

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2017
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, Wells Springs Room
Boardman, Oregon

Present

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Kim Cutsforth, Interim Administrative Officer
Richard Tovey, County Counsel
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 9:04 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Doherty requested to remove for discussion the Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) March 2017 Allotment #21 Payment dated September 14th.

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

1. *Accounts Payable dated September 21st in the amount of \$414,739.97*
2. *Correction to the August 23rd Board of Commissioners meeting minutes*
3. *Patriot Building & Grounds Maintenance Janitorial Contract in the amount of \$90,336*
4. *R-2017-27: Supplemental Budget Action, Sheriff's Office*
5. *Oregon Health Authority Intergovernmental Agreement #142381 Amendment 1*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

CCS March 2017 Allotment #21 Payment dated September 14th

Kim Cutsforth, Interim Administrative Officer, explained when the Finance Director was closing the year in September, she noticed the March payment to CCS had been missed. This correction will be attributed to last year's books, she said. Chair Lindsay said the process has been changed so that manual checks, such as these, that are processed in the Treasurer's Office will now go through the Accounts Payable process as well.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the CCS March 2017 Allotment #21 payment dated September 14th in the amount of \$122,735.56. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Presentation on Receiving Reimbursement when Medicaid Recipients are Transported via The Loop, Morrow County Transportation

Frank Thomas, Region 5 Transit Coordinator, Oregon Department of Transportation
Anita Pranger, Coordinator, The Loop

Mr. Thomas provided the following information and statistics:

- Medicaid recipients are eligible to receive free transportation to medical appointments.
- Thirty-percent of residents in Morrow County receive Medicaid.
- Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) is the broker for all of eastern Oregon in coordinating Medicaid rides with contracted providers.
- There is not a Medicaid transportation provider housed anywhere in Morrow County, meaning GOBHI pays a higher rate to bring in a provider from out-of-County when a Morrow County resident needs transporting.
- The Loop could enter into a blanket purchase agreement with GOBHI and be reimbursed for rides they are currently providing for free.
- The Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization would be very interested in finding the most cost effective way to transport Morrow County's Medicaid recipients.
- The Loop can determine its own rates in the purchase agreement with GOBHI and its own availability to offer these rides.

Commissioner Doherty asked about the potential number of trips Morrow County could generate; Mr. Thomas said he would look into that statistic. He also said if one Medicaid recipient is in the vehicle, it's enough to cover the costs for the non-Medicaid riders in the vehicle, as well.

Discussion centered on the growth already taking place in The Loop Office and the future personnel needs, especially with this addition. The possibility of switching to paid drivers was also discussed, or a combination of paid and volunteer drivers. Chair Lindsay asked Ms. Pranger if she and The Loop Advisory Board were in favor of the proposal. Ms. Pranger replied both she and the Board have long supported it.

Commissioner Doherty said many exciting things are in Morrow County's future, such as fixed routes; park-and-rides from the Tri-Cities, Hermiston and Pendleton; transit routes that will allow people to take advantage of the lower cost of living in south County and be transported to high paying jobs in Boardman and elsewhere. Mr. Thomas said the County could move toward those goals incrementally by taking this step toward an agreement with GOBHI. He added the Advisory Board for The Loop would like approval in the form of a motion.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve moving forward with drafting an agreement with Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. to broker Medicaid rides through The Loop, Morrow County Transportation, and that the agreement will be brought back for review in the near future. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Rail Emergency Response Plan Grant Intergovernmental Agreement

Kim Cutsforth, Interim Administrative Officer

In Undersheriff Bowles' absence, Ms. Cutsforth explained last year's train derailment in Mosier revealed the lack of rail emergency response plans throughout the State. Undersheriff Bowles

learned of a grant opportunity to cover the costs to produce a Rail Emergency Response Plan and received approval. The next step is to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Department of State Police, for the benefit of its Office of State Fire Marshal, OSP #IGA-447-17, with Morrow County Emergency Management to develop a Community HAZMAT Transportation by Rail Incident Response Plan (up to \$10,000), and authorize Undersheriff John Bowles to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Correspondence

- Final version of the County's comments to the Boardman to Hemingway Amended Preliminary Site Certificate.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Russell said he attended an Eastern Oregon Counties Association meeting, also attended by Representative Greg Walden. Forest Management Plans were discussed and the need to finalize a plan while the impact from the Eagle Creek fire is still in the memory of those impacted, especially residents of the west side of the State who don't experience the results of forest fires as often as residents of the east side of the State. Commissioner Russell took the opportunity to visit with Rep. Walden and Senator Ron Wyden's Field Representative Kathleen Cathy about the Strategic Investment Program agreement recently reached with Wheatridge/NextEra Energy, Inc. The result of the conversation was they will assist Morrow County, if necessary, in ensuring the requirement will be met that aircraft detection lighting systems be installed on the wind towers.
- Commissioner Doherty mentioned the previous day's Department Head meeting and the rather light turn-out. He said there is always something that can be done to make sure departments are represented, especially since they are planned months in advance. He also noted recent absences at BOC meetings by staff who had agenda items listed. Commissioner Doherty discussed his meeting schedule for the next few weeks and a request by an Oregon State University researcher who needs additional Morrow County industry representatives to participate; the topic is managing water and land resources in Morrow County.
- Chair Lindsay said she attended the Ione Community Agri-Business Organization (ICABO) meeting. Ione City Council will sign a memorandum of understanding to work with Lexington and Heppner on regional ideas for addressing needed sewer projects, however, they are against lagoons around Ione. Chair Lindsay attended a "Celebrating Women" reception at the Governor's Mansion. The forest fires and resulting poor air quality were a topic of conversation. She said Governor Kate Brown commented it may be an opportune time for both parties to address forest management.

Break: 10:31 a.m.

Resume: 10:37 a.m.

10:38 a.m. Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) – To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions

11:54 a.m. Closed Executive Session: No decisions

Adjourned: 11:55 a.m.