

**Morrow County Board of Commissioner Work Session Minutes
December 28, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon**

Present In-Person

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner-Elect David Sykes, Commissioner-Elect Jeff Wenholz, Justin Nelson, Bobbi Childers, Greg Sweek, Jaylene Papineau, Kevin Ince, Lindsay Grogan, John Bowles, Jeff Bailey, Brian Snyder

Present Via Zoom

Rick Stokoe, Erick Peterson, Corey Sweeney, Sandi Pointer, Julie Baker, SaBrina Bailey-Cave, Heidi Turrell, Kirsti Cason, Erika Lasater, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Roberta Lutcher, Patrick Collins, Robin Canaday, Ronda Fox, Lisa Pratt, Christy Kenny, Tamra Mabbott, Angie Burke

Call to Order: 9:00 a.m.

Chair Russell said this was advertised as a Morrow County Commission meeting because of the hope that Governor Kate Brown was going to appoint somebody to fill one of the two recently vacated Commissioner positions. Due to the lack of a quorum, a Work Session would be held instead. Discussion of issues can occur, he said, but there won't be the ability to take any official action.

Introductions & Pledge of Allegiance

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items

Discussion Items:

- A request for financial assistance was heard from Jeff Bailey, Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Directors, Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living Facility. He relayed the impact of COVID on the facility. Staffing was, and continues to be an issue, he said. On the income side, Willow Creek Terrace was not able to recruit residents to the facility during COVID. Not only were expenses up, but they weren't able to generate the kind of income needed to make the facility operate, he said. In recent years, the facility was basically a "break even" proposition and considered to be a service to the community. Mr. Bailey provided a more in-depth report on financials and the Board's future plans. He said he would ask to be on an upcoming agenda to present the request and would include a dollar amount.
- Chair Russell offered a recommendation regarding appointments to the Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) II Board when that topic comes to an agenda next year. He suggested the Commissioner-Elects be appointed as the County's representatives and Assessor/Tax Collector, Mike Gorman, be appointed as alternate for both representatives.
- Commissioner-Elect Sykes said he and Commissioner-Elect Wenholz were in agreement on the County Administrator model and were interested in bringing in an Interim County Administrator. Commissioner-Elect Sykes put forth the name of the County's former Assessor/Tax Collector, Greg Sweek, who retired after 35 years with the County. Commissioner-Elect Sykes said the topic would be on the January 4, 2023 agenda.
- Ideas regarding the upcoming vacancy on the Budget Committee were discussed. When Commissioner-Elect Wenholz takes office, a vacancy will be created on the committee.
- A report was provided by Mike Haugen, Assistant Road Master.

- The process by the Board of Commissioners to appointment someone to vacant County Commissioner Position 1 was discussed.

Adjourned: 9:55 a.m.