

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, OR 97836

Present In-Person

Chair Jim Doherty
Commissioner Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

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

City and Citizen Comments:

Coral Mitchell

Had a concern. Was taking signatures at the grocery store and was approached by Commissioner Lindsay's sister and was asked if Ms. Mitchell knew personally any of the 12 county employees that had signed a complaint against Darrell Green. Ms. Mitchell said that is the first that she had heard about any of that. How did she get that information and they don't have it.

Ms. Mitchell said that Commissioner Lindsay's sister also said she was going into the store to see that she was removed, which she was. Ms. Mitchell is no longer allowed to gather signatures at a store that she has shopped at for 45 years.

Commissioner Russell said he did not know the answer to that.

Ms. Mitchell would like this to be on the record in case something comes up in the future.

Commissioner Lindsay said she would call this inaccurate. Commissioner Lindsay was not there to know what was said, but the level of inaccuracies in that whole statement, which she can not speak to.

Ms. Mitchell said she was repeating what was said.

Discussion continued.

Chair Doherty asked for any other city or citizen comments.

Open Agenda:

None

Consent Calendar:

Commissioner Lindsay moved to remove the August 3, 2022 Minutes for further review and approve the balance of the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Russell seconded and read the items being approved: Accounts Payable; Resolution R-2022-13 Approving the Psilocybin Ban Ballot title and Language; Resolution R-2022-14 Discontinuing Voluntary Additional Distribution of Property Taxes to Two county School Funds and Fair. Unanimous approval.

Chair Doherty asked Commissioner Russell if he had any concerns about setting the August 3, 2022 minutes over to another meeting. He said no concerns.

No Public Hearings

Business Items:

Oregon Health Authority Intergovernmental Agreement #169202 for the Financing of Community Developmental Disabilities Program Services

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

Mr. Ince said he met with representatives from Community Counseling Services (CCS) Kimberly Lindsay.

Mr. Ince asked to suspend the discussion until Ms. Lindsay was able to join by Zoom.

Oregon Department of Transportation Agreement #35339 – 5339 Discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities Grant

Katie Imes, Transit Manager

Ms. Imes explained that this grant was submitted last Spring. This is phase two of the project, primarily project management and associated services. \$200,000 of Federal Funds and State matching funds of \$50,000. Four years to utilize the funds for the Transit Facility Project.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve and sign Agreement #35339 with the Oregon Department of Transportation effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026. Chair Doherty seconded. Commissioner Lindsay absent. Two in favor, one absent.

ODOT Agreement #35365 – 5339 Discretionary Vehicle Replacement Grant

Katie Imes, Transit Manager

This is a Federal grant to replace one of our standard vehicles. The new vehicle would have an ADA wheelchair securement.

Commissioner moved to approve and sign Agreement #35365 with the Oregon Department of Transportation. Chair Doherty seconded. Commissioner Lindsay absent. Two in favor, one absent.

Oregon Health Authority Intergovernmental Agreement #169202 for the Financing of Community Development Disabilities Program (ODDS) Services

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

Rick Worden, Community Counseling Services Finance Director (by Zoom)

Mr. Ince explained that we received a notice from ODDS about a Tax ID discrepancy on the paperwork that is filed with them. The ID number is for Community Counseling Solutions (CCS). This seems to be a decision point rather than updating a record. Does Morrow County want to continue that contract where we pass through funds from ODDS to CCS, or do we want to terminate that contract and allow CCS to contract directly for these services.

Mr. Worden said that previously ODDS was able to send the money directly to CCS. That changed and the funds had to go through Morrow County. The Tax ID just was never updated. CCS received one of these notices for every county that they provide services in. Mr. Worden does not believe this has to be a decision point, but they are indicating that it can be a decision point, if that is what Morrow County want to do. CCS is fine with the way things are working now or contracting directly with ODDS.

Justin Nelson, County Counsel asked Mr. Worden what the other counties have chosen to do. Mr. Worden said it has been a mix.

Chair Doherty asked Mr. Worden if it would be CCS's preference to have them contract directly. He thought it would be easier for Morrow County to not have to deal with it.

Mr. Ince said it is his preference to not take on the administrative burden and allow CCS to contract directly.

Commissioner Russell moved to terminate the contracts for 'DD Services' and to provide 90 day notice to terminate the contract with ODDS and CCS for 'DD Services' and allow ODDS to contract directly with CCS. Chair Doherty seconded. Commissioner Lindsay absent. Two in favor, one absent.

Grant Writing Services Review Panel Recommendation

Katie Imes, Transit Manager

Ms. Imes provided some background on the RFQ (Request For Qualifications) for Grant Writing Services. There were eight (8) proposals submitted. Four (4) proposals were selected for interview. Two (2) consultants were identified as successful candidates: PARC Resources and Ducote Consulting. Ms. Imes provided additional information on each. Discussion ensued.

The review team consisted of: Katie Imes, Transit Manager; Jaylene Papineau, Treasurer; and John Bowles, Undersheriff.

Commissioner Russell moved to award PARC Resources and Ducote Consulting as Morrow County's grant service providers of record. Chair Doherty seconded.

Commissioner Lindsay joined by Zoom.

Discussion ensued.

Unanimous approval.

Direction Regarding County Accountant

Commissioner Russell explained that someone needs to be sworn in as County Accountant. The County Clerk needs direction from the Board in order to do this.

Commissioner Lindsay provided some background on how this has worked in the past. She believes the Finance Director and the County Treasurer should review the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) that apply and come back to the Board.

Mr. Ince said he has reviewed the statutes and he is comfortable with what is in the statutes. There may be some process tweaks that need to happen.

Bobbi Childers, County Clerk said all she needs is the Board to direct her to do an oath.

Commissioner Russell moved to have our County Clerk prepare an oath to swear in our Finance Director as the County Accountant. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Second Review of Permit Application #OSX to Work in the County Right-Of-Way
Held over for a future meeting.

Department Report

Treasurer Report

Jaylene Papineau, Treasurer

Ms. Papineau reviewed the written monthly report. The Commissioners encouraged the Investment Committee move forward and encouraged Ms. Papineau to start with potential committee members.

Planning Department Report

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott said they have had interviews to fill the Office Manager vacancy. Ms. Mabbott reviewed the written report. Ms. Mabbott serves along with Commissioner Lindsay on the LUBGWMA (Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area) Committee. Ms. Mabbott said this group would like to encourage a meeting of Morrow and Umatilla counties Commissioners, Planners, and other community partners to talk about a variety of water issues.

Commissioner Russell asked about the water rights on the Chemical Depot. Are there adequate rights to support industrial development or is Commissioner Russell's opinion that water will have to come from somewhere else more on point? Ms. Mabbott agreed that the water rights are not adequate for industrial development.

Commissioner Liaison Reports

Commissioner Lindsay none.

Commissioner Russell met with Public Works regarding Airport grants.

Chair Doherty said the Public Health Department is moving forward with getting eligible employees certified as translators. He would encourage other departments to do the same.

Correspondence

Commissioners reviewed.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Russell

Met informally with PGE (Portland General Electric) executives recently. Will be participating on the CREA (Community Renewable Energy Association) Policy Workgroup regarding future legislation to support or oppose.

Commissioner Lindsay asked if Commissioner Russell had an opportunity to talk to PGE about their lighting system not working properly. Commissioner Russell said he has been communicating with them regarding this concern. Next Era actually operates the wind farm and they are the ones to address the software glitch. As a neighbor that is affected by this, Commissioner Lindsay believe they don't care and there needs to be something to make them care. Commissioner Russell believes this should be a Federal mandate. Chair Doherty said he believes the company needs to follow their commitments in the SIP (Strategic Investment Program) tax program.

Commissioner Lindsay

A lot of time and effort going into water issues. She supports a bi-county meeting regarding water issues. She also supports a Water Lead Person, either bi-county or alone. Believes a Community Development Director position could be very valuable, sooner than later. Updated on the purchase of Public Transportation property and how to keep it moving forward. Do we need a formal decision regarding the County Counsel position(s) now that the District Attorney's office is fully staffed? Chair Doherty will look into it further.

Chair Doherty

Asked Human Resources if the Community Development Director position still exists. Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director (by Zoom) said yes, still budgeted and need to review the Job Description.

Executive Session 10:29 a.m.

Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) – To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection

Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(g) – To consider preliminary negotiations involving matters of trade or commerce in which the governing body is in competition with governing bodies in other states or nations

Do not anticipate any public decisions.

Adjourn 10:29 a.m.