

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**March 2, 2022**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present In-Person**

Chair Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Darrell J. Green, Paul Gray, Roberta Lutchter; Non-Staff: Larry Lutchter, Mike McNamee

**Present Via Zoom**

SaBrina Bailey Cave, Bobbi Childers, Ronda Fox, Mike Gorman, Kate Knop, Tamra Mabbott, Aaron Moss, Justin Nelson, Jaylene Papineau, Sandi Pointer, Dan Robbins, Jessica Rose, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell, Vickie Turrell, Gina Wilson; Non-Staff: Scott Hayes, JoAnna Lamb, Karen Pettigrew, Scott Smith, David Sykes

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

**City & Citizen Comments:** None

**Open Agenda:** Commissioner Lindsay acknowledged “our friends in Ukraine who are suffering greatly.” She went on to say her niece was adopted from Ukraine and the people who assisted in that process were wonderful. Chair Doherty agreed with her sentiments and said the world is getting smaller. Commissioner Russell commented it was hard to believe this was happening in 2022.

**Consent Calendar**

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

- 1. Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
- 2. Federal Lands Access Program Project Close-Out – Sunflower Flat Road Project; and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County*

*Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Legislative Updates:** No items

**Business Items**

Resolution No. R-2022-5: Proclaiming March as Red Cross Month

Commissioner Lindsay read a Facebook post from Heppner resident, Kay Proctor, in which she said there was a critical need to donate blood products due to a 10-year low. She said the blood products can be used to help people undergoing cancer treatment, including her son Roy.

Commissioner Lindsay said she hoped the Resolution would focus more attention on the need and she asked Red Cross Board Member, Scott Smith, to say a few words. He explained March was proclaimed Red Cross Month in 1943 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Mr. Smith went on to encourage everyone to regularly donate blood.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve Resolution No. R-2022-5: A Resolution Proclaiming March 2022 as Red Cross Month. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Resolution No. R-2022-4: Declaring a Drought Emergency

Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

Mr. Gray reviewed the documents in the Agenda Packet confirming the current drought conditions in the area. Brief discussion.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve Resolution No. R-2022-4: In the Matter of Declaring a State of Drought Emergency in Morrow County; and to sign the letter to the Co-Chairs of the Oregon Drought Readiness Council. Commissioner Lindsay seconded with a friendly amendment to send copies to Jay Gibbs and Kevin Payne. Unanimous approval.*

#### Funding Mormon Cricket Control in Morrow County

Larry Lutchter, Morrow County/Oregon State University Extension, Plant & Soil Scientist  
Mr. Lutchter asked the Commissioners to consider allocating an amount they deemed appropriate, with the following stipulation – that he and his counterpart in Gilliam County, Jordan Maley, be the two people authorized to approve the areas for treatment using these funds, either by aerial application or the use of bait. Discussion.

*Commissioner Russell moved to provide funding in the amount of \$100,000 for Mormon cricket control efforts in Morrow County with the stipulation the recommendation for treatment be made by Larry Lutchter, Extension Agent, or Jordan Maley, Extension Agent; and direct the Finance Director, Kate Knop, to determine the best source from which to pull the funds. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay said the Sand Hollow area was mentioned, which would mean she would have a conflict because of financial gain in keeping the crickets off farm ground but all three Commissioners would have the same conflict but then by ethics law, all three couldn't vote. Unanimous approval.*

#### Request to Approve County Emergency Operations Plan Update

Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

Mr. Gray explained the Plan is to be updated every two years and as a living document, it has the ability to be updated at other times, when warranted.

*Commissioner Russell moved to sign the Letter of Promulgation that is within the Emergency Operations Plan. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### Resolution No. R-2022-2: Add Morrow County Reserve Funds

Kate Knop, Finance Director

The Resolution allows for the creation of the Economic Development Fund, the Succession Planning Fund and the Orchard Wind Fund, according to Ms. Knop.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve Resolution No. R-2022-2: In the Matter of Creating Reserve Funds. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### Interim Finance Department Assistance Discussion

Darrell Green, Administrator

The Finance Director and the Financial Analyst both resigned their positions. Mr. Green said two questions needed to be addressed:

1. Who will be the fiduciary for the Defined Benefit Retirement Plan?
2. Who will be the interim Finance Director, or who will handle the basic needs of the Finance Department?

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Green was tasked with following-up on these ideas and reporting back:

- Contact the following people and organizations to see if they would be interested in assisting with the basic needs of the department, or with any of the fiduciary duties associated with the retirement plan: Liseanne Currin and Rick Worden, both past Finance Directors for the County; Christa Wolfe, former Deputy Finance Director in Clackamas County; Milliman, the County's actuarial firm; Barnett & Moro, the County's auditors; as well as the availability of Ms. Knop for work on a contract basis.

#### Presentation to Morrow County and the Sheriff's Office by the Oregon Accreditation Alliance

Scott Hayes, Oregon Accreditation Alliance (OAA)  
 Sheriff Ken Matlack, Undersheriff John Bowles, Sarah Baker, Kristen Bowles, Erik Patton, Brian Snyder, Ivy Adams, Melissa Ross, David Sykes

Mr. Hayes presented the awards of accreditation for law enforcement and communication operations to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office. He said it was the first time he awarded both accreditations at the same time and the process normally takes two years, however, the Sheriff's Office staff accomplished it in one year. Discussion continued on the significance of the accreditations.

#### 2022 BOC Committee & Board Assignments

Discussion continued from a previous meeting on how to distinguish on the list between the different types of assignments. It will come back to a future meeting.

#### Building Project Updates

Darrell Green, Administrator

- Courthouse Improvements – Morrow County's request will be sent to the Association of Oregon Counties/Oregon Judicial Department's Joint Taskforce on Courthouse Improvements and the Taskforce's decisions should be known soon after the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Morrow County Government Center – heated sidewalks are done and the audio-visual equipment for the courtroom and large conference might be installed by mid-April. Final completion date is expected to be at the end of April.

#### **Department Reports**

- The Local Public Safety Coordinating Council Quarterly Report was provided by Jessica Rose, Coordinator
- The Administrator's Monthly Report was provided by Mr. Green
- The Sheriff's Office Monthly Report was provided by Melissa Ross, Administrative Lieutenant
- The written Finance Department Quarterly Report prepared by Ms. Knop was reviewed

#### **Correspondence**

- Email to members of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area from Todd Jarvis, Oregon State University's Institute for Water & Watersheds, that OSU received the contract for the post-doctoral scholar and advertising for a candidate will begin.

**Commissioner Reports**

Not provided this week

**11:00 a.m.:** Chair Doherty adjourned the regular meeting to go into Executive Session. He read the citation and said a decision was not anticipated.

**11:01 a.m.: Executive Session:** Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) – To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed

**11:20 a.m. Closed Executive Session:** No decisions

**Signing of documents**

**Adjourned:** 11:25 a.m.