

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**June 22, 2022**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present In-Person:**

Chair/Commissioner Doherty Commissioners Russell and Lindsay, Darrell Green, Roberta Lucher, Lindsay Grogan, Kevin Ince. Did not do roll call

**Present Via Zoom:** Did not do roll call

**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** 9:00 AM.

Administrator Green introduced the new Finance Director Kevin Ince to the Board, they welcomed him.

**City & Citizen Comments:** Sheriff Ken Matlack verified the Irrigon Contract was on the agenda for the day and it was confirmed as such.

**Open Agenda:** Nothing

**Consent Calendar:**

Commissioner Lindsay asked to remove accounts payable and the resolution to adopt the budget from the consent calendar and also clarified it was ok to sign the Sheriffs IGA with the City of Irrigon since he inquired.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the remaining items in the Consent Calendar for June 22, 2022 minus Accounts Payable and Resolution No. R-2022-10 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget, Commissioner Russell seconded: Unanimous approval.*

Approved; Minutes 3/23/22 and April 6, 2022, Amendment 6 to the OHA IGA #169524, IGA between the Sheriffs office and City of Irrigon, Law Enforcement service agreement with Ione School Dist-SRO, Budget Committee recruitment position 1, ODOT agreement #35352 Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Grant, Amendment 3 to OHA IGA #173145 for Finance of Community Mental Health Services,

**Business Items:**

CDA Invoice

Commissioner Lindsay questioned the payment of the invoice to the Columbia Development Authority as the CDA Budget was not yet available or financials approved by the CDA board and it was not clear if that was coming up as access was difficult. Commissioner Doherty stated it is on the agenda for the next CDA meeting. Agreed to set aside until adopted forward

*Commissioner Russell moved to Pay the payables for June 22, 2022 withholding the CDA invoice, Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### Resolution R-2022-10: Adopting the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget

Commissioner Lindsay questioned why the resolution was being brought forward to finalize the Budget Adoption Resolution without the usual Public Hearing process. Administrator Green explained that the required LB 1 document was published in the paper giving notice to the public but what did not happen was it was not put on the agenda as a public hearing. Mr. Green gave options to moving it forward. County Counsel offered additional alternatives and input to giving clear public notice for public hearings and advised the safer option would be to give notice in the available paper and move the public hearing forward. To than approve the resolution for adoption following the noticed Hearing. Commissioners agreed to suspend to determine the options and review later in the agenda.

#### Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment Update (Ruchi Sadhir & Kaci Radcliffe; Oregon Dept of Energy, Todd Farmer; Oregon Military Dept; Kimberly Peacher, US Navy

County Planner Tamra Mabbott made introductions. Todd Farmer kicked off, in person, and acknowledged the importance of the work being presented and the understanding DOD (Department Of Defense) has of renewable energy. He noted that there is no County more impacted by the military and renewal energy possibly and thinks this will be a useful tool as development continues. From Zoom Kimberly Peacher found this effort would really peel back the layers and synergy of renewable energy and the military to support and bring tools forward for a win-win-win. It would support and sustain the critical needs of the military. Kaci Radcliff, from Zoom, introduced Ruchi Sadhir and presented the slides in the packet and the Information Siting Assessment tool available online at Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment (ORESAs) site. Discussion around early notifications, siting process, military and renewable siting including interface with the county level Planners took place between Commissioners and the panel.

Morrow County Forestland Classification Committee Proposal (Rob Pentzer; Oregon Dept of Forestry, District Forester; Allison Rayburn, Matt Howard ODF; Unit Forester) Introductions of the team in attendance in person. Allison Blair-Oregon Dept of Forestry, Justin Lauer-ODF, Christy Shaw- ODF, Rob Pentzer-ODF. Reviewed the project to formalize a committee to classify and delineate what is grazing and what is forestland in Morrow County. Forest classification is the process by which a county committee determines which lands meet the definition of forestland and which are required to be protected. The goal to paint an accurate and equitable picture to what is actually timber land and what is grazing land classification. These classifications impact Oregon Dept of Forestry and its budgets and help meet some of the core needs of the agencies. The ODF is delinquent, its been 60 years, in classifying and mapping Morrow County and in forming a County Committee. The team was seeking support of forming the committee of which Morrow County appoints 3 members to join agencies. They hope to start the work by this Fall and complete committee work by early 2024 followed by public meetings and notification of land owners around March of 2024. Commissioner discussed suggestions of potential member.

*Commissioner Russell moved to authorize the Committee, Commissioner Lindsay second Discussion as to seeking interested parties and guidelines in order to reach out to individuals. Information would be emailed to the Chair. Unanimous approval*

Discussion Ellis Project suspended to future date

Update on Boardman Property Acquisition – Darrell Green

Mr. Green advised he reached out to Toby with Pivot Architecture, the project manager and our Realtor to assist with updates and the project summary/site feasibility in the packet from Pivot. The UEC (Umatilla Electric Cooperative) blanket easement was discussed and Commissioners were joined, via zoom, by Realtor Leslie Pierson. Ms. Pierson reviewed delays in obtaining surveys and options were discussed. A potential Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with UEC was suggested by Leslie as to dealing with the intent of the easement and still allowing County to progress to closing timely by July 13. Patrick Collins with UEC joined the conversation giving UEC's perspective and involvement outlining UEC's consent to getting to a defined easement. Survey timelines, MOU, delay of closing, requesting rush survey services and other options were all discussed. Mr. Green was concerned with the timing of processes and seeking the most expeditious route including; Pivots feasibility study and test pits, grant writing and jeopardy to the pending grant availability to fund the project based on deadlines. Discussion around options with the parties involved ensued and risk reward around the options evaluated. Clarity was brought that UEC needs 20' easement following existing lines, defining the existing lines is needed not new lines. Commissioners agreed and asked the Realtor to work with seller to extend close date, obtain access to the property for Pivot inspections, define the easement and go to closing with clear title in regards to the easement and so we can close timely under extended closing. Mr. Green noted the final objective is to get the grant done so we don't lose the project. Nick Ducote Consulting weighed in regarding the grant and made note that per ODOT web page the deadline has already passed so we don't have a issue on the grant side and agreed the easements should be cleaned up before closing. Commissioner Lindsay offered to assist.

Amending County Surveyor Contract – Matt Kenny

Darrell Green offered that Matt Kenny reached out to amend the County Surveyor contract. The new contract was previewed by Matt Kenny, in the packet. Matt proposed a reduction in hours now that he understood the needs but raise the hourly compensation to his current business rates. Total cost would be \$31,680 to County this is down from the past Elected Surveyors costs. Mr. Green to work on the final contract with Justin Nelson, County Counsel.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to accept the County Surveyor Contract as presented Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Discuss Scheduling a meeting at the Morrow County OHV Park

Chair Doherty reminded the Commissioners we had been trying to reschedule this annual meeting at the Park for some time and hoped to make this happen. Discussion brought working toward an August date.

### Review Employee Appreciation Day for 2022-23 – Lindsay Grogan

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director brought forward the discussion around Employee Appreciate Day for nonunion members to match Union employees. This was asked to be an annual review to match Union agreements. This is a token of appreciation to employees to be used during a set holiday season.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the recognition of Employee Appreciate Day as a paid holiday to the non-represented staff for 2022. Commissioner Russell second. Unanimous approval.*

### Inflation Impacts Cost of Living Adjustment- Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director

Lindsay advised the Commissioners that she listened to the work session from June 8, 2022 and took away a few work items for HR. From the discussion she brought forward Commissioners request to review a cost estimate to provide the employees with an additional 5% COLA to account for inflation. She noted the current increases in CPI. Recommendation was made from HR that they consider how payroll would work through options. Detailed discussion and options ensued. The compensation study being done with the next year was discussed, an RFQ (Request For Qualifications) for the pay studies was being worked on by HR currently. Commissioners agreed the goal was to assist with the inflation impacts while working toward a full wage study and Pay equity study. Commissioner Russell detailed a 5% one time bonus option knowing the wage study was forthcoming with 12 months. Commissioner Lindsay proposed dividing it into two payments July and December. Ronda Fox joined via Zoom to discuss how payroll would work through details. Discussion

*Commissioner Russell moved that we give a 5% bonus to all County employees and Elected Officials based on the salary on July 1, 2022 payable half on the second payroll in July and half in the first payroll in December if still employed. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval*

### **Emergency Operations Center Update**

Paul Gray, Emergency Manager discussed water delivery options to fill jugs and working with outside entities that were assisting with delivery and bottled water being brought in. He advised that a budget has not been set aside for this Emergency. Mr. Gray noted that messaging assistance and help with water delivery is needed to staff the EOC teams work and questioned if County employees can assist or where to seek additional help. Chair Doherty agreed with the need for PIO (Public Information Officer), funding and additional assistance. Mr. Gray voiced frustration in dealing with State partners and that our City partners have been helpful. Chair Doherty noted that water funds of \$250,000 contingency dollars were set aside in budget and suggested taking a portion of that and move it over.

*Commissioner Doherty made the motion that we set aside the requested funds from the Nitrate Emergency operations center (\$100,000) and for professional media assistance. Commissioner Lindsay second.*

Discussion; Commissioner Russell asked to see a real budget, if we are really going to try and solve the problem, handing out water is not going to do it. We have to install filters and look at wells. He wondered if septic tanks are a substantial part of the problem and referenced media blames on the POM and that per DEQ data they contributed less than 5% of the problem and no one else is a regulated entity. Commissioner Doherty stated first thing is getting clean fresh water to individuals under the health emergency and that it is a messaging emergency also. He noted and appreciated the business entities (Boardman Foods, Tillamook, Three Mile Canyon Farms, Amazon) in the area and their assistance and their appreciation of the need. He pointed out these are contingency funds set aside for water purpose. Commissioner Russell stated that Debbie Radie, Boardman Foods has commitments of \$300,000 of entities funds pulled together to assist with water, testing and filters and reiterated he wants to see a budget of how they (County EOC) are going to spend the money.

*Commissioner Doherty Aye. Commissioner Lindsay Nay. Commissioner Russell Aye. 2-1 passed.*

Follow up, Commissioner Lindsay clarified that she is reading here and hearing that we are looking at messaging and information, site prep, water distribution, staffing help short term and said we have to be a partner. I realize having been through leadership of the COVID pandemic response we could have, should have had more support, staff, media management and this is the right thing to do.

Mr. Gray said next steps are filters into homes and the need to keep the State involved. Commissioner Doherty thanked the Public Health Dept staff for the hard work and read a statement from Ana Pineyro, Morrow County Public Health thanking the Public Health staff.

### **Revisit Budget Resolution business item**

#### **Resolution R-2022-10: Adopting the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget**

Final Options were reviewed and discussed

Chair Doherty opened the public Hearing and asked for comments in favor of the budget, in opposition of the budget, comments or questions and anyone in neutral wanting to comment about the budget. No comments.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to hold the hearing open until next Wednesday. Discussion of logistics, motion withdrawn.*

*Commissioner Russell made a motion to keep the public hearing open 5 days or until our next meeting whichever comes last and 5 days after it is published. Commissioner Lindsay second. Unanimous approval*

### **Department Reports**

Written only - Road Dept

**Correspondence**

Notice from DEQ to the County

Notice from the Planning Dept as adjacent property owner

Land use hearing notice RE: IAMP

Bill Hansell letter with an ask to sponsor

IRS mileage rate increase

**Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Russell got a call on a chip seal project that was stopped short of actual County line. He will work with County Roads to clarify the situation. He attended the Eastern Oregon economic summit.

Chair Doherty had to leave for another meeting

Reviewed online comments and questions in the Zoom chat

**Adjourned by Vice Chair Lindsay 11:55 a.m.**