

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2023
Morrow County Government Center
Irrigon, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenzholz, Commissioner Roy Drago Jr., Roberta Vanderwall, Valerie Ballard, Justin Nelson

Present Via Zoom

Staff: SaBrina Bailey-Cave, Mike Gorman, Yvonne Morter, Lindsay Grogan, Deona Siex, Erin Anderson, Jaylene Papineau, Melissa Camarillo, Stephanie Case; Non-Staff: Erika Lasater, JC Flint, Matt Jensen, Andrea Di Salvo, S. Thompson, Raymond Akers

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

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No Items

Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Wenzholz moved to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

1. *Minutes: July 19th*
2. *10th Amendment to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) #173145 for the Financing of Mental Health Services*
3. *OHA contract #180837 Tort Liability Coverage as a Provider for Psychiatric Security Review Board, effective July 1, 2023, and expiring July 1, 2025*
4. *2nd Amendment to Energy Facility Siting Council Special Advisory Group IGA 19-031, extending the effective date and duration to June 30, 2025*

Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Public Hearing:

Community Development Block Grant Application – Umatilla-Morrow Head Start, Inc. (UMHS)

Dan Daltoso, Chief Operating Officer UMHS

Aaron Treadwell, Chief Executive Officer UMHS

Chair Sykes read the Umatilla-Morrow Head Start’s Community Development Block Grant Application public notice in its entirety.

Mr. Daltoso explained UMHS requested \$1.5 million in a Community Development Block Grant. The budget is a rough estimate and UMHS will cover additional costs exceeding the grant amount. Plans for the new building include modular construction and the Board was presented with examples of modern modular construction. The examples of modular buildings already in use do not look like typical modular building, but it is modular construction, he said. Modular construction is less expensive than stick-built construction and that is why they are considering modular construction for the building grant. A conditional use permit will be needed and architectural needs will be met for the facility, resulting in a building the community, City of Irrigon, and County can be proud of.

Commissioner Wenzholz agreed with Mr. Daltoso that the building examples don’t look like typical modular buildings. Mr. Daltoso confirmed and further explained that the example

building has three classrooms and he would like the new building to be a cohesive addition and “what a school would look like typically.”

Mr. Treadwell noted modular construction looks very different from what it looked like 30 years ago and many design improvements have been made.

Chair Sykes asked for comments in favor, opposition, or neutral comment. None in-person. He called for comment from Zoom participants; no additional comments via Zoom.

Nick Ducote, contracted County grant writer commented via Zoom and offered additional clarification on the block grant program. The County is the grant applicant working with UMHS regarding what is needed. Chair Sykes conferred with Interim County Administrator Roberta Vanderwall who will work with future County Administrator, Matthew Jensen on the project.

Chair Sykes closed the hearing for public testimony.

Commissioner Drago said he believed it will be a good addition. Commissioner Wenholz asked County Counsel Justin Nelson if a motion was needed to move forward.

Commissioner Wenholz moved to approve the Community Development Block Grant application. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval, motion carried.

Public Hearing:

Two Requests for Annexation into Heppner Rural Fire Protection District; and Order No. OR-2023-4:

Chair Sykes introduced Order No. OR-2023-4 Ordering the Annexation of Territory to the Heppner Rural Fire Protection District.

Mr. Nelson presented the staff report on two landowners who want adjacent property added within the fire protection district’s boundaries. Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector, confirmed the properties border the current fire district lines.

Chair Sykes opened the public hearing, and asked for public comment. No comments.

Commissioner Wenholz moved to approve Order No. OR-2023-4 Ordering the Annexation of Territory to the Heppner Rural Fire Protection District. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval, motion carried.

Business Items

4-H Summer Intern Report

Grace Ogden, Oregon State University Summer Intern and second year student at Oklahoma State University studying Animal Science

Ms. Ogden presented a PowerPoint highlighting what she has done during her internship. Projects included Morrow County Fair preparation, assisting OSU Agronomist Larry Lutcher with experimental growing plots with the extension service, Ag in the Classroom with Heppner Daycare, and putting on the Cloverbud Rodeo and 4-H camp. Ms. Ogden was in Future Farmers

of America (FFA) while in high school and being able to work in Ag Education is “a dream come true.” The summer internship has provided industry connections and learning opportunities, she added.

Columbia River Heritage Trail Sign Report

Caren Cardenas, Student Intern, Planning Department

The project focuses on replacement of faded, damaged, and vandalized signs, stickers, metals, panels, and frames throughout the trail. Fifty new stickers and metals are being replaced by community and Amazon Web Services volunteers. Sites with interpretive panels have been vandalized, weather damaged, and otherwise illegible panels, but the frames are in good structural condition. Grants have been applied for and a Request for Proposals has been submitted with Sea Reach Ltd. designing replacement panels. Examples of illegible panels compared to the replacement images highlight the need for the new signs. Brochures will be available with QR codes that will take users to a map of the Columbia River Heritage Trail and will be available at local businesses and libraries. Completion is estimated for August 2024.

IGA with Amazon Data Services, Inc., Strategic Investment Program Distribution of Community Service Fee

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Community Service Fee is set amount up to \$2.5 million per year broken up between taxing districts. County will receive a set amount up to \$500,000 and further distributed amongst the taxing district.

Commissioner Drago moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Strategic Investment Program (SIP) Distribution of Community Service Fee Under ORS 285C.609(6)/285C.623(6). Commissioner Wenzholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval, motion carried.

Public Health Update on Well Testing in Boardman and Irrigon

Robin Canaday, Public Health Director

Office of Resilience and Emergency Management canvassed Morrow County well users between July 17th and 25th. There were 676 homes contacted and 136 water samples collected for testing. Roughly 15% of affected county members are yet to be contacted and more data is being collected. State of Oregon will bring in toxicologists and epidemiologists for an open house to address questions and concerns of citizens on August 24th at Riverside High School with children’s activities and free school supplies. Morrow County has received support from Oregon Health Authority, as well as Umatilla County, which Morrow County has contracted with for environmental health. Commissioner Wenzholz suggested having a special meeting for approval of the IGA, if needed, before the next Board of Commissioners meeting on August 16th.

Introduction of new Executive Assistant to the Board of Commissioners, Valerie Ballard.

Department Reports

The following reports were provided:

- Road Department Monthly Report: Mike Haugen
- Assessment and Tax Quarterly Report: Mike Gorman

- Sheriff's Office Monthly Report: Melissa Camarillo
- Veteran's Service Quarterly Report: Stephanie Case

Correspondence: None submitted

Commissioner Reports

Each Commissioner provided a brief report of activity.

Recess until 10:30 for Executive Session

Executive Session

At 10:30 a.m., Chair Sykes read the following executive session citation: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) – To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations

10:50 a.m.: Closed Executive Session

Chair Sykes asked for additional business. No further business.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 10:52 a.m.