

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**October 27, 2021**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present In-Person**

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Darrell J. Green, Katie Imes, Roberta Lutcher

**Excused**

Commissioner Jim Doherty

**Present Via Zoom**

SaBrina Bailey Cave, Paul Gray, Lindsay Grogan, Deanne Irving, Crystal Jaeger, Ann Jones, Kate Knop, Jaylene Papineau, Nazario Rivera, Matt Scrivner; Non-Staff: Cole Bode, Matt Kenny, Wendy Neal, Karen Pettigrew

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

**City & Citizen Comments:** None

**Open Agenda:** No items

**Consent Calendar**

Commissioner Lindsay requested to remove the Permit Applications from Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC) to Business Items.

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

1. *Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
2. *Intergovernmental Agreements between Gilliam & Morrow Counties for Independent Appraiser Services; effective January 1, 2022 to April 30, 2022*

*Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Business Items**

Permit Applications #OSI, #OSJ, #OSK, #OSL to Build in the County Right-of-Way from UEC

Commissioner Lindsay asked if there would be any impact to irrigated circles shown in the drawings submitted with the applications.

Cole Bode, UEC, said they were rebuilding an existing transmission line between Hermiston and the Bombing Range and the bulk, or all, of the line resides within existing transmission and distribution alignments. Where possible, they were replacing pole-for-pole with some minor deviations. No substantial, additional impact to cultivated farm ground for this design, he added.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve Permit Applications #OSI, #OSJ, #OSK & #OSL to Build in the County Right-of-Way from UEC. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Noting the Passing of Former Commissioner and State Representative, Raymond French

Chair Russell read a summary of Mr. French's numerous accomplishments during his life of service to the citizens of Morrow County, as an elected official and as a livestock producer active in those organizations, and others.

Appointment Requests to the Fair Board

Ann Jones, Fair Secretary

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to appoint Brittany Casperson and Alita Nelson to the Morrow County Fair Board; terms to be October 27, 2021-December 31, 2024. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Appointment Request to the Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee & the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Committee

Katie Imes, The Loop

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to appoint Stephanie Case to the STF Advisory Committee and the STIF Advisory Committee; term to be October 27, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Intent to Award the Request for Qualifications for The Loop's Bus Barn & Transit Facility

Katie Imes, The Loop

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to grant the Intent to Award for the RFQ for the Bus Barn and Transit Facility to Pivot Architecture. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Resolution No. R-2021-21: Multi-Program Budget Resolution

Kate Knop, Finance Director

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve Resolution No. R-2021-21, as written. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Identify Funding Source for Contractor Expenses Related to the Grant Application to the Economic Development Administration's Coal Communities Program

Commissioner Lindsay listed the three projects for which grant funds are being sought: 1.) The Ione sewer project; 2.) The flood mitigation work at the former mill site in Heppner, which is owned by the Port of Morrow; 3.) Infrastructure needs for a new subdivision in Heppner, such as water and sewer lines. The County will continue to take the lead and partner with the various agencies, she said, and she then asked to set aside \$10,000-15,000 to contract with Ducote Consulting LLC. She said she identified the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds or the County's Resiliency Fund.

Finance Director, Kate Knop, said ARPA Funds would qualify if it was a straight contract but if the project grows into something else, she wondered how Finance would capture that. She said there was carryover from the prior fiscal year that could be appropriated and the Resiliency Fund was an option, as well.

*Chair Russell moved, depending on which project gets identified and makes it to the finish line, to take match funds from ARPA Funds or the Resiliency Funds, and to make the decision at the time on which fund is most appropriate. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay said she estimated the amount to be around \$10,000, maximum. Chair*

*Russell amended the motion to establish it at \$10,000, and if it needs to be changed at a later date, that can be done. Commissioner Lindsay seconded the amendment. Unanimous approval.*

#### Command Team Update

- Still waiting for Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) rules to be released on the vaccine mandate, which are expected “any day.”
- The Team discussed reviewing a letter that Human Resources will draft to employees explaining the facts about the mandate and that the County has no choice, and that employees are valued.

#### Building Project Updates

- Courthouse Feasibility Study: Draft findings to be relayed to stakeholders on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, with final findings expected by mid-November.
- Morrow County Government Center Building: Another delay – the bus bar that goes on the electric meter to power the building hasn’t shown up yet. Still missing some light fixtures and the product for heated sidewalks. These things are pushing the move-in date back to Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Department Reports**

- The Road Department Monthly Report was provided by Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director.
- The written Clerk’s Quarterly Report was submitted by Bobbi Childers.
- The Human Resources Department Quarterly Report was reviewed by Lindsay Grogan, Director.
- The Surveyor’s Quarterly Report was reviewed by Matt Kenny, Contracted Surveyor.
- The Public Health Department Quarterly Report was reviewed by Nazario Rivera, Director.
- The written Weed Department Quarterly Report was submitted by Dave Pranger, Weed Coordinator/Inspector.
- The Loop Quarterly Report was reviewed by Ms. Imes.

#### **Correspondence**

- Water Needs Forums Project Narrative from the Association of Oregon Counties

#### **Commissioner Reports**

- Reports were provided.

#### **Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 10:35 a.m.