

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, OR 97836

Present In-Person

Chair Jim Doherty
Commissioner Melissa Lindsay
Karen Wolff, Board of Commissioner Staff
Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Present Via Zoom

Commissioner Don Russell

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

Commissioner Doherty welcomed Ms. Wolff who is filling in as Staff.

City and Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar:

Commissioner Lindsay requested to move two (2) items to Business Items for further discussion. Agreed by all.

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

- a. Approve Accounts Payable & Payroll Payables*
- b. Minutes: May 4th*
- c. Independent Contractor Agreement – County Surveyor*
- d. Resolution No. R-2022-12: Transferring Operating Contingency to Emergency Management (Nitrate Water Emergency)*
- e. Contract – Bull Riding Challenge of Champions*
- f. Helion Software Contract Renewal*

Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Emergency Operations Center Update

Paul Gray, Emergency Management Director

Morrow County continue to make water bottles and bulk water available to residents. 50 reverse osmosis systems have been ordered.

Commissioner Lindsay said that COVID levels in Morrow County are high. There is access to free COVID tests through the Public Health Department. Oregon Health Authority is recommending indoor masking. It will be up to individuals to decide if they will wear a mask.

Commissioner Russell would like to see if the level of nitrate levels are different in different aquifers. Commissioner Doherty and Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director have been working on this same subject. Ms. Mabbott said this was discussed by the Governor's Technical Committee lead by Courtney Warner Crowell. Multiple agencies are at the table now.

Public Hearing 9:24 a.m.

Psilocybin Election

Justin Nelson, County Counsel and Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director provided background information to the Commissioners.

Mr. Nelson explained that if this Ordinance is approved, the decision will be sent to the voters. There was a previous vote on marijuana, which is a different subject.

Mr. Nelson explained that this Ordinance applies only to the unincorporated areas. The local municipalities would need to complete their own Ordinances.

Commissioner Doherty asked for Public Comments in favor of the ordinance. None.

Commissioner Doherty asked for Public Comments opposed to the ordinance. None.

Commissioner Doherty asked for any neutral comments. None.

Commissioner Doherty closed the Public Hearing at 9:33 a.m.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve Ordinance No. ORD-2022-2 In the matter of referring ban on psilocybin service centers and then manufacture of psilocybin products to an election. Commissioner Russell seconded.

Commissioner Russell said he thinks the voters should decide.

Chair Doherty said he has visited with many experts from around the country on this subject. He does not want his vote to say he sees no value. He does not want the subject to be foisted onto the voters without their vote.

Vote. Approved unanimously.

Business Items

Department Head Level Interview Panels

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director

Ms. Lindsay reviewed the summary document.

Commissioner Lindsay asked Commissioner Russell if he is comfortable moving forward with this today. Commissioner Russell said yes.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve allowing Human Resources the capability to assign liaison commissioners to Director Level Interview Panels as needed. Commissioner Russell seconded.

Commissioner Lindsay pointed out that commissioners do not do the hiring. They are part of a team.

Unanimous approval.

Fiscal agent for AWS Grant for Heritage Trail Interpretive Panels

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Following review of the summary document and discussion:

Commissioner Lindsay moved to accept the AWS In Communities Grant of \$10,000 for the Heritage Trail Interpretive Panels and authorize the Board Chair to sign the agreement with BCDA (Boardman Community Development Association) to hold the funds and act as fiscal agent for the funds. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

ODOT Agreement #35370 5310 Grant Program

Katie Imes, Transit Manager

Ms. Imes explained this grant will fund preventative maintenance on vehicles as well preserve assets and assure safety standards are met. This does not fund staff or maintenance of vehicles. The match is through state funds.

Following review of the summary document and discussion:

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve and sign agreement #35370 with the Oregon Department of Transportation, effective upon full execution, through June 30, 2024 and to add a third signature line to allow all Commissioners to sign the document. Unanimous approval.

Permit OTJ to Work in County Right Of Way

Eric Imes, Public Works Director

Mr. Imes explained this permit is from Umatilla Electric Cooperative to allow them to cross a Right Of Way. This is a significant sized project, which is why this is being brought to the Commissioners.

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director explained that Planning is working on the Land Use permits for this project. Going to the Planning Commission in July. Ms. Mabbott cautioned the Commissioners to be careful to only make a decision on the Road Permit today. No Land Use decisions. We don't want the public to believe the Commissioners are taking a position on the project prior to a Planning decision.

Chair Doherty asked Patrick Collins, UEC representative joining by Zoom, if he had any comment. He said he is OK moving forward with the Road Access Permit. Requesting an extension on a permit has been rather easy in the past, and they can apply for an extension on this permit if needed.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve Road Access Permit OTJ for Umatilla Electric Cooperative to cross Bombing Range Road. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Fair Grant Agreement

Ann Jones, Fair Manager

Ms. Jones explained this is a \$1,000,000 grant from the State of Oregon for infrastructure.

Commissioner Lindsay explained that Representative Greg Smith helped bring this money forward. She would like to see a joint work session with the Fair Board to decide how to move forward.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve signing the House Bill 5202 General Fund Grant Agreement through the Department of Administrative Services for \$1,000,000 for Fair infrastructure and authorize Commissioner Lindsay, Fair Liaison Commissioner to sign on behalf of Morrow County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

Veterans Services Quarterly Report

Linda Skendzel, Veterans Services Officer, by Zoom

Ms. Skendzel reviewed the Quarterly Report of Activity. Discussion followed.

Justice Court Quarterly Report

No report.

Planning Department Monthly Report

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, by Zoom

Ms. Mabbott reviewed the Monthly Planning Update document. Discussion followed.

Treasurer Monthly Report

Jaylene Papineau, County Treasurer

Ms. Papineau reviewed the Monthly Treasurer's Report. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Russell

Went to Crook County and Prineville with the Community Renewable Energy Association. Very interesting.

Commissioner Lindsay

Commended Ms. Imes on her recent efforts on real estate.

Has worked with Work Force and Child Care and Preschool needs.

Courthouse revisions/remodeling project is a heavy lift. Working with judge Diehl and Circuit Court Judges. May need some staff assistance.

Excited about broadband efforts.

Working with the Oregon State University doctorate staff review and comment of recent nitrate issues and documents took a great amount of time. This will be a great help to LUBGWMA (Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area committee).

Great meeting with GEODC (Greater Eastern Oregon Development Commission).

Trying to get the Hoppner mill site out of the flood plain map.

Eastern Oregon Women's Coalition was a very good summit. The tours were amazing. Commissioner Lindsay is new to Board.

Commissioner Doherty

Briefly reviewed activities of the past week.

Recess 10:30 a.m.

Will resume with Work Session at 11:00 a.m.