

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**June 29, 2022**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present In-Person**

Chair Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell

**Present Via Zoom**

Roll call not taken

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

Chair Doherty acknowledged the importance of noting that our meetings of the Board of Commissioners are public meetings and that they are audio recorded.

**City & Citizen Comments:**

Chair Doherty outlined that Comments in general are allowed and should be kept to 3 minutes, with discretion, and would try to be held within 30 minutes of the Board meeting, depending on levels of participation.

No comments.

**Open Agenda:**

Commissioner Lindsay added housekeeping to work through some procedures and processes within the County

Chair Doherty added, on behalf of Mike Gorman - Tax Assessor, a tax refund item.

**Consent Calendar:**

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

- 1. Accounts Payable & Payroll Payables*
- 2. Contract with Community Counseling Solutions, Inc. for services to the Sheriff's Office.*

*Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Continuation of Public Hearing on Approved Budget**

**Public Hearing: Supplement Budget**

Continuation of the Public Hearing to approve the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2022, as adopted by the Morrow County Budget Committee. County Counsel Justin Nelson shared the detail from prior meetings to bring everyone up to current consideration, specific to allowing clear opportunity for public comment.

Invitation was given for any comment in favor, opposition or in general as to the budget. None.

Question around the need to appoint a new Budget Officer now to be under proper process was brought forward by Commissioner Lindsay. It was determined upon advice from contracted CPA that could come at a later date.

*Commissioner Russell made the motion to approve Resolution R-2022-11 In the Matter of Increasing Appropriations for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval. (Walked back)*

Justin Nelson, County Counsel, clarified the Resolution numbers presented within the motion and packet and it was discussed in detail. Conclusion; A public hearing should be opened and was needed for R-2022-11 Supplemental Budget.

Commissioner Russell and Commissioner Lindsay withdrew the motion and second re: R-2022-11 and it was agreed to walk it back.

Chair Doherty opened the Public Hearing for the Supplemental Budget Resolution R-2022-11 In the Matter Increasing Appropriations for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021. As an added business item.

Staff report came from Christa Wolf, CPA Wolfe Consulting, LLC was to recommend a supplemental budget to the board per R-2022-11 with a total change in appropriations of \$40,000 for unforeseen items. This is needed to reconcile the budget going into fiscal year end.

Chair Doherty asked for public comment: those in favor, opposed and just weighing in to comment on the supplemental budget 2021, Resolution R-2022-11

Public Hearings were closed

## **Business Items**

### Discussion of Resolutions R-2022-11 and R-2022-10

*Commissioner Russell made a motion to approve both Resolution(s) as a slate R-2022-11 for the supplemental budget and R-2022-10 for the Budget fiscal year 2022-2023 adoption.*

*Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Commuter Van Pool Presentation- Kim Curley, Community Engagement Coordinator, Commute Options, via ZOOM presented the Vanpool subsidy program options to transportation resources and ride sharing from work on regular schedules. Details regarding the Statewide Transportation Improvement funding (STIF, T=transit payroll tax) may be used. If the option is placed into the plan request for November, this could be an offer of a subsidy to help employees with transportation. Van Pool is a big carpool for at least 5 people traveling at least 20 miles, through Enterprise Commute and can extend transportation to a route that is not currently in place. Commissioners expressed strong interest in the program and would rely on Katie Imes the Loop Transit program Manger to bring back opportunities as it fit.

Sponsorship Request – 2022 Legislative Council on River Governance

Senator Hansell submitted a letter with an ask as a volunteer to help raise sponsorships for the conference of the Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG) meeting at the Port of Morrow in August 9-11, 2022. Rep Cliff Bentz would be a speaker with session on the Treaty with Canada, dam removal and other issues of interest.

Commissioner Russell saw the opportunity and the importance of this work with recognition and attendance as sponsors, calling out the many reliances of Morrow County on the river.

*Commissioner Russell moved that we sponsor the Legislative Council on River Governance conference in the amount of \$1500.00. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Lumen Technologies Inc, (Formerly Century Link) Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector  
Lumen Technologies is a Utility Company with multiple tax accounts, valued by the Oregon Dept to Revenues Utilities Section. Mr. Gorman received notice of correction of value from the Dept of Revenue due to a settlement of value impacting 4 years. All refunds are to be paid out of current year taxes collected and he noted that as we collect tax money we can continue to refund the amounts due. His rush to the agenda would save money in interest for the affected Districts. This is the first of 4 years corrections.

*Commissioner Russell moved that we make the refund to Lumen Technologies Inc in the amount \$31,805.60 for the 2018-19 tax year refund. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

County Processes – Commissioner Lindsay add to agenda

Just a bit of housekeeping on a few questions on County governance, processes, functions and where would the Board staff person report in the current transition. Discussion of options. Discussion regarding where the Board Secretary would report. Options, County Counsel, Commissioner assigned, Dept Head such as Mike Gorman (elected),

*Commissioner Russell moved that until other arrangements are made that County Tax Collector and Assessor Mike Gorman become the Administrative Assistant's go to person. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director emailed to reassign time cards and acknowledged.

Commissioner Lindsay suggested an Interim Administrator be considered until further discussions can take place and/or Commissioners be set up as liaison to departments to be reactive to Dept Heads. Discussion including County Counsel ensued.

Chair Doherty agreed to taking on the role of interim to give some direction for a week until an agenda item can be brought forward. Commissioners agreed it was appropriate to the role of Chair.

### **Emergency Operations Center Update**

Chair Doherty read written report in the absence of Emergency Manager Paul Gray. Written report is included in the packet materials. He additionally shared the water well testing was expanding around the state in other areas.

Commissioner Russell questioned if well depth and aquifer data was being collected in the testing. Commissioner Doherty noted that this was not a question being collected or tracked at this time.

Public Health employees continuing to move a great deal of water and leaning in to do big work on this.

Filters installers are ready to go, legal, liability and other issues.

Commissioner discussed need for public information and outreach as had occurred in the past. Chair Doherty agreed to pull the Environment Health Contract with Umatilla County to get clarity as to funding available and duties under the contract. Modernization funds may be available to assist through the funds held at Umatilla County.

**Department Reports**-None scheduled

### **Correspondence**

US Senator Wyden virtual Town Hall announcements

City of Boardman adjoining properties notice for public land use hearing – IAMP

### **Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Russell had nothing formal
- Commissioner Lindsay, updated on the OSU Post Doc LUBGWAMA sub committee narrowing down to post doc candidates to formal presentations and clarified these are PHD level candidates, science based and not policy based, and explained the work that will be focused on. She had a meeting with Jaylene Papineau, Treasurer, and they were requesting a work session around some general fund dollars that were being processed and seeking policy input on her discoveries.
- Commissioner Doherty brought up the water Czar work and continuing to move along the idea. Tamra gave a quick update on the work with NOWA and Umatilla County to define what a scope of work would be. Further discussed the funds needed from the State

### **Signing of Documents**

**Adjourned:**