

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**May 17, 2023**  
**Morrow County Government Center, Don Adams Conference Room**  
**Irrigon, Oregon**

**Present In-Person**

Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Roy Drago Jr., Roberta Vanderwall, Justin Nelson, Roberta Lutchter, Corey Sweeney, Kevin Ince, John Bowles, Brian Snyder, Jaylene Papineau

**Excused:** Commissioner Jeff Wenholtz

**Present Via Zoom**

SaBrina Bailey Cave, Mike Gorman, Bobbi Childers, Kelsey Crocker, Deona Hodges, Lindsay Grogan, Benjamin Tucker; and approximately 11 members of the public

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

**City & Citizen Comments:** None

**Open Agenda:** No items

**Consent Calendar**

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

- 1. Professional Services Agreement with Government Portfolio Advisors to Furnish Investment Advisory Services; effective February 1, 2023 to February 1, 2028*
- 2. Resolution No. R-2023-12: County Assessment Function Funding Assistance (CAFFA) Grant Application, revised to reflect final budget numbers*
- 3. Amendment 11 to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) #169524 for the Financing of Public Health Services*

*Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

**Business Items**

Second Reading & Adoption, Ordinance No. ORD-2023-4: Ratifying the Creation of a Broadband Public Improvement Consortium; and IGA with the Port of Morrow to Establish the Morrow County Broadband Network Consortium

Aaron Moss, Broadband Action Team

Mr. Moss said the hope was to have the first Broadband Consortium Board Meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>, adding the County needed to designate its two representatives on that Board.

County Counsel, Justin Nelson, said the Second Reading could take place by title only, if the Commissioners were agreeable. The Commissioners indicated their approval and he proceeded to read it by title. He noted the emergency clause was included, making it effective today.

*Commissioner Drago moved to adopt Ordinance No. ORD-2023-4: Ratifying the Creation of a Broadband Public Improvement Consortium known as the Morrow County Broadband Action Team, in accordance with ORS 190.085. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

*Commissioner Drago moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement to Establish the Morrow County Broadband Network Consortium. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

#### IGA for Sheriff's Services with the City of Heppner

Sheriff John Bowles

Sheriff Bowles explained there were two Sheriff's Office employees designated for police coverage in Heppner. The City purchases two vehicles every three years which then become the property of the City. If the contract were to end, he said, the two positions would go away.

*Commissioner Drago moved to approve the IGA for Sheriff's Services with the City of Heppner; effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024; at the rate of \$194,831.96. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

#### IGA for Sheriff's Services with the City of Irrigon

Sheriff Bowles

Sheriff Bowles said this IGA paid for one Sheriff's Office employee but the vehicle arrangement was different. According to the IGA, "The City shall receive the current vehicle (pickup), scheduled to rotate back to the City in the fall of 2022, will be returned to the City no later than August 2023." Sheriff Bowles added the position would not go away if the contract were to end.

*Commissioner Drago moved to approve the IGA for Sheriff's Services with the City of Irrigon; effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024; at the rate of \$105,000. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

#### State of Oregon Emerging Opportunity Program Grant Agreement, Project ##OF012, Lexington Airport

Sandi Pointer, Public Works

Ms. Pointer said the County was awarded \$296,000, with no matching requirement. The funds will be used to install power and fiber infrastructure to enable current and future private investment and growth, she said.

*Commissioner Drago moved to accept and sign the emerging Opportunity Program Grant Agreement, Project #EOF012 with the State of Oregon through its Oregon Business Development Department in the amount of \$196,000; Project Completion Deadline of September 30, 2023; and authorize Chair Sykes to sign on behalf of the County. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

#### Statement of Work, FLO Analytics

Roberta Vanderwall, Interim Administrator

Ms. Vanderwall said she signed the statement of work with FLO to prepare the data needed to identify the boundaries for the new Ambulance Service Area Plan. It was a contract not-to-exceed \$3,500, she said. No motion was needed as this was informational only, she said.

#### **Department Reports**

- The Weed Department Quarterly Report was reviewed by Corey Sweeney

#### **Business Items, continued**

##### Water Advisory Committee Appointment Requests

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott said she was asked at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> BOC Meeting to return with names for some of the positions on the committee. She said the main purpose of the committee was to work with her and the contracted consultant, GSI Water Solutions, to vet the briefing papers that will come to the Board of Commissioners.

*Commissioner Drago moved to appoint the additional members to the Water Advisory Committee (Note: Other/At-Large remained vacant):*

- 1. Livestock Operator/Owner: Kelly Doherty*
- 2. Water Advocacy/Interest Group: Nella Parks*
- 3. Rural Residential Resident: Debbie Radie*
- 4. Northeast Oregon Water Association: Replacing J.R. Cook with Gibb Evans*

*Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

#### Request to Sponsor Eastern Oregon Economic Summit

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott said the summit will take place August 3-4 on the Eastern Oregon University campus in La Grande. She requested the County sponsor at the \$2,500 level.

*Commissioner Drago moved to sponsor the Eastern Oregon Economic Summit in the amount of \$2,500. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

#### **Department Reports, continued**

- The Planning Department Monthly Report was reviewed by Ms. Mabbott

#### **Legislative Updates**

- Ms. Mabbott reviewed Senate Bill 1013: Requires counties to allow certain rural homeowners to site one recreational vehicle on their property.

#### **Department Reports, continued**

- The Treasurer's Monthly Report was reviewed by Jaylene Papineau
- The Accounts Payable Monthly Report was provided for informational purposes by Kevin Ince, Finance Director

**Commissioner Reports:** Brief reports were provided

**10:00 a.m.:** Chair Sykes recessed the meeting until after the 1:00 p.m. Executive Session. He said no action would occur following the Executive Session.

**1:00 p.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

**2:34 p.m.: Closed Executive Session**

**2:35 p.m.: Adjourned**