

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**November 24, 2021**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present In-Person**

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Darrell J. Green, Katie Imes, Roberta Lutcher, Aaron Moss

**Present Via Zoom**

Staff: Stephanie Case, SaBrina Bailey Cave, Mike Gorman, Lindsay Grogan, Deanne Irving, Tamra Mabbott, Justin Nelson, Jaylene Papineau, Sandi Pointer, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell;  
Non-Staff: JoAnna Lamb, Aaron Palmquist, Karen Pettigrew

**City & Citizen Comments:** None

**Open Agenda:** No items

**Consent Calendar**

The contract with Ducote Consulting was moved to Business Items.

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

- 1. Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
- 2. Minutes: September 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>*
- 3. Curloo Estates Subdivision Plat, located in the City of Irrigon*
- 4. Applications for Tax Refunds: Meenderinck Land Company LLC and Devin Oil Co., Inc.*
- 5. Airport Advisory Committee Reappointment Request: Barbara Van Arsdale representing Tenant/Pilot; term to be November 24, 2021 to November 24, 2024*

*Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Business Items**

**Contract with Ducote Consulting for Grant Writing & Environmental Services**

*Commissioner Lindsay said, based on the last conversation, she moved to approve the contract with Ducote Consulting to assist with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant applications using American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds out of the Resiliency budget line. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Administrator Darrell Green asked if the Commissioners approved of Planning Director, Tamra Mabbott, continuing to take the lead and work with Mr. Ducote. The discussion turned to how environmental services fit into the contract, and the response was some of the proposed projects have potential environmental issues, such as the former mill site in Heppner or the Robinson subdivision property. Unanimous approval.*

Commissioner Lindsay said most of the work would be done by Mr. Ducote but if was too much for Ms. Mabbott, she'd be happy to take the lead or work with the Planning Director to steer her along and act as a liaison. She then expanded on the environmental issues – the work at the mill site would be around flood plain mitigation; in Ione it would involve the placement of the drain field; and the Heppner subdivision would be working through water quality if a well is dug and

siting it properly. Later in the discussion, Chair Russell and Commissioner Doherty agreed to have Commissioner Lindsay work with Ms. Mabbott and to act as the liaison.

### Second Review of Graphics for the New Public Transit Buses

Katie Imes, Coordinator, The Loop

Ms. Imes presented the revised graphics for the three buses on order from Creative Bus Sales. She said shortly before the buses arrive, she planned to obtain new quotes and prepare a cost comparison to select the vendor for the graphics. Discussion.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to adopt the second review design. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### Command Team Update

Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

- Regional statistics for intensive care unit (ICU) beds occupied by COVID patients: 34% last week; 7% this week.
- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) rules were stopped by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and are being taken up by the Sixth Circuit.
- OSHA rules state employers are to gather the vaccine card information from employees and are not required to verify authenticity. Submission is voluntary at this point, pending the outcome at the Sixth Circuit and decisions at the state level.
- Vendors for COVID tests are being explored and it's estimated the County will need at least 1,200 tests at an estimated cost of \$15,000.

### Building Project Updates

Darrell Green, Administrator

- Courthouse Feasibility Study – Final report from DLR Group will be submitted by November 30<sup>th</sup>, including the fourth option to build a separate building.
- Morrow County Government Center Building – Power was installed last week. In order to get 25 phone lines to the building and the Sheriff's Office Irrigon Annex, a new phone line and conduit need to be installed at a cost of approximately \$31,000. The first punch list walk-through took place last week and another is scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nothing major was found but the power was not on during part of the walk-through. The parts for the heated sidewalks arrived but they were faulty, meaning ADA accessible decks will be built at an additional cost of \$5,103. The audio-visual system components have not arrived and the timeline to obtain them is unknown. December 7<sup>th</sup> is the new move-in date.

### **Department Reports**

- The written Road Department Monthly Report was reviewed.

### **Correspondence**

- Article from the La Grande Observer titled, "New housing gives veterans a brand-new home and a fresh start."

- Portland State University's Preliminary July 2021 Population Estimate for Morrow County – 12,635.
- Morrow County Planning Commissioner 2022 Meeting Schedule.

**Commissioner Reports**

Reports of activity were provided.

**Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 10:00 a.m.