

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**November 28, 2018**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present**

Chair Don Russell  
Commissioner Jim Doherty  
Commissioner Melissa Lindsay  
Darrell Green, Administrator  
Kate Knop, Finance Director  
Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director  
Justin Nelson, County Counsel  
Roberta Lutchter, Executive Assistant

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

**City and Citizen Comments:** No comments

**Open Agenda:** Commissioner Lindsay requested to add discussions regarding a Strategic Investment Program (SIP) agreement, as well as the deeds for County-owned properties to be sold at Sheriff's sale on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Consent Calendar**

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the following items in the Consent Calendar:*

- 1. Accounts Payable dated November 29<sup>th</sup> - \$257,238.55; Manual Check Run dated November 21<sup>st</sup> - \$1,167.73; Voided APs dated November 21<sup>st</sup> - \$1,211.47*
- 2. Property Use License Agreement with Oregon State University to provide Oregon ATV Safety Youth Rider Endorsement classes at the OHV Park; commencing January 1, 2019 and terminating on December 31, 2019; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County*
- 3. Letter to Wallowa County Board of Commissioners regarding the redirection of Morrow County Wolf Grant Funds to Wallowa County, which has experienced multiple wolf depredation losses*

*Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Business Items**

Discussion – Partnership with Pendleton Building Trades

Terry Casey, Business Representative, Operating Engineers Local 701

Jeff Gritz, Eastern Oregon Business Representative, Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 737

Mr. Casey said he and Mr. Gritz are contacting a variety of entities to spread their message that union jobs are a good option for young adults seeking a living wage and benefits. He asked that project agreements that come to the Board include language for apprenticeship utilization.

Various discussions.

Second Reading and Adoption: Ordinance No. ORD-2018-4, Lexington Airport Master Plan

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Ms. McLane provided the Second Reading as follows:

“An Ordinance Adopting the Lexington Airport Master Plan”

*Commissioner Doherty moved to approve Ordinance No. ORD-2018-4 – An Ordinance Adopting the Lexington Airport Master Plan. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Resolution No. R-2018-27: Adopting the Transit Asset Management Plan

Anita Pranger, Coordinator, The Loop

Ms. Pranger explained as a recipient of Federal transit funds, The Loop must have a management plan for vehicles and equipment. She recommended the Transit Asset Management Plan developed by the Oregon Department of Transportation Rail and Public Transit Division be adopted to fulfill that requirement. Brief discussion.

*Commissioner Doherty moved to approve Resolution No. R-2018-27 – In the Matter of Adopting the Group Transit Asset Management Plan and Performance Measures. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

District Attorney Vehicle Replacement and Policy Change

Justin Nelson, District Attorney/County Counsel

Mr. Nelson’s request encompassed several actions: a new vehicle and an amendment to existing Personnel Policies with respect to vehicle use. The amendment to policy consisted of the following (amended portion is underlined):

SECTION 3.7 VEHICLE USE

B. No Personal Use of County Vehicles Required to be Used for Commuting – The Morrow County Board of Commissioners hereby requires all of the employees listed below to commute to and from work in the following County vehicles assigned to them:

1. Marked police vehicles assigned to sheriff deputies.
2. Unmarked law enforcement vehicles assigned to the sheriff, undersheriff and detectives, district attorney, and deputy district attorney (when acting as on-call counsel).

Mr. Nelson said the first question he would like resolved is whether the Board wants County Counsel to review Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) II Board agreements for the County. Extensive discussions took place on the history of legal counsel for CREZ, and the pros and cons of Morrow County Counsel reviewing CREZ agreements. At the core of Mr. Nelson’s presentation was a request for additional compensation, in some form, if County Counsel takes on added duties to review CREZ agreements. It was discussed delaying a decision until after the next CREZ meeting (Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>) to ascertain that Board’s willingness to contribute toward the costs incurred by the County when Morrow County Counsel reviews CREZ-related materials. Mr. Nelson said if the County decides not to have Morrow County Counsel review

CREZ agreement, then it ends the discussion on the vehicle acquisition and Personnel Policy amendment.

*Commissioner Doherty moved to allow County Counsel to represent the County as CREZ Counsel. Chair Russell seconded. Additional discussion to clarify the motion. Commissioner Doherty called for the vote. Vote – Aye: Chair Russell, Commissioner Doherty. Nay: Commissioner Lindsay. Motion carried.*

Chair Russell asked what would compensation for that be (see above motion)?

*Commissioner Doherty moved to table the discussion of the vehicle and present the idea of County Counsel being allowed to represent the County to the CREZ Board for discussion to see if there's a level of compensation they're willing to reimburse the County. Chair Russell seconded. Discussion. Commissioner Doherty withdrew his motion.*

#### Deeds for Foreclosed Properties

Commissioner Lindsay discussed the need to authorize someone to sign the deeds that will likely result from tomorrow's Sheriff's sale of three County-owned properties. Brief discussion.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to authorize Administrator Darrell Green to sign the transfer documents for the two Cain Lane properties and the Elder Street property, should they sell at Sheriff's sale tomorrow. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### SIP Agreement Discussion

The County previously negotiated a SIP Agreement with Wheatridge Wind Energy, LLC for a commercial wind energy generation project. Wheatridge representatives have requested amendments to the original agreement. Chair Russell said he preferred to have the same negotiating team in place for upcoming negotiations (Commissioner Doherty, Administrator Darrell Green, Assessor Mike Gorman, and County Counsel). Commissioner Lindsay agreed, adding in the event it becomes a new contract, she would still be comfortable with that same team; Chair Russell agreed.

### **Department Reports**

#### Road Department Monthly Report

Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master

Mr. Imes reviewed the report for November. He noted the steel structure has been delivered that will become the new sand shed building at the Lexington yard. He also talked about a meeting with members of the Snowmobile Club that resulted in an agreement that Coal Mine Hill will not be barricaded. A sign will be installed in that area to notify people the road is not maintained during the winter.

### **Correspondence**

- Preliminary 2018 Population Estimate for Morrow County from Portland State University's College of Urban and Public Affairs, Population Research Center. Chair Russell said he found it hard to believe the County's population decreased by five people from the previous year when Boardman alone has seen construction of 35 new houses and school enrollments have increased. Commissioner Lindsay suggested a letter be sent since this has been an ongoing conversation. Ms. McLane offered to draft a letter for the Board to review on December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Notice from Jackson County Commissioner Colleen Roberts of a public hearing on December 11<sup>th</sup> at North Medford High School to gather public input from counties adversely affected by recent fires.
- Invitations to several retirement gatherings for out-going commissioners.
- Public Notice, Carty Generating Station, Notice of Proposed Order on Request for Amendment 1.

### **Commissioner Reports**

- Upcoming meeting schedules were discussed.
- Chair Russell said the Navy will only reimburse the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District for personnel costs related to fighting last summer's fire on and around the Bombing Range. Expenses related to fire fighting vehicles and chemicals will not be reimbursed.

### **Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 11:20 a.m.