

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
July 14, 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, Paul Gray, Kate Knop, Roberta Lutcher

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Eric Imes, Katie Imes, Kate Knop, Tamra Mabbott, Jaylene Papineau, Matt Scrivner, Linda Skendzel; Non-Staff: Sheryll Bates, Torrie Griggs, JoAnna Lamb, Joe Melton, Rob Naughton, Karen Pettigrew, Dan Smith, Rick Stokoe

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 9:00 a.m. The County's new Emergency Manager, Paul Gray, introduced himself and provided an overview of his experience.

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
- 2. Minutes: June 9th & 16th*
- 3. Oregon Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division, Agreement #34958, STF Operating Expenses; effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023; not-to-exceed amount \$135,400 with no local match*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay commented on credit card late fees in the Accounts Payable (APs) and said she hoped Finance was aware and communicating with the people; Chair Russell agreed. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Audio/Visual Options for Morrow County Government Center Building

Darrell Green, Administrator

Joe Melton, Avidex, Territory Manager

Rob Naughton, InterMountain Education Service District, Director of Business Development

Mr. Green said Mr. Melton would present audio/visual (A/V) options for the courtroom and large conference room in the new building in Irrigon.

Mr. Melton said Avidex specializes in A/V systems and after meeting with staff and the building team to determine a scope of work for the spaces, it was clear several decisions needed to be made to avoid construction impacts. In addition, the cost associated with the scope of work for both rooms (\$205,000) wasn't included in the construction project's budget. He then reviewed the options for the Commissioners and responded to questions.

Mr. Naughton said the plans by Avidex for both rooms are the best he'd seen. He continued by saying everyone has experienced audio issues with remote meetings and the duplex audio Avidex proposed is like being in the same room. From a cost perspective, he said IMESD did a similar project for one of its own conference room recently at about half the cost but it wasn't as thorough as this plan. Mr. Naughton suggested now was the best time to do this because it will

be much more expensive to add later. This was the best configuration he'd seen for any of IMESD's customers, he reiterated.

Discussion continued on sources of funding for the project, the user-friendly technology of the system in the rooms, life expectancy of the equipment, and the economy of scale in doing multiple rooms.

Commissioner Doherty moved to build out both rooms in the Morrow County Government Center Building in Irrigon and for the Avidex team to work on the Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay said ideas and direction for funding were needed because the amount for all three rooms would be closer to \$300,000. We've been talking for more than four years about the need to improve the audio in the Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room, she said, and it really hit us hard in the last year. Chair Russell agreed with that assessment. Commissioner Lindsay also said the Sheriff's Office and the Emergency Manager should be involved with the planning for the Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room because it served as the location for numerous meetings throughout COVID. It was often a struggle to hear and be heard, she said, so perhaps emergency funds could be used. Chair Russell recapped the motion – to go ahead with outfitting both rooms in the new building in Irrigon and for staff to work to find sources for the funding, and also for staff to find sources of funding to outfit, at a minimum, the Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room. Commissioner Lindsay said that would be an amendment. Commissioner Doherty said he was happy to adjust his motion to that. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Request to Purchase Trail King Equipment Trailer

Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master, Public Works

Mr. Imes briefly discussed the bids received and the reasons for recommending Pape Machinery at \$22,900. He said while it wasn't the lowest, it had a 10-week lead time and the others were 40-42 weeks.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the request to purchase a new 24' x 102" tilt deck equipment trailer from Pape Machinery in the amount of \$22,900. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Request to Purchase Polaris Ranger and Trailer

Undersheriff John Bowles

Undersheriff Bowles said \$45,000 for a search and rescue vehicle was approved in the Sheriff's Office budget during Budget Committee hearings. Two bids were received and Undersheriff Bowles recommended the low bid from Morrow County Grain Growers.

Commissioner Doherty moved to accept the bid from Morrow County Grain Growers for a 2021 Polaris Ranger Crew NorthStar Edition Ultimate and 2021 Trekk Trailer; total amount \$38,800; and authorize Undersheriff Bowles to move forward with the process to order and purchase. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Emergency Operations Center Update

- Undersheriff Bowles said all the declarations have expired and if things “kicked back up,” they’d start the process all over again – declaring an emergency, etc. In the next few weeks, he said he’d be turning things over to the new Emergency Manager, Paul Gray.
- Commissioner Lindsay thanked the employees of the County, including retired and former employees from Public Health, the Commissioners and Administration for all the work over the last 15 months during COVID. She said she appreciated the work of the EOC Team and what they did for this County and was proud to have been a part of it. She later added the Team left the door open to respond to quick meetings and become more active, if needed. We’d bring it back to the Board of Commissioners to activate the EOC, she said.
- Mr. Green said the Public Health Department would provide weekly case number updates, instead of daily, now that the numbers have been low for multiple weeks. He said they would continue to monitor the variant cases. The County will still supply paper towels and disinfectant for cleaning, among other things, per the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Building Project Updates

- Mr. Green reported the Request for Qualifications for the Courthouse feasibility study was released on Monday and the plan is to select the successful architect/engineering firm by the end of August. The space analysis and study will help understand what can be done at the Courthouse and what needs to be addressed there for additional space. It will also evaluate the status of the electrical, plumbing and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance in the building.
- Sheriff’s Station 2 Building – should be done by the end of July. The arrival of the doors is holding things up but painting has begun.
- Government Center Building in Irrigon – the first shipment of hollow door frames arrived. Plumbing and electrical rough-ins are being completed, metal siding is being installed. Move-in to the new building will likely take place the first week of November, after asphalt plants have shut down. This means the parking lot will be gravelled until asphalt can be poured. Photos of the progress were shared by Mr. Green.
- Commissioner Doherty asked about the future of the Docken Building in Boardman, which houses the Public Health Department, and offices for the Juvenile Department and Deputy District Attorney (both offices are moving to the Irrigon building). He suggested the Docken Building would be better utilized as a retail space by someone else. He said he didn’t want to upgrade that building, which is the current plan, and then have someone say the Public Health Department should be located elsewhere. Commissioner Lindsay said she did not disagree and maybe it’s not the best spot.

Morrow County Government Center Building Add Alternates List

Darrell Green, Administrator

After discussion, the Commissioners agreed by consensus to:

1. Add conduit to the electric charging station
2. Add the vault and conduit for a future natural gas generator

Break: 10:40-10:50 a.m.

Department Reports

The following reports were provided:

- Planning Department Monthly Report, presented by Director Tamra Mabbott
- Treasurer's Monthly Report, presented by Jaylene Papineau
- Justice Court Quarterly Report, submitted by Judge Glen Diehl
- Veterans Services Quarterly Report, presented by Linda Skenszel, Veterans Services Officer

Correspondence

- Letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency containing the agency's comments on the Conditional Letter of Map Revision on a proposed project in Heppner (Willow Creek Floodplain Improvements)

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports provided.

11:18 a.m. Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) – To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations

12:24 p.m. Closed Executive Session: No decisions

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:35 p.m.