

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**July 19, 2023**  
**Morrow County Government Center, Don Adams Conference Room**  
**Irrigon, Oregon**

**Present In-Person**

Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenzholz, Commissioner Roy Drago Jr., Roberta Vanderwall, Roberta Lutcher, Kevin Ince, Justin Nelson, Brian Snyder, Benjamin Tucker, Greg Close, Kristen Bowles; Non-Staff: Tim Collins, Jeannie Collins, Terri Gentry, Kimberly Lindsay, Savannah Marker

**Present Via Zoom**

Deona Siex, Sandi Pointer, Bobbi Childers, Robin Canaday, Christy Kenny, Stephanie Case, Valerie Ballard, Jaylene Papineau; Non-Staff: Patrick Collins, Erika Lasater, Brandi Hanson, Tarina Foster, Julie Baker, Matt Jensen

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

**City & Citizen Comments:** Chair Sykes reminded everyone there was a three-minute limit, and asked speakers to state the town in which they live.

Tim Collins, Heppner, read a list of about 10 questions regarding the site proposed for the new Circuit Court Building, which is adjacent to his property. Chair Sykes explained the Comment section was an opportunity for the Board to hear comments, not necessarily to engage in a give-and-take but answers would be obtained.

Terri Gentry, Heppner, representing the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Committee. Ms. Gentry discussed potential impacts to the rodeo if the new Circuit Court Building is located at the proposed location. Chair Sykes asked who the County should contact for follow-up purposes and Ms. Gentry referred him to Judy Healy or Tanner Britt.

Julie Baker, Lexington, said as an elementary school parent, she had concerns about the new Circuit Court Building being located near Heppner Elementary School. She asked if there would be opportunities for feedback. Chair Sakes said the process was still in the beginning stages but there will be future opportunities to talk and ask questions. We'll be listening to the people, he said.

Raymond Akers, Boardman, asked the status of the County's response to the "polluted wells." He said "we're part of Oregon Rural Action (ORA). In essence, we are ORA." He also said they "keep giving invites...do you plan on facing the community?" Commissioner Drago said he would appreciate receiving invitations to meetings but he hadn't received any. Mr. Akers was directed to the website for Commissioner Drago's contact information.

Bobbi Childers, Ione, discussed the Circuit Court Building location, saying she wished the County would look somewhere else. There are much better solutions than putting it there and affecting so many things, she said. She also said her office was below the Circuit Court in the Courthouse and Circuit Court has a low tolerance level for noise. Placing it near a playground could be problematic, she added.

**Open Agenda:** No items

**Consent Agenda:**

*Commissioner Wenzholz moved to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:*

- 1. Minutes: June 12<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>*
- 2. Consultant Agreement with Sea Reach, Lt., Heritage Trail Interpretive Panels; term of agreement shall end no later than June 30, 2024; not-to-exceed amount \$35,000*

3. *Oregon Business Development Department, County Fairgrounds Capital Improvements Grant Agreement, \$277,777; Project Completion Deadline: February 6, 2026*
4. *Parks Purchase Request, Ford F350 Pickup and flatbed; cost of pickup - \$66,680 from Northside Trucks; \$9,900 for a flatbed and front bumper from Jay Coil Fabricating; total amount \$78,380*

*Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

**Public Hearing:** Supplemental Budget Resolution No. R-2023-15: Establishing the Election Modernization Fund

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

Chair Sykes opened the Public Hearing at 9:23 a.m. and called for the Staff Report, which Mr. Ince provided. Chair Sykes asked for public comment and received no response. The hearing was closed at 9:27 a.m.

*Commissioner Wenholz moved to approve Resolution No. R-2023-15: In the Matter of Adopting a Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 – Establishing the Election Modernization Fund and Making Supplemental Appropriations. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

**Public Hearing:** Ordinance No. ORD-2023-5: Adopting a Procurement & Contracting Policy

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

Chair Sykes opened the Public Hearing at 9:28 a.m. and called for the Staff Report, which Mr. Ince provided. During the report, several corrections and modifications were made to the policy document. Chair Sykes heard no response to calls for opponents and proponents to speak; the hearing was then closed.

*Commissioner Wenholz moved to adopt Ordinance No. ORD-2023-5: An Ordinance Adopting the Morrow County Procurement & Contracting Policy and Repealing Ordinance CR-1 and Section 8 of Ordinance MC-C-3-85, with the changes to the policy presented by County Counsel during the discussion. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

**Business Items**

Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) Quarterly Report

Kimberly Lindsay & Savannah Marker

Ms. Lindsay provided her report to the Board. She then introduced Ms. Marker and said she was in charge of the new facility in Hermiston, formerly Aspen Springs Psychiatric Hospital. Ms. Marker said they were in the process of hiring 35 staff members and planned to house clients at the beginning of November. The 16-bed facility will include four restraint beds, six acute care beds and six long-term beds.

A discussion took place on the payments to multiple entities nationwide, including the County, from the opioid settlement. The Board agreed by consensus to discuss options for use of the funds at work session after the CCS Advisory Board has forwarded its recommendations.

Jail Use Agreement with Umatilla County

Undersheriff Brian Snyder

Undersheriff Snyder presented the agreement and answered questions from the Commissioners.

*Commissioner Drago moved to approve the Jail Use Agreement with Umatilla County; effective July 1, 2023 and shall renew on a fiscal year basis, July 1 to June 30, until terminated by either party; 20 daily beds available for Morrow County inmates; \$120 per day for each prisoner. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

**Break:** 10:34-10:43 a.m.

Resolution No. R-2023-16: Transfer of Appropriations for Fourth Emergency Dispatch Station

Kristen Bowles, Communications Lieutenant

Undersheriff Brian Snyder

*Commissioner Drago moved to approve Resolution No. R-2023-16: In the Matter of Transfer of Appropriations in Fund 207 for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 – from Operating Contingency to Capital Outlay in the amount of \$54,000. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

Oregon Health Authority Action Plan Policies

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

*Commissioner Wenholz moved to adopt Resolution No. R-2023-17: In the Matter of Adopting the Morrow County Capital Asset Management Policy and direct the Finance Director to implement it. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

*Commissioner Wenholz moved to adopt Resolution No. R-2023-18: In the Matter of Adopting the Morrow County Financial Assistance Management Policy and direct the Finance Director to implement it. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

*Commissioner Drago moved to adopt Resolution No. R-2023-19: In the Matter of Adopting the Morrow County Cash Handling Policy and direct the County Treasurer and Finance Director to implement it. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

Fair Board Appointment Request

Sue Gibbs, Fair Manager

Ms. Gibbs presented the request to appoint Ann Jones. She said the Fair Board recommended the appointment.

*Commissioner Drago moved to appoint Ann Jones to the Fair Board to fill the remainder of Alita Nelson's term, expiring December 31, 2024. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

Trucking & Equipment Services Contract with Ashbeck Trucking LLC

Sandi Pointer, Public Works

*Commissioner Wenholz moved to approve the Personal Services Contract with Ashbeck Trucking LLC; effective when signed by every party and shall expire on June 30, 2024. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

Rock Pit Agreement – 4C Ranches Inc.

Eric Imes, Public Works Director

*Commissioner Wenholz moved to approve the Rock Pit Agreement with 4C Ranches Inc.; term of agreement shall be 10 years, commencing when signed by both parties; \$0.50 per crushed ton of rock. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

Award Contract for Ambient Mix Emulsion Purchase

Eric Imes, Public Works Director

*Commissioner Drago moved to approve the sole source determination based on the written findings of the market research and award the contract to Enviroad LLC; effective when signed by all parties through June 30, 2024. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

**Department Reports**

The following reports were provided:

- Emergency Management Quarterly Report, submitted by Paul Gray
- Juvenile Department Quarterly Report, presented by Christy Kenny
- The Loop/Public Transit Quarterly Report, presented by Benjamin Tucker
- Justice Court Quarterly Report, presented by Glen Diehl
- Treasurer’s Monthly Report, presented by Jaylene Papineau
- Planning Department Monthly Report, presented by Tamra Mabbott
- Administrator’s Monthly Report, presented by Roberta Vanderwall
- Accounts Payable Monthly Report, compiled by Kevin Ince

**Correspondence**

- Energy Facility Siting Council Meeting Notice and Agenda, July 17-19

**Commissioner Reports**

The Commissioners provided reports of activity since the last meeting.

**12:24 p.m.: Executive Session:** Pursuant to ORS 192.66(2)(h) – To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed

**12:47 p.m.: Closed Executive Session** – No decision

**Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 12:55 p.m.