

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Darrell J. Green, John A. Bowles, Roberta Lutchter, Justin Nelson; Non-Staff: Rusty Estes, Mike Hughes, Kris Jones, Nicole Mahoney, John Murray

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Ronda Fox, Lindsay Grogan, Eric Imes, Crystal Jaeger, Christy Kenny, Matt Kenny, Ian Murray, Dave Pranger, Sandi Pointer, Nazario Rivera, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: Marty Broadbent, Erika Lasater, Ryan Neal, Debbie Pedro, Karen Pettigrew, David Sykes

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 9:03 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Administrator Darrell Green said he received a request from Heppner Junior High School teacher, Andrea Nelson, to display student artwork in the lobby of the Bartholomew Building. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to the request.

Consent Calendar

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

1. *Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
2. *Minutes: April 7th*
3. *Intergovernmental Agreement for Sheriff's Services with the City of Irrigon. Effective July 1, 2021 for one year; not-to-exceed amount \$96,822 per fiscal year; City to purchase a vehicle every three years, with the vehicle to return to the City three years following the purchase*
4. *First Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2020-2021 Intergovernmental Agreement #166052 for the Financing of Mental Health, Addiction Treatment, Recovery & Prevention, and Problem Gambling Services; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Discuss COVID Pay

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Manager

Ms. Grogan said the mandate expired at the end of 2020 to pay quarantined employees, but the County extended it until April 30, 2021. It was the recommendation of the Emergency Operations Team on Monday to end it at this time due to the availability of vaccines and a sufficient amount of time for employees to receive them, she said. The other policies remain in effect, she said (COVID Safeguards and Notification of Exposure).

Commissioner Doherty moved to end the temporary COVID-19 Emergency Leave Policy, which includes paid sick leave for COVID-19 issues. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Discussion – Ambulance Service Area Plan Proposal

Nicole Mahoney, Kris Jones, Rusty Estes, John Murray – Morrow County Health District (MCHD)

Chief Mike Hughes – Boardman Fire Rescue District (BFRD)

At the previous meeting on this topic, there was discussion about BFRD taking over MCHD's ambulance service in Boardman, explained Chair Russell. However, after looking into it, he learned the revenue to MCHD from its levy would stay with MCHD even if BFRD took over that territory.

Chief Hughes then asked the County to allow BFRD to apply for an ambulance license for the purpose of MCIs (multi-casualty incidents) so they could respond to calls when the first ambulance was out of position, for whatever reason.

Commissioner Lindsay said she preferred to see an actual proposal through the proper channels to the Board of Commissioners. She asked that today's discussion remain on the scheduled agenda item.

Commissioner Doherty said Chief Hughes' request was separate to this and he could come back to make that pitch. He said the Board approves other contracts for multiple years, pending an annual review, and suggested this be looked at again next year at this same time with the potential to open it back up.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the Morrow County Health District Ambulance Service Area Plan, as it has been in the past, with an annual review to come to the Board of Commissioners and go with the five-year time plan. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Resolution No. R-2021-12: Declaring a Drought Emergency

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve Resolution No. R-2021-12: In the Matter of Declaring a State of Drought Emergency in Morrow County. Commissioner Doherty seconded.

Discussion: The Commissioners and Mr. Nelson thanked the assisting agencies for responding quickly – Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District, and the NRCS Office (Natural Resources Conservation Services). Mr. Nelson said the Board was also approving signing the attached letter. Commissioner Lindsay accepted the amendment. Unanimous approval.

Award Bid & Contract for Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) Services

Sandi Pointer, Public Works

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the Morrow County Personal/Professional Services Contract for HVAC services with Bruce Inc., Mechanical Heating & Air; effective when fully executed for a period of five years. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Eastern Oregon Economic Summit – Sponsorship Request

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott requested the County sponsor the 2021 Eastern Oregon Economic Summit at the \$2,500 Gold Level. The Summit is organized by the Eastern Oregon Women’s Coalition (EOWC) and Ms. Mabbott noted she is a member of its board. The Gold Level comes with five tickets to the event, but she will attend free as a volunteer. The Summit, which takes place August 19th & 20th, will cover four topics – housing, economic development, water, and workforce development. Ms. Mabbott will oversee the housing discussions.

Last year the Board authorized \$2,500 for the 2020 Summit but it was cancelled due to COVID. The EOWC verified those funds can be used toward this year’s sponsorship.

Commissioner Doherty moved to award the \$2,500, rolling it over from last year into this year’s Summit. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Morrow County and Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA) COVID-19 Grant Awards

Chair Russell

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Chair Russell said the review committee, in coordination with TCCA’s representative Michael Graham, finalized a list of 20 award recipients to recommend to the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Knop described the criteria used by the committee and responded to questions.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the Morrow County and Tillamook County Creamery Association COVID-19 business grant awards, totalling \$193,192. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay said she appreciated all the work on this and that each Commissioner was involved in a grant review committee, at one point in time. She said it’s hard for her to analyze someone’s income and she did it for a living. It’s a bigger deal than a profit and loss statement that they (applicants) may or may not have put their time into, so it was a little “wonky” on this one. She said she didn’t want to second guess the analysis because it was a strong review team with a lot of people involved. Commissioner Lindsay said she wanted to make note of that because it had been a question in the past. People didn’t want to apply because they didn’t want to send a profit and loss statement for the Commissioners to see, they felt uncomfortable. Ms. Knop talked about the confidentiality of the review processes and the benefits of bringing in someone from outside the County in Mr. Graham. Chair Russell agreed he was a good asset and the review committee valued his input, especially since 45% of the funds were from TCCA. Commissioner Lindsay said he also participated in the first round, where they used Business Oregon rules, which were black and white. Unanimous approval.

Discussion – Irrigon Building Name

Chair Russell explained that the decision on the building name was needed by the contractor and sign company. Discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to name the new building in Irrigon the “Morrow County Government Center” and have Administrator Darrell Green run it by the sign folks. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: The Commissioners asked Mr. Green to look at the building plans and come back with the number of conference rooms that could be specifically named. Unanimous approval.

Emergency Operations Center Update

- Current statistics were reviewed.
- Some counties, including Umatilla County, are closing again.
- The pause on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was lifted.
- The Public Health Department will contact Lamb Weston about an on-site vaccination event.
- Vaccine supply currently outweighs demand.

Building Project Updates

- Irrigon Building: Exterior walls are up; a mock-up will be made of the sign that will be placed on the corner of the lot; move-in date is tentatively in October. Reminder to employees – start planning to move in about six months.
- Sheriff Station 2 Building: Concrete slab will be poured this week.

Break: 10:20-10:29 a.m.

Department Reports

- Eric Imes reviewed the Road Department Monthly Report.
- Jessica Rose reviewed the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) Quarterly Report.
- Dave Pranger reviewed the Weed Department Quarterly Report.
- Nazario Rivera reviewed the Public Health Department Quarterly Report.
- The written Human Resources Quarterly Report was reviewed in Lindsay Grogan's absence.
- Matt Kenny reviewed the Surveyor's Quarterly Report.

Correspondence

- Letter from the Oregon Department of Transportation stating the Heppner DMV (Driver and Motor Vehicle Services) Office will reopen May 6th.
- News release from the Governor's Office: Governor Kate Brown Urges Oregonians to Get Vaccinated, 15 Counties Qualify for Extreme Risk Amid Rapid Surge in COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations.

Commissioner Reports

Reports of activity were provided by the Commissioners

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:35 a.m.