

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon**

Present In-Person

Chair Jim Doherty, Commissioner Don Russell, Kevin Ince, Greg Close, Eric Imes, Roberta Lutchter, Tamra Mabbott, Greg Sweek, Lindsay Grogan, John Kilkenny, Justin Nelson

Present Via Zoom

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Kelsey Crocker, Torrie Griggs, Brenda Profitt, Mike Gorman, SaBrina Bailey-Cave, Aaron Moss, Jeff Wenholz, Lisa Pratt, Linda Skendzel, Heather Baumgartner, Deona Siex, Robin Canaday, Kirsti Cason, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Karen Pettigrew, Jasmine Garcia, Ryan DeGroft

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 9:01 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Commissioner Russell requested to add a discussion about an additional alternate for the Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) II Board. He said it was brought up before but there was a meeting soon and he wanted to make sure the County was covered.

Chair Doherty asked if Commissioner Lindsay was comfortable with the addition and after she replied she was, he said it would be added as the last Business Item.

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Lindsay asked to remove the Accounts Payable and the November 9th minutes. She said the minutes were fine but she wasn't sure how to approve them with redlines in them. Perhaps remove them, accept the redline version and then approve them but it seemed awkward to have them under the Consent Calendar the way they were printed, she said.

The School-Based Health Center Agreement was also removed from the Consent Calendar.

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

- 1. Oregon Department of Transportation Public Transit Division Section 5310 and Section 5311 Program Applications for Fiscal Years 2023-25*
- 2. PARC Resources Master Services Agreement for Grant Writing Services; effective November 1, 2022 until November 1, 2024; work to be completed through individual Statements of Work on a project-by-project basis and billed in accordance with the terms included in the Proposal submitted by PARC Resources; and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County.*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Accounts Payable

Commissioner Lindsay stated she did not have an opportunity to review them fully and would abstain.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the APs. Chair Doherty seconded. Vote: Aye: Chair Doherty, Commissioner Russell. Abstained: Commissioner Lindsay. Motion carried.

Minutes – November 9, 2022

In response to Chair Doherty's question about the redline minutes, County Counsel Justin Nelson said the minutes in the agenda packet showed the changes made – removing one line and adding language. The proposal could be to accept the minutes of November 9th, amending as shown in the agenda packet on page six so the finalized, approved version wouldn't show the change, it would be as you approved them here. Commissioner Lindsay said that was what she was looking for.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the redline version, as presented. Mr. Nelson added with the changes shown in the packet. Commissioner Lindsay replied, that's correct. Chair Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Russell said he would probably be a "no" vote. Redoing the minutes to reflect what you thought you would have said rather than said, he added. Commissioner Lindsay said, no, no, the verbatim was in there and if you listen to the tape she never said they shouldn't be in the director's meeting. Chair Doherty asked Ms. Lutcher if she had an opportunity after Commissioner Lindsay listened and recrafted, as she suggested, verbatim, an opportunity to go back and see if that was the more correct version or the other part. Ms. Lutcher said she sent the minutes out to everyone that included a verbatim transcription, adding she didn't know what to say. She said there's a way of saying something without saying it and that's what she thought Commissioner Lindsay was basically saying in the original minutes. That's what it boiled down to, she said, and what she tried to draw it down to - what Commissioner Lindsay was trying to say and that's what she thought she was trying to say. Even though at the end Commissioner Lindsay said – I'm not saying they shouldn't be in the meeting, Ms. Lutcher said that was my take on it so she just redid it differently. Commissioner Lindsay said minutes should never be what I thought she intended to say. Commissioner Lindsay said, the fact is she didn't say they shouldn't be in the meeting, so an interpretation, that's troubling but the fact is verbatim she did not say IT should not be in the meeting and she thought it's clear now with the clarification that's never what was said, nor what was heard. Chair Doherty said he would back out his second and let the audio version stand as the minutes. Commissioner Russell seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Broadband Action Team Update & Fabric Data Licensee Request

Aaron Moss, Broad Band Action Team Coordinator

Mr. Moss provided an update and asked the Board to designate a County employee to license and obtain the Federal Communications Commission Fabric Map Data. He recommended GIS Planning Tech, Stephen Wrecsics, who has worked collaboratively with him on many projects.

Commissioner Russell moved to authorize Stephen Wrecsics to license and obtain federal FCC Fabric Map Date on behalf of Morrow County. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Aye: Commissioner Russell and Commissioner Lindsay. Nay: Chair Doherty. Motion carried.

Adopt Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Plan, Fiscal Years 2023-25

Katie Imes, Transit Manager, The Loop

Ms. Imes reviewed the projects within the proposed Plan.

Chair Doherty moved to approve the Morrow County Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Plan for Fiscal Years 2023-2025 and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Wage Increase for Temporary Flaggers and Temporary Park Help

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director

Eric Imes, Public Works Director

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Ms. Grogan reviewed the request to increase the wage for four Park positions and three Flagger positions from \$14.72 per hour to \$18.00 per hour. She added Mr. Imes and Mr. Close both implied their budgets could cover the increase.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the wage increase for temporary Flaggers and Park help to \$18.000 per hour, effective December 26, 2022. Chair Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay said Ms. Grogan noted there were no additional benefits for these positions but technically there were because propane was paid for and there were free camp spots. Chair Doherty asked staff to speak to this. Mr. Imes said the items Commissioner Lindsay referred to were for Park Hosts, who earn \$40 per day plus propane but these positions were not Park Hosts. Mr. Close said Park Hosts were contracted, which was different. The temporary Park help positions do not stay at the Parks, those employees commute back and forth every day. Commissioner Lindsay then asked who the County was giving extra spots to because there were several spots – more than just for the host. Mr. Close said one spot was his and two spots were provided for the Sheriff's Office (deputies assigned to the OHV Park). Chair Doherty asked, these folks, it's not relative to them? Mr. Close replied, correct. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Planning Commission Appointment Requests

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott outlined the vacancies and listed the names of the applicants and the positions for which they were applying:

1. Elizabeth Peterson, Ione, Position #4
2. Stephen Henthorn, Irrigon Area, Position #5
3. Charlene Cooley, Irrigon, Position #5
4. Greg Sweek, Heppner, Position #6, Incumbent
5. John Kilkenny, Heppner, Position #6

Commissioner Russell moved to appoint Elizabeth Peterson to Position #4, Ione; serving the remainder of the term held by Rod Taylor; term to be January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to appoint Charlene Cooley to Position #5, Irrigon; term to be January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2027. Commissioner Russell seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Chair Doherty moved to appoint John Kilkenny to Position #6, Heppner; term to be January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2027. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner

Russell said it was unusual for this Board to not reappoint somebody (Greg Sweek), but not unheard of. It happened years ago when Marv Padberg was not reappointed, he added. Vote: Aye: Chair Doherty, Commissioner Lindsay. Nay: Commissioner Russell. Motion carried.

Willow Creek Valley Housing Implementation Strategy

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott explained ECONorthwest was hired to help Heppner, Ione and Lexington, in conjunction with the Planning Department, to develop a plan that focused on two barriers to housing – lack of infrastructure, and lack of developer capacity. The Strategy Report included a Plan for the cities to address those needs. The recommended actions were: 1.) Upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure; 2.) Pursue investments to overcome transportation and floodplain barriers; and 3.) Attract developers or contractors for near-term development. Ms. Mabbott continued to review the Report and responded to questions.

School-Based Health Center Services Agreement

Chair Doherty said, at this point, the best thing to do would be to set it over and bring it back. It's not time sensitive, he added.

CREZ II Board – Discussion of Additional Alternate

Commissioner Russell said there would be a meeting next week and he suggested appointing Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector, as the Alternate to the CREZ II Board, in case the County was short on voting members.

Commissioner Russell moved to appoint Mike Gorman as a voting Alternate for the CREZ II Board. Discussion: Chair Doherty asked who was on CREZ II. Commissioner Russell answered the two of them were the County Representatives and Commissioner Lindsay was the Alternate for the County and Mr. Gorman would be an additional Alternate. Commissioner Lindsay asked if he was sure about that because she thought Mr. Gorman was already the Alternate. Commissioner Russell said Mr. Gorman was the Alternate for the CREZ III Board but not the CREZ II Board. He then asked Mr. Gorman for his input. Mr. Gorman said he believed Commissioner Russell was correct and he was an Alternate for CREZ III but not CREZ II, at least not that he was aware of. Chair Doherty said that information could probably be pulled up. He suggested two things, A.) If Commissioner Lindsay was comfortable replacing the meeting on the 21st with a meeting on the 20th, it would be put on the agenda to be framed up with the CREZ stuff and move it forward to that agenda. He asked if she was comfortable with those? Commissioner Lindsay said she liked that idea. Commissioner Lindsay said, going back to her original request, the CDA (Columbia Development Authority) should be revisited potentially on the 20th, as well. Both need consideration and research and probably some work from Mr. Nelson, stated Commissioner Lindsay. Commissioner Russell said he was fine with that. Chair Doherty said he would see to it that it was framed up and back on. Motion died for lack of a second.

Department Reports

- Ms. Mabbott provided her Planning Department Report
- The written Treasurer's Report was reviewed in Jaylene Papineau's absence

Commissioner Liaison Reports

- Commissioner Lindsay provided a brief report.

Correspondence

- Spreadsheet of bills and legislative issues affecting community-based renewable energy projects, as submitted by the Community Renewable Energy Association

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Russell said he wanted to be cautious because he knew this was super sensitive but he'd been in touch with both State Representative Greg Smith and Senator Bill Hansell about what happens after Dec. 20th. The ORS (Oregon Revised Statute) says the "governor shall" appoint a commissioner, adding he'd also been in touch with Mr. Nelson. Commissioner Russell said he'd been told by both Hansell and Smith the governor will appoint David Sykes to fill his position early, if that's the case. If that is the case, he said there would be a quorum and the County could continue to have commission meetings, if for nothing else, to start the process of advertising for the unfilled position. Again, he said he knew it was sensitive so it would be his intention to schedule a commission meeting for the 21st and if the governor doesn't make that appointment, then there wouldn't be a quorum.

Chair Doherty said first and foremost, he thought it was probably a little bit improper to be talking about an election that's not been certified but there's lots of potentials from various and sundry things. He said he wasn't sure at this point that Commissioner Russell had the power or the authority to schedule a meeting on the 21st. If things come to fruition on the 20th, then the 21st brings what the 21st brings. Commissioner Russell can certainly move forward from there but until then, Chair Doherty said the Board needed to stick with the policies and procedures the County has.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 10:30 a.m.