

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Darrell J. Green, John Bowles, Paul Gray, Roberta Lutcher, Dan Robbins, Gina Wilson

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Lindsay Grogan, Eric Imes, Crystal Jaeger, Christy Kenny, Sandi Pointer, Linda Skendzel; Non-Staff: JoAnna Lamb, Karen Pettigrew, Jessica Rose, David Sykes

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 9:00 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Commissioner Lindsay requested to add a discussion on a grant opportunity for the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) from the Oregon Health Authority.

Consent Calendar

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

1. *Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
2. *Minutes: July 21st*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Criminal Justice Reinvestment (CJR) Grant Application

Lt. Dan Robbins

Gina Wilson, Parole & Probation Officer

Ms. Wilson explained, if awarded, the \$164,188 two-year grant will mirror previous years and support the following:

1. \$128,560 – Revenue to Community Corrections, Personnel (Parole Officer position)
2. \$16,418 – Morrow/Umatilla Domestic Violence Services
3. \$14,284 – Admin Fee to go toward the LPSCC Coordinator position
4. \$4,926 – Evaluation funding

Commissioner Doherty moved to support the 2021-2023 Criminal Justice Reinvestment Grant Application and sign the letter of support. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Oregon Health Authority Request for Grant Proposals

Commissioner Lindsay discussed OHA's Request for Grant Proposals for planning work on the elimination of behavioral health inequities. It was agreed to review a letter of intent at next week's meeting and make a decision at that time.

Morrow County Command Team Update

Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

Mr. Gray listed the other members of the Team – Commissioner Lindsay, Administrator Darrell Green, District Attorney/County Counsel Justin Nelson, Human Resources Director Lindsay Grogan and Undersheriff John Bowles. He said when policy-related matters come up at their

meetings, they are brought forward to the Board of Commissioners. He then said he had three items to bring to the Board:

1. A meeting will take place on August 27th with the State on mitigation grants. He proposed several projects in the County that could potentially qualify for the grants – the former mill site; the sewage pond in Ione; and the well for the City of Heppner.
2. Hospital capacity – today’s statistics have 1,137 COVID patients statewide with 45 intensive care unit (ICU) beds available. Regions 6, 7 & 9, which encompass the counties east of the mountains, have 139 COVID patients and 10 adult ICU beds available.
3. Suggested a public service announcement (PSA) be released to let people know there are concerns about first responders becoming ill themselves, or overrun with their own duties and from filling in for others.

When Commissioner Doherty asked about Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Mr. Gray said there were not any COVID patients there and they have room for patients needing secondary care. Pioneer Memorial Hospital has three emergency room beds and all three were available. Discussion continued about an emergency alert that will be issued by the State regarding the lack of hospital beds. Mr. Gray said he and other Emergency Managers wanted to avoid public panic and planned to issue statements at the County-level explaining why the State was issuing the alert and what it meant. Commissioner Doherty said he believed folks were tone deaf and he wasn’t sure they’ll even hear the alert. Various discussions.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to sign on as a Board to the Public Service Announcement proposed by the Emergency Manager. Chair Russell seconded. Vote: Aye: Chair Russell, Commissioner Lindsay. Nay: Commissioner Doherty. Motion carried.

Building Project Updates

- DLR Group was selected to conduct the Courthouse Feasibility Study. The contract is being finalized and a kick-off meeting will take place shortly. The hard deadline to finalize the study is the end of November in order to meet the application deadlines for funding opportunities.
- Morrow County Government Center Building – many decisions regarding interior finishes have been finalized. A tree has to be removed and efforts have been made to relocate it elsewhere. There are still concerns about some materials not arriving in time.

Department Reports

- The Road Department Monthly Report was reviewed by Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master

Correspondence

- Sponsorship request for the Morrow County Harvest Festival in Boardman on October 2nd
- List of available resources for Veterans from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports were provided

Signing of documents

Adjourned regular meeting: 10:05 a.m.

Break: 10:05-10:20 a.m.

10:20 a.m. Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i) – To review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing

Closed Executive Session: No decisions