

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, John A. Bowles, Kate Knop, Roberta Lutchter, Richard Tovey

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Ronda Fox, Deanne Irving, Crystal Jaeger, Tamra Mabbott, Nazario Rivera, Jaylene Papineau, Sandi Pointer, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: Sheryll Bates, Glenn McIntire, Debbie Pedro, Karen Pettigrew, Christina Smith, David Sykes

Excused

Darrell J. Green

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

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 & Payroll Payables*
2. *Minutes: May 5th*
3. *Order No. OR-2021-9: In the Matter of Authorizing the County Treasurer to Invest Fund, July 1, 2021 until June 30, 2022*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Legislative Updates: None

Business Items

Equity Fund Loan Request

Christina Smith, Loan Officer, Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC)
Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Smith asked the Board to approve Morrow County Health District's request to borrow funds from the Morrow County Equity Fund to purchase the former Nazarene Church building. MCHD plans to move the administrative offices in the hospital across the street to the former church building in order to free up clinical space to serve patients. She said this would be MCHD's fifth Equity Fund loan request. Two loans have been paid off and two are still active, she said. If approved, this would be the final request needed to complete their project.

Commissioner Doherty moved for the Board to approve the 10-year loan request from the Morrow County Health District in the amount of \$67,500. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Brief discussion about determining the interest rate for the loan.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to set the interest rate at 1.5%. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Ideas for marketing the Equity Fund were discussed as there is approximately \$237,500 available to loan.

Oregon Health & Science University, Research Subaward Agreement, Amendment #2

Nazario Rivera, Public Health Director

This agreement involves federal funds distributed to the County from OHSU for the CaCoon program. A goal of the program is to improve the health and well-being of children and youth with special health needs. The amount of funds in the amendment will be \$24,751.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the OHSU Research Subaward Agreement, Amendment #2, and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Road Committee Appointment Request

Sandi Pointer, Public Works

Commissioner Lindsay moved to appoint Jacob K. Cain to the Road Committee, representing North County for a three-year term (June 9, 2021-June 9, 2024). Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty said Mr. Cain would represent the Columbia area as opposed to North County because we don't have two counties. Unanimous approval.

Designate Commissioner Representative to Oregon Water Resources Department

Chair Russell moved to designate Commissioner Lindsay as the Commissioner liaison with the Oregon Water Resources Department. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Lindsay said every county needs to start talking more and more about water and she looked forward to making this a bigger conversation at this level. This drought year made a lot of problems shine, she added.

Emergency Operations Center Update

- Undersheriff Bowles relayed current COVID statistics and said things were slowing down but there were still positive cases. He talked about the flood season, which consisted of two incidents where creeks were a little high. Fire season is upon us with a few fires locally but crews knocked them down quickly. He estimated it will be a very active fire season. Interviews for the Emergency Manager position will take place June 17th.
- Commissioner Lindsay talked about the contract from the State for vaccine incentive funds that will be used in a lottery drawing with up to seven winners in the County. She said she agreed with Commissioner Doherty in that she also didn't love the incentive idea but it would put funds back in the local communities. She added, based on the last conversation, she moved the contract forward and told the State Morrow County would participate.

Building Project Updates

Both the Morrow County Government Center Building in Irrigon and the Sheriff Station 2 Building in Heppner remain on budget and on schedule.

Department Reports

- Director Tamra Mabbott reviewed the Planning Department Monthly Report
- Treasurer Jaylene Papineau reviewed the Treasurer's Monthly Report

Correspondence

- Morrow County 4-H June 2021 Newsletter
- Oregon Health Authority's Current and Updated County Risk Levels as of June 7, 2021

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Lindsay said a meeting was held yesterday to continue the conversation on UEC (Umatilla Electric Cooperative) and the loop roads, etc. She said she didn't feel it was very productive, however, a follow-up conversation took place and Public Works Director Matt Scrivner was coordinating another meeting later this afternoon.

Chair Russell stated the Board would take a short break and reconvene in Executive Session. He then read the Executive Session citation.

Break: 9:47-10:00 a.m.

10:00 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

10:30 a.m. Closed Executive Session

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 10:40 a.m.