

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**December 19, 2018**  
**Port of Morrow Riverfront Center**  
**Boardman, Oregon**

**Present**

Chair Don Russell

Commissioner Jim Doherty

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay

Darrell Green, Administrator

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

Roberta Lutchter, Executive Assistant

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:** 9:01 a.m.

**City & Citizen Comments:** None

**Open Agenda:** No items

**Consent Calendar**

Commissioner Doherty requested to remove the Accounts Payable.

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

- 1. Two Payroll Payables Immediates & Electronic dated December 4<sup>th</sup>- \$173,047.88 & HRA VEBA, \$3,000*
- 2. Timber Services Contract with Bruce Young Logging LLC, effective December 19, 2018 and ending December 19, 2021, unless terminated or extended*
- 3. Amendment Number 2 to Oregon Department of Transportation Rail & Public Transit Grant Agreement #31435 – extending effective date to June 30,2019 to allow additional time for delivery of bus that had to be re-ordered*

*Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Accounts Payable**

Commissioners Doherty and Lindsay asked questions related to the Accounts Payable but nothing was removed from payment.

*Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the Accounts Payable dated December 20<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$202,654.32. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Oregon State University Shared County Programs Update**

Ray Qin, Assistant Professor and Extension Agronomist, Hermiston Agricultural Research & Extension Center

Dr. Qin began by discussing his background growing up on a family farm in China, and then briefly reviewed his education credentials. He provided an overview of his research endeavors since joining the staff at HAREC in 2016. He discussed the breakdown of his job description (60% Extension, 20% Research, 15% Scholarly Outcome, 5% Service) and the type of work within each category. A brief question and answer session was held.

## **Business Items**

### First Reading, Ordinance No. ORD-2019-1 – Adopting the Heppner Transportation System Plan, Applied Solely within the Heppner Urban Growth Boundary

Stephen Wrecsics, GIS Planning Technician

Mr. Wrecsics provided the First Reading by title: “An Ordinance Adopting the Heppner Transportation System Plan, Applied Solely within the Heppner Urban Growth Boundary”

Mr. Wrecsics reminded the Board the Second Reading is scheduled for January 3, 2019.

### Resolution No. R-2018-29 – Creating a Parks Department within the Budget

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Ms. Knop explained a new department within the Parks Fund called the Fair Park Department needs to be created in order to accept reservation revenues from the RV spaces at the Fairgrounds. Commissioner Lindsay asked the new department be named Fairgrounds Park Department.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve Resolution No. R-2018-29 – In the Matter of Creating a New Park Department for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2018, noting the name of the new department will be changed to Fairgrounds Park Department. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### Lease Agreement, Morrow County Sheriff’s Office and ODOT for Co-location of Communication Equipment on Black Mountain

Because a representative from the Sheriff’s Office was not in attendance to present the agreement and respond to questions, a wider conversation on contracts took place.

Commissioner Lindsay said many contracts have automatic renewals unless someone opens it up again. She said when the County has the ability to have end dates on contracts, she would prefer that happen so they are looked at on a regular basis rather than continuing without additional review.

Richard Tovey, County Counsel, stated he did not see any problem with end dates, especially if the County writes the contract or agreement. Additional discussion took place about the process for expired contracts and the late request for this agreement to be on the agenda.

Commissioner Doherty suggested the agreement be tabled since there was not a Sheriff’s Office representative at the meeting, which could indicate no urgency to approve it.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Oregon Department of Transportation Intergovernmental Co-location Agreement, Black Mountain M/W, Site #F72501, effective January 1, 2019-December 31, 2024, unless terminated earlier. Morrow County shall pay ODOT an annual fee of \$2,275, which shall increase annually by three percent. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty asked Administrator Darrell Green to determine why a representative from the Sheriff’s Office did not make the meeting and to find out*

*why the agreement had to be on this week's agenda, rather than next week's. He added since it pertains to public safety and communication, it is probably something that has to be moved forward. Chair Russell asked that departments be reminded that a lack of prior planning on their part does not constitute an emergency on the Board's part. Commissioner Lindsay said if the agreement had involved a larger dollar amount, she would have agreed to table it. Unanimous approval.*

### **Correspondence**

- The Commissioners reviewed Christmas cards received from other counties around the state.

### **Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Doherty discussed his involvement with the National Association of Counties (NACo), including being a member of the Health Steering Committee and the Arts & Culture Commission. He also discussed matters related to the Association of Oregon Counties now that he has moved into the First Vice President position. Specifically, he mentioned legislation to replace Secure Rural Schools funding (payments to counties negatively impacted by the reduction of natural resource activities on federal lands), and mental health and justice reinvestment programs.
- Commissioner Lindsay discussed a recent meeting of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA). She said OSU's involvement with the group has made a big difference, including Dr. Qin's. She also provided an update on meetings with the cities regarding the Buildable Lands Inventory and Housing Analysis. On another matter, she said the County needs to stay engaged with the Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) discussions that are taking place. She said the County needs to stay in-tune with the policy making, and support the continued growth of agriculture in Morrow County by ensuring things are done correctly with proper permitting and monitoring. Commissioner Lindsay said she's reiterated the fact that policy is already in-place, however, it lacks "teeth." Commissioner Doherty agreed and said he'd like to schedule this as a future discussion topic.
- Chair Russell said at the last Community Renewable Energy Association (CREA) meeting, he was appointed Chair. He said he made it clear to CREA's members that he may not always agree with the organization's goals. He said CREA is pushing legislation to allow Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), which originated in Marin County, California where voters opted to own the right to buy electricity from a provider of their choosing while still using existing powerlines, Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) in this case. He said LEAN Energy is an advocacy group for CCA and during a presentation by LEAN's leader, she was asked directly if power was cheaper, and her response was that it was not. Chair Russell went on to say Oregon has reliable electricity and rates are among the cheapest in the nation. CREA is almost 100% funded by Strategic Investment Program (SIP) agreements from large energy projects, he added. Commissioner Doherty said some of the \$750,000 Morrow County pays to CREA is the result of SIP agreements with Portland General Electric (PGE). He said when the previous County Court entered

into those agreements with CREA, they didn't foresee this left-hand turn CREA is making and perhaps CREA should shift back because those funds might be undoable; he asked Mr. Tovey to look into potentially doing something different.

**Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 10:45 a.m.