

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**July 20, 2022**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, OR 97836**

**Present In-Person**

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

**Present Via Zoom**

Chair Jim Doherty

**Excused**

Commissioner Don Russell

**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call:** 9:07 a.m.

**City and Citizen Comments:**

Erica Lasater, Boardman Food Pantry

Ms. Lasater wanted to thank the Commissioners for their support of the Boardman Food Pantry. Chair Doherty and Commissioner Lindsay expressed their support for Boardman Food Pantry and all of the food pantries in the County.

**Open Agenda:**

Commissioner Doherty asked to remove the Executive Session and shift it to next week. Commissioner Lindsay agreed.

**Consent Calendar:**

- a. Approve Accounts Payable & Payroll Payables
- b. Minutes: July 13, 2022 Board of Commissioner Meeting
- c. Minutes: July 13, 2022 Board of Commissioner Work Session
- d. Letter of Support for the Town of Lexington – Downtown Improvement Plan Project

*Chair Doherty moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Two (2) yes, one (1) absent.*

**Emergency Operations Center Update**

Paul Gray, Emergency Management Director

Mr. Gray reported the report he received from Boardman Foods lists 330 nitrate tests have been sent to the lab for evaluation. Of those, 140 tests listed nitrates that were too high.

Mr. Gray reported that as of July 27 Boardman Foods and some other partners are not going to be able to help with testing due to their business demands during harvest. Public Health will continue with testing. Emergency Management has rapid tests. If the test turns pink at all, it is sent to the lab for further testing.

15 water system filters have been distributed. 50 more are expected Tuesday. 50 more will be ordered.

VISA cards have been purchased for volunteers.

Chair Doherty advised that he know of tests reporting 63 ppm and 68 ppm in Irrigon.

Chair Doherty added it would be good to find out how Umatilla County is doing on the nitrate issue. Chair Doherty believes they have started some testing. It would be interesting to know their results.

Torrie Griggs, Boardman Chamber Director asked if Public Health will be taking care of testing and data going forward and are the filters that have been distributed approved by OHA (Oregon Health Authority) for residential uses?

Chair Doherty said we have been working with OHA. The filters are the ones that OHA recommended. Public Health will be handling the numbers.

#### **Business Items**

None

#### **Department Reports**

##### Juvenile Department Quarterly Update

Commissioners reviewed the written Quarterly Report that was provided. No questions.

##### Columbia Development Authority Quarterly Update

Commissioners reviewed the written Quarterly Report that was provided.

Commissioner Lindsay asked if Chair Doherty or Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director attended yesterday's CDA meeting.

Ms. Mabbott, joining by Zoom, said it was a good meeting. Good discussion. There was a large packet of information that was sent to members on Friday. There was a lot of information to review. There was a motion to approve the packet of information, which died for lack of a second.

Chair Doherty added he had misgivings about moving forward with the documents because there are so many documents and they need thorough review before taking action.

Chair Doherty asked to have this item added to the agenda for next week.

Chair Doherty explained that he was not able to attend the meeting as he was out of town. There is a possibility that Commissioner Russell may not be able to vote on some issues due to conflict of interest

rules. We could be in a meeting that we did not have a representative, an alternate or a second alternate available to vote.

Ms. Mabbott said next Tuesday is the regularly scheduled meeting.

*Chair Doherty moved to appoint Commissioner Lindsay as a Second Alternate to the Columbia Development Authority and if the Primary Representative and the Alternate Representative are not able to attend and/or vote, Commissioner Lindsay is authorized to attend and to vote on behalf of Morrow County. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Approved. Two (2) yes, one (1) absent.*

#### **Correspondence**

Commissioner Lindsay said she had several people reach out to her. They suggested as a department they felt public comments made had disparaged several people. These individuals felt it was important that this document was available for the public to note all Commissioners were equally informed. Commissioner Lindsay wanted to point out there were multiple complaints and multiple issues referenced in the document included in the packet.

Chair Doherty said none of the Commissioners have more information than any other Commissioner.

Chair Doherty authorized Karen Wolff, Commissioners Staff to sign today's documents on his behalf.

**Adjourn 9:47 a.m.**