

**Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
**January 8, 2024**  
**Upper Conference Room, Bartholomew Building**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present In Person** Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Gus Peterson, Matthew Jensen, Valerie Ballard, Justin Nelson, Tamra Mabbott, Vince Guerrero, Lindsay Grogan, Kevin Ince, Pat Keely, Robin Canaday, Eric Imes; Non-staff: Honorable Judge Daniel Hill, Irma Solis, Kimberly Lindsay

**Present Via Zoom** Sabrina Bailey-Cave, Daisy Goebel, Erin Anderson; Non-staff: Aaron Palmquist, Andrea Di Salvo, Andrea Fletcher, Austin Gutierrez, Autumn Morgan, Berit Thornson, Brenda Profitt, John Doherty, Karen Pettigrew, Katie Imes, Lori Copenrath

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

**Chair and Vice Chair Election Pursuant to R-2023-2**

*Commissioner Wenholz motioned to reelect Commissioner Sykes and Board Chair.*

*Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval*

*Commissioner Peterson motioned to elect Commissioner Wenholz as Vice-Chair. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval*

**Public Comment**

Aaron Palmquist, City Manager of Irrigon addressed the Board regarding his letter in the correspondence section requesting action from the Board. Mr. Palmquist then spoke in support of Zoning Code updates with the caveat of and urged the Board to keep the Courthouse Annex siting decision from December 18.

Karen Pettigrew of Boardman spoke on the reconsideration of the Courthouse siting decision, expressing the opinion that the siting decision was made, and it is time to move forward.

**Consideration and Adoption of Agenda**

County Administrator, Matthew Jensen, informed the Board that the Executive Session on the agenda was no longer needed and requested it be removed from the agenda.

*Commissioner Wenholz motioned to adopt the agenda, removing items 10, 11, and 12.*

*Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

**Consent Agenda**

*Commissioner Peterson requested to pull item e on the consent agenda to discuss separately.*

*Commissioner Wenholz motioned approve the consent agenda after removing item e for discussion. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

2025 Committee Assignments

David Sykes, Commission Chair

*Commissioner Wenholz motioned to select Commissioner Peterson as alternative for CREZ II and appoint Commissioner Peterson to CREZ III with Mr. Jensen as alternate.*

*Commissioner Peterson seconds. Vote: Unanimous approval*

*Commissioner Wenholz motioned to make Mr. Jensen Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group representative. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval*

*Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve the 2025 committee assignments as discussed. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

## **Business Items**

### Reconsider Courthouse Siting Decision

Gus Peterson, Commissioner

*Commissioner Peterson motioned to repeal the Courthouse siting decision made on December 18. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion.*

*Commissioner Wenholz called to open the item up for discussion and stated he would like to hear from Judge Hill as a partner in the project.*

There was further discussion after Judge Hill read his statement. Commissioners then revisited their votes on repealing the decision from December 18.

*Commissioner Peterson and Chair Sykes voted to repeal the siting decision on December 18. Commissioner Wenholz voted against. Vote: 2 aye, 1 opposed, motion carried.*

*Commissioner Peterson motioned to locate the Courthouse construction in Heppner with the original plans and slight adjustments as needed. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: 2 aye, 1 opposed (Wenholz). Motion Carried.*

### Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) Quarterly Update

Kimberly Lindsay, Executive Director, CCS

Kimberly Lindsay, Executive Director of CCS presented several reports regarding CCS activity, including a Corrective Action Plan after a site review by the Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS), a compliance report, and a report on the 24-hour Warmline. Ms. Lindsay also reviewed the 2022-24 Strategic Plan and presented the 2025-27 Strategic Plan.

### Land Use Code Amendment

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Mr. Jensen introduced the topic, recognizing the earlier public comment on the matter. He acknowledged formatting errors remain in the document and informed the Board that those errors will be corrected prior to publication.

*Commissioner Peterson motioned to accept the second reading of the final changes of Code Amendments in county land use application AZ-154-24 and adopt Ordinance ORD-2025-01 with staff being able to make non-substantive corrections.*

*Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Legislative Seat

Valerie Ballard

*Commissioner Wenholz motioned to appoint Commissioner Peterson as Morrow County representative on the AOC legislative committee.*

*Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Plan Approval

Patrick Keely, Interim Transit Manager

Staff have been working closely with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to develop this ongoing STIF plan which will run from July 1, 2025-June 30, 2027. Part of the financial calculations for the Plan include potential funds, as any money not accounted for cannot be used. The Plan is meant to meet State goals for rural transportation and includes collaboration with Good Shepherd Health Care System and their CareVan, as well as Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation.

*Commissioner Wenholz stated that as this involves a contract with Good Shepherd Health Care, for which he is a Board Member, there is the potential for a conflict of interest.*

*However, the State Ethics Commission is not concerned with that possibility.*

*Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the STIF Plan and projects as proposed.*

*Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

**Department Reports**

The District Attorney Quarterly Report was presented by Justin Nelson

The Fair Office Report was rescheduled for February 5

The Human Resources Quarterly Report was presented by Lindsay Grogan

The Public Health Quarterly Report was presented by Robin Canaday

The Public Works Monthly Report was presented by Eric Imes

**Commissioner Reports**

Brief reports on Commissioner activities were provided

**Adjourn**

11:43 a.m.