

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
December 22, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon**

Present In-Person

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Darrell J. Green, Eric Imes, Roberta Lutchter, Aaron Moss, Justin Nelson

Present Via Zoom

SaBrina Bailey Cave, Paul Gray, Lindsay Grogan, Deanne Irving, Ann Jones, Kate Knop, Tamra Mabbott, Ian Murray, Jaylene Papineau, Dan Robbins, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: JoAnna Lamb, David Sykes

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

Recognition of the passing of former Commissioner: Chair Russell asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of former Morrow County Commissioner Ray Grace. He recently passed away after a long battle with cancer, he said.

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

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

1. *Accounts Payable & Payroll Payables*
2. *Minutes: November 10th*
3. *Criminal Justice Commission, Justice Reinvestment Grant Program Agreement, Award No. JR-23-22; project dates July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023; \$159,263.03; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay said she wanted to make sure Directors were doing everything possible to shop locally. There were several out-of-area purchases in the APs for small things but the focus should be on spending money in Morrow County, she said. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Fair Board's Plans for Bull Riding Challenge of Champions Tournament

Ann Jones, Fair Secretary

Braxton Adams, Fair Board Member

Ms. Jones explained that for a few years, the Fair Board has been looking into holding an event in conjunction with the Wee Bit O'Ireland Celebration in Heppner. At the Budget Committee Hearings for 2021-22, \$50,000 was appropriated to the Special Event line and the Fair Board proposed a bull riding tournament called the Challenge of Champions Tour. Ms. Jones said the contract plus other costs, such as security, lodging, advertising, cleaning, etc., will mean total expenses of approximately \$29,000. The event most likely won't be a money-maker in the first year but they hoped it would grow in subsequent years, she added. Discussion.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the contract with Push Enterprises, Inc., for the Challenge of Champions Tour; \$19,250 for the March 19, 2022 event; and authorize the Administrator to sign on behalf of the County; and include a paragraph making the contractor

responsible for damage cause by the contractor to the facility. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion about how to determine damage to the facility. Ms. Jones said common practice is to conduct inspections with contractors prior to, and following events. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Purchase Pre-Authorization Requests: Asphalt Roller, Rotary Broom and Road Widener

Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master

Mr. Imes reviewed the requests and responded to questions.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the purchase of a 2021 Dynapac Asphalt Roller, which the Road Department has been renting from Pape Machinery, Pasco, Washington, in the amount of \$94,940. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the purchase of a 2018 Superior Broom, which the Road Department has been renting from Pape Machinery, Pasco, in the amount of \$36,554. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the purchase of a 2020 W530A Road Widener with hitch group from Wheeler CAT, Lexington, Oregon, in the amount of \$251,525. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Command Team Update

Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director

Mr. Gray reported on the percent of COVID patients in intensive care unit (ICU) beds: Statewide – 16%; Regionally – 11% or three out of 26 beds.

Ms. Grogan said the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals lifted the stay on the federal government rule so it was now back with an extended deadline. The County is required to have policy in place effective January 10th and have employees fully vaccinated or begin testing by January 9th. She said a draft memo was prepared to send to employees. Commissioner Lindsay requested a break so copies could be made and the Board could review the memo. Discussion.

Break: 10:01-10:21 a.m.

The Commissioners requested several revisions to the draft and Chair Russell said, as Chair, the email to employees should come from him; this was agreeable to the other Commissioners.

Building Project Updates

Morrow County Government Center: Move-in day was yesterday and most of the items were moved. It was an “all-hands-on-deck” situation and everyone did an “awesome job,” said Mr. Green. During the move-in, a few issues became evident and were added to the punch list to discuss with the builder.

Courthouse Feasibility Study: Of the four options presented in the study compiled by DLR Group, Circuit Court Judge Daniel J. Hill recommended the option to build another building.

Department Reports

- The Road Department Monthly Report was presented by Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master.

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports were provided.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:05 a.m.