

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Darrell J. Green, Greg Close, Roberta Lutchter; Non-Staff: Chris Brown, Mark Browning

Present Via Zoom

Kirsti Cason, SaBrina Bailey Cave, Mike Gorman, Lindsay Grogan, Katie Imes, Deanne Irving, Christy Kenny, Kate Knop, Aaron Moss, Matt Scrivner, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: Erika Lasater, Jessy Rose, David Sykes, Karie Walchli

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

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Commissioner Lindsay requested to add a discussion about grants, for example, U.S. Economic Development Administration grants.

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable & Payroll Payables*
- 2. Minutes: September 1st*
- 3. Contract with Community Counseling Solutions, Inc., for Community Developmental Disabilities Services; effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023*
- 4. Connect Oregon Grant Application & Letter of Support*
- 5. Tax Refund Applications – Amazon Data Services, Inc., and the Port of Morrow*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Meet with Blue Mountain Community College Representatives

Mark Browning, President

Chris Brown, Board of Education

Mr. Browning made the following points:

- BMCC is open and running and continues with the business of educating students. He said he used the term “business” with some hesitation but they are in the business of educating students and they charge a fee for that service.
- Enrollment is up slightly but has been down 6% for the year, overall. Of the 17 community colleges in the state, BMCC is in the better third for enrollment stats, with some seeing 15-18% decreases in enrollment and some seeing increases.
- He defined success at BMCC: When students are better off when they leave, than when they arrived. He said the state and federal folks might not agree with that definition but BMCC is here for the communities and the counties in the area – Umatilla, Morrow, Baker, etc. He thanked Morrow County for the more than \$1 million they provide each year to BMCC and said it was a huge commitment for a county and its citizens.

- Enrollment challenges have been compounded by COVID. BMCC received an infusion of one-time moneys and the plan is to use some of it toward updating technology and hardware to improve connectivity. Students want more and more in-person instruction but enrollment for on-line instruction fills up twice as fast – things are fragmented now.

After a robust question and answer exchange, Mr. Browning said he would return with an update on information related to unmanned aerial vehicles, precision agriculture, and other technology-related subjects.

Youth Special Hunt – Spike Elk

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Mr. Close recommended approving all seven of the applicants, as they meet the criteria and that many can be accommodated.

Commissioner Doherty moved to allow Mr. Close to work with the applicants to accommodate all seven of the youth who applied. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay asked for new “brainstorming” ideas next year to make sure the advertising reaches all youth in both Morrow and Grant Counties. Unanimous approval.

Purchase Pre-Authorization Request – Mini Excavator

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Commissioner Doherty moved to have the Board of Commissioners authorize the purchase of a Bobcat E50LA, with two buckets, from Bobcat of Pasco in the amount of \$48,423.48. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Compensation Board Appointment Request

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director

Commissioner Lindsay moved to appoint Eileen Hendricks and Kalie Davis to the Compensation Board for a four-year term. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Funding Options for LPSCC Coordinator’s Salary (Local Public Safety Coordinating Council)

Christy Kenny, Juvenile Department Director

Jessica Rose, Contracted LPSCC Coordinator for Morrow County

Commissioner Lindsay talked about the effort to find ways to fund the \$25,000 part-time LPSCC Coordinator contract, saying it was brought together using funds from several departments and that Ms. Rose will be looking for other dollars to support her position.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve funding, as presented, and to sign the Morrow County Personal/Professional Services Contract for LPSCC Services with Jessica Rose; effective October 1, 2021 and shall expire on September 30, 2022; \$2,083.33 per month; and authorize

Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Intent to Award Request for Quotes for Tourism Services

Darrell Green, Administrator

Commissioner Lindsay moved to grant the Intent to Award for Tourism Promotion Services to Karie Walchli. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Review Census Data

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Department Director

Ms. Mabbott discussed the data she displayed on-screen and said she uses it when applying for grants and would be happy to share it with anyone who might be interested. Brief discussion.

Break: 10:20-10:42 a.m.

Command Team Update

- Command Team members are still waiting for the vaccine mandate rules to be released by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Building Project Updates

- Courthouse Feasibility Study: Expecting the proposal from DLR Group in November.
- Bus Barn Transit Facility Request for Proposals: Deadline today to submit proposals; evaluation team will include Mr. Green, Katie Imes, and consultant Nick Ducote.
- Morrow County Government Center Building: There was a walk-through of the building last week and there is a small list of things that need to be changed, repaired, fixed, etc. The audio/visual equipment for the room to be used by the Justice Court has been delayed. The wiring will be installed so when it arrives, it can be plugged in.

Grants Discussion

Commissioner Lindsay provided an update on the status of the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better agricultural coalition grant. She said it was moving forward and received a great response from local farming operators, school districts, Oregon State University Extension, and Morrow County Grain Growers, for example. Commissioner Lindsay and Ms. Mabbott also provided an update on a grant application for coal-impacted communities, and the assistance from Mr. Ducote on these and other grant applications. Commissioner Lindsay said she wanted \$10,000 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds set aside for consultant fees. The other Commissioners expressed interest in the idea, but Commissioner Doherty suggested it be brought forward to an agenda, which was agreeable to Commissioner Lindsay.

Department Reports

- The Juvenile Department Quarterly Report was reviewed by Ms. Kenny.

Columbia Development Authority Update & Review Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of the Army and the CDA and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; and CDA and the Counties of Umatilla and Morrow

Greg Smith, CDA Executive Director

Mr. Smith provided an update and reviewed the timeline over the last year to get to this MOU. Discussion. Mr. Smith offered to provide regular updates to Morrow County.

Commissioner Doherty moved to have Chair Russell sign the MOU on behalf of the County and have staff expedite sending the signed document to the necessary parties. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports, continued

- Emergency Management Quarterly Report was reviewed by Paul Gray, Emergency Manager.

Correspondence

- Corrected Agenda Cover Sheet for Permit Application #OSG indicating the direction of the fiber conduit installation travels north and not south.
- Letter from Baker County Commission Chair, Bill Harvey, to Oregon's Congressional Delegation regarding the River Democracy Act

Commissioner Reports

- Due to time, reports were not provided.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:20 p.m.