

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**January 19, 2022**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present In-Person**

Chair Jim Doherty, Commissioner Don Russell, Darrell J. Green, Greg Close, Paul Gray, Kate Knop, Roberta Lutcher, Tamra Mabbott, Justin Nelson; Non-Staff: Kurtis Funke, Jeff Maffuccio, Joe Stippel, Andy Fletcher, Brian Kollman, Slater Mitchell, Shane Matheny, Tony Ashbeck, Blake Knowles, Jeff Coelho, Treve Palmateer, Vey Ranch, Merlin Hughes, Lisanne Currin, Steve Currin, Brian Knowles, Mary Lynn Knowles, Kathryn Healy Thorne, Jason Schoenfelder, Margaret Hays, Daniel Schoenfelder, John Luciani, Mitchell Hays, Sam Myers, Mitch Ashbeck, Leonard Van Buren

**Present Via Zoom**

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Erin Anderson, Stephanie Case, Kirsti Cason, Mike Gorman, Katie Imes, Ann Jones, Aaron Moss, Jaylene Papineau, Sandi Pointer, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: Barry Beyeler, Sam Ingro, JoAnna Lamb, Ross Miles, Karen Pettigrew, David Sykes, Kellen Tardaewether

**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call:** 9:02 a.m.

**City and Citizen Comments:** Heppner resident and Port of Morrow Commissioner, John Murray, said the Port community was shocked and saddened by the recent death of the Port's Executive Director, Ryan Neal, and there would be a meeting early next week to determine how they will be moving forward. Mr. Murray also spoke about the \$1.3 million fine recently imposed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on the Port for nitrate violations.

**Open Agenda:** No items

**Consent Calendar:**

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

- 1. Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
- 2. Appointment of the Finance Director, Kate Knop, as the Budget Officer for the 2022-23 Fiscal Year*
- 3. Fair Board Reappointments: Sarah Baker, Dawn Eynetich and Shelby Krebs; terms to be January 2022 through December 2025*
- 4. Letter of Agreement with Teamsters Local Union 223, Morrow County Sheriff's Office Association; to modify language and application of the updated Employee Handbook & Policies as they pertain to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement*

*Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Public Hearing:** Supplemental Budget Resolution No. R-2022-1: Unforeseen Special Revenue Funds

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Chair Doherty opened the Public Hearing at 9:06 a.m. and called for the Staff Report.

Ms. Knop provided details for the increases in the General Fund (Public Health Department), Road Fund, Finley Buttes Trust Fund, Wheatridge Wind Fund, Orchard Wind Fund, and the Resiliency Fund.

Chair Doherty called for comments or questions from members of the public. Hearing none, he closed the Public Hearing at 9:10 a.m.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve Supplemental Budget Resolution No. R-2022-1: In the Matter of Increasing Appropriations for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021 – Increase Total Adopted Budget to \$64,266,429. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### **Business Items**

#### U.S. Treasury Final Ruling on American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funds

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop explained there was an interim rule regarding the use of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) and a final rule will take effect April 1, 2022. The County received one allocation of \$1.126 million in September 2021, and the second allocation in the same amount was anticipated in September 2022.

Ms. Knop explained the U.S. Department of Treasury's interim and final rules regarding the use of SLFRF allow for the following uses:

1. Responses to the negative economic impacts of the public health emergency
2. Responses to the disproportionate public health and economic impacts of the pandemic in certain communities
3. Capital expenditures to respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic
4. Responses to restore and bolster government employment
5. Government services to the extent of revenue loss
6. Investments in broadband infrastructure
7. Investments in water and sewer infrastructure

The Commissioners requested ideas from Department Heads be submitted to Ms. Knop in time for the January 26<sup>th</sup> BOC Work Session on this topic.

#### Tax Foreclosure Sale to Previous Owner

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

At the January 5<sup>th</sup> BOC Meeting, Commissioner Lindsay requested additional time to consider the request. The request from Ridgecrest Development III, representing the previous owner, was to purchase the property back, which is allowable by statute. Discussion.

*Chair Doherty moved to ask for \$22,000 and the associated closing costs, and have Mr. Gorman and Commissioner Lindsay work with the folks making the request to see if that works for them, and if not, proceed to the next step or auction the property. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### Idaho Power/B2H Update

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott said she and Commissioner Lindsay were hearing from some landowners who were frustrated with the siting process for the B2H transmission line project. As a result, they talked to representatives from Idaho Power and arranged this update today. Kellen Tardaewether,

Senior Siting Analyst with the Oregon Department of Energy provided an update on the Energy Facility Siting Council siting process, followed by updates from Idaho Power's Jeff Maffuccio, Siting Coordinator, Joe Stippel, Project Manager, and Kurtis Funke, Real Estate Specialist. Comments were then heard from multiple landowners voicing their frustration on a variety of issues and the Idaho Power representatives, in turn, responded.

**Break:** 11:24-11:36 a.m.

Emergency Management Performance Grant, CFDA #97.042, Grant No. 21-525

Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

Mr. Gray requested the Board sign the grant agreement which funds 50% of the Emergency Management program.

*Commissioner Russell moved to sign the Oregon Military Department, Office of Emergency Management, Emergency Management Performance Grant, CFDA #97.042, Grant No. 21-525; effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022; not-to-exceed amount \$62,333; and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Grazing Permits and Agreements with Horseshoe Hereford Ranch, Inc. & Triangle Ranches for Property in Morrow and Grant Counties

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

After discussion, the item was postponed to allow time to obtain additional information requested by the Commissioners.

Decision Based Upon Courthouse Feasibility Study

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said the committee, consisting of himself, Commissioner Lindsay, Roy Blaine and Irma Solis (Administration, Umatilla & Morrow County Circuit Courts), District Attorney Justin Nelson, Mr. Gorman and Ms. Knop, met and recommended Option 4. Option 4 from the DLR Group's Courthouse Feasibility Study was to build a new building or purchase an existing building for State Circuit Court.

Mr. Green explained a decision was needed before the County's presentation to the Association of Oregon Counties-Oregon Judicial Department Court Facilities Task Force where funding requests for courthouse improvements will be decided. The Board agreed by consensus to the recommendation of Option 4 being presented to the Task Force.

Command Team Update

Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

- The number of COVID patients in intensive care unit (ICU) beds was decreasing and the percentages were around 25% statewide and 26% regionally.
- The number of positive cases increased but ICU beds haven't gone up as quickly as in the past.
- On January 13<sup>th</sup>, the Supreme Court ruled against the Occupational Safety and Health Administration but kept some of the requirements for healthcare employees.

### Building Project Updates

Darrell Green, Administrator

- Morrow County Government Center – the electric tape for the heated sidewalks arrived and was being tested.
- Coordination was taking place for the best time for pouring the concrete for the sidewalks.

### Columbia River Enterprise Zone II Board Appropriation Discussion

Chair Doherty said the CREZ II Board will meet Friday to discuss appropriating funds. He then asked for input from the other Commissioners, which was provided. No decisions were made.

### **Department Reports**

- The written Juvenile Department Quarterly Report submitted by Director Christy Kenny, was reviewed in her absence.
- The Loop Quarterly Report was reviewed by Katie Imes, Coordinator.
- The Emergency Management Quarterly Report was reviewed by Mr. Gray.

### **Correspondence**

- City of Boardman Public Notice – Planning Commissioner Public Hearing, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Commissioner Reports**

Brief reports were provided.

### **Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 12:40 p.m.