency service personnel in the County were discussed and no issues have been reported. She went on to discuss the logistics of testing and tracking that will be necessary if the mandate happens.

Building Project Updates

- Courthouse Feasibility Study: DLR Group scanned the Courthouse to obtain the exact layouts and dimensions and will use that information in making its recommendation to the County. It was reported Emergency Manager, Paul Gray, is working on obtaining grants related to building security. Administrator Darrell Green said if security is done for one building, it needs to be done for all buildings.
- Morrow County Government Center Building: Experiencing additional delays on the delivery of some items, such as door and window glazing, interior lights and heated sidewalk materials. Furniture will be delivered October 18<sup>th</sup> and installed November 8<sup>th</sup>.

The move-in date is now tentatively November 15<sup>th</sup>. Working through telecomm and internet installation logistics but there may be some downtime during the transition from the old building to the new.

### **Department Reports**

- Planning Department Monthly Report was provided by Tamra Mabbott, Director.
- Treasurer's Monthly Report was provided by Jaylene Papineau.
- A written Justice Court Quarterly Report was submitted by Judge Diehl (unavailable).
- A written Veterans Services Office Quarterly Report was submitted by Linda Skendzel (unavailable – attending training conferences).

### **Commissioner Reports**

- Reports were provided by the Commissioners.

**10:10 a.m.:** Chair Russell said there would be a short break before going into Executive Session. He then read the Executive Session citation that allowed the Board to do so. A decision would be made after the Executive Session, he added.

**Break:** 10:10-10:15 a.m.

**10:15 a.m.: Executive Session:** Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a) – To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent

**10:29 a.m.: Closed Executive Session**

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to allow Human Resources the latitude to negotiate an offer for an employment position. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### **Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 10:40 a.m.