

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes  
December 15, 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; Non-Staff: Dick Paris

**Present Via Zoom**

Staff: Anthony Clement, Mike Gorman, Lindsay Grogan, Deanne Irving, Tamra Mabbott, Aaron Moss, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: Roy Blaine, Irma Solis, Karie Walchli, Angeline Williams

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

**City & Citizen Comments:** North Pole resident, Santa Claus, stated he wanted to pass on some good cheer and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The Commissioners and staff reciprocated the greeting and thanked Mr. Claus for making the journey to Heppner.

**Recognition of the passing of Rusty Estes:** Chair Russell asked for a moment of silent reflection to honor long-time emergency responder Rusty Estes, who passed away last week.

**Open Agenda:** No items

**Consent Calendar**

Commissioner Doherty requested to move the Tourism Development contract to Business Items.

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

- 1. Accounts Payable & Payroll Payables*
- 2. Contract with Made to Thrive for Wrap-Around and Mentoring Services, Juvenile Crime Prevention; July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023; up to \$23,500 each year; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County*

*Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Business Items**

Independent Tourism Development Contractor Agreement

Commissioner Doherty said he wanted to better understand the source of this funding, and what department would oversee the activities and interactions with the contractor. Discussion.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Independent Tourism Development Contractor Agreement with Karie Walchli with the funds to come from the Community Development Director's Department, and Commissioner Doherty with staff, Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, will take the lead; \$2,500 per month, plus up to \$400 monthly reimbursement (not-to-exceed \$4,800 yearly), and reimbursement of up to \$1,000 for industry conferences; effective December 15, 2021 through December 31, 2022; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Association of Oregon Counties & Oregon Judicial Department Court Facilities Joint Taskforce Request

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green reported that Commissioner Lindsay submitted DLR Group's Courthouse Feasibility Study to the AOC/OJD Taskforce on December 9<sup>th</sup> where it was well received. The taskforce will meet January 24<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Green asked if the Board wanted to create a committee that will make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) on what to formally present to the taskforce. By consensus, the Board agreed to form a committee consisting of Commissioner Lindsay, Mr. Green, Anthony Clement (General Maintenance Supervisor), and a representative from Morrow County Circuit Court. This initial group will determine who the committee's three other members will be. A recommendation to the BOC is expected before January 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### Command Team Update

- There are only a few intensive care unit (ICU) beds in the region being used by COVID patients.
- The Governor of Colorado declared the COVID emergency was over and will no longer impede businesses.
- No new information on the status of the appeal of President Biden's vaccine mandate.

#### Building Project Updates

- Move-in date for the Morrow County Government Center is December 21<sup>st</sup> and the occupancy certificate was anticipated shortly.
- Audio/visual equipment for the conference rooms has been delayed and vendors are unable to provide a timeline as to when the equipment might become available.
- An informal first-time flag raising ceremony will take place with building staff in the near future.

#### **Correspondence**

- City of Boardman, Community Development Land Use Notice of Decision on ZP 2021-031 and LU 2021-005.

#### **Commissioner Reports**

Nothing reported this week.

Chair Russell said the Board would take a break and then meet in Executive Session. Since no decision was anticipated, the Board would reconvene only to sign documents. Chair Russell read the Executive Session citation.

**Break:** 9:39-9:44 a.m.

**9:45 a.m. Executive Session:** Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) – To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed

**10:15 a.m. Closed Executive Session**

**Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 10:25 a.m.