

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**August 8, 2018**  
**Irrigon City Hall, Council Chambers**  
**Irrigon, Oregon**

**Present**

Chair Don Russell  
Commissioner Jim Doherty  
Commissioner Melissa Lindsay  
Darrell Green, Administrator  
Kate Knop, Finance Director  
Justin Nelson, County Counsel  
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** 9:03 a.m.

**City and Citizen Comments:** Irrigon City Manager Aaron Palmquist encouraged the County to revisit the idea of improvements to the Heritage Trail. He also said good things will be happening in Irrigon over the course of the next three years.

**Open Agenda:** Commissioner Lindsay asked to move a letter in Correspondence from the Sixth Judicial District to Business Items.

**Consent Calendar**

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

1. *Accounts Payable dated August 9<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$46,497.02; Revised Total Amount for Accounts Payable dated August 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$255,669.30; Two Payroll Payables, Immediates & Electronic: dated July 31<sup>st</sup> in the amount of \$163,944.47; HRA dated August 1<sup>st</sup> in the amount of \$2,875*
2. *Minutes: July 25<sup>th</sup>*
3. *Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Advisory Committee appointments as follows:*
  - a) *Karen Pettigrew, term to be July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019*
  - b) *Aaron Palmquist, term to be July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020*
  - c) *Sheryll Bates, term to be July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020*
  - d) *Leann Rea, term to be July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021*
  - e) *Betty Gray, term to be July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021*

*Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Business Items**

Update from Crow Engineering on North County Building Plans

Matt Jones, Crow Engineering

The Commissioners reviewed Options 6 and 7 in an effort to determine a suitable building square footage amount, with the understanding the actual details and layouts come later in the process. Option 6 came in at 13,623 square feet, while Option 7 was 13,597. Both options also

allow for future expansion to the north of approximately 5,000-7,000 sf. After much discussion, Mr. Jones was asked to produce final representations of Option 6 showing it with and without the courtyard concept. Once a final representation is approved by the Board, a Request for Proposals will be issued for engineering services. The Commissioners determined the Justice Court space did not need to incorporate a 600 sf space for jury trials, which average less than one per year. They also decided to ask the public during their Town Hall Meetings for ideas as to what to do with that 600 sf – reallocate it, remove it from the building completely, etc. The Commissioners then discussed dates for the Town Hall Meetings at the end of August. Chair Russell said he will be away during some of the dates discussed but encouraged the other Commissioners to proceed in his absence.

#### Letter from the Sixth Judicial District

The subject line of the letter from Chris R. Brauer, Presiding Judge, and Roy N. Blaine, Trial Court Administrator is “Judicial Assignment Redistribution and Administrative Adjustments.” The letter states an executive committee was formed to “consider options for redistribution of case assignments among the judges and opportunities for staff training.” Commissioner Lindsay said during recent meetings she was assured Morrow County Circuit Court will not close early on Fridays, even though it will in Umatilla County. She was also told Morrow County will continue with the same judge rotation and that Judge Eva Temple will not be hearing more criminal cases from Morrow County, but will instead take on other duties within Umatilla County.

**Break:** 10:55 a.m.    **Resumed:** 11:04 a.m.

#### **Department Reports**

##### Planning Update

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Ms. McLane reviewed her report, which covered the Renewable Energy Work Sessions slated by the Planning Commission; activities of the newly hired part-time Outreach Coordinator; and a list of current work projects within the Planning Department.

##### Veterans Office Quarterly Report

Veterans Services Officer Linda Skendzel’s report was reviewed.

#### **Correspondence**

- Letter from Representative Greg Walden concerning his legislation which recently passed the House, House Resolution 6 – the Support for Patients and Communities Act
- Comment card from the presentation by the Board at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Meeting last week. The card was unsigned but said: “The building needs to be the biggest we can afford at this time. The number of people in the office will grow as the county grows. Will there be meetings in Irrigon and Boardman? Duplication of offices is necessary.” Commissioner Lindsay said she was handed one as well. It also was unsigned and said: “I am concerned about the duplication of so many offices that are

already in Heppner. I understand growth but the increase in the number of offices for the DA, Juvenile, Commissioners, Admin, etc., and with Planning increases, there seems to be a very large amount of growth potential.”

### **Commissioner Reports**

- Chair Russell offered the following as background - He and his daughter recently toured the Tillamook Cheese Factory with Rep. Walden, and while they were sampling products, the discussion turned to the need for better labeling of food products and pharmaceuticals. A few weeks later, Rep. Walden’s La Grande Field Representative, Tucker Billman, contacted him about the possibility of a meeting with Food and Drug Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb that would once again include his daughter. Chair Russell said she made the trip from Nevada to Bend for the meeting with Dr. Gottlieb, Rep. Walden, the head of research and development at Oregon Health Sciences University, and pharmaceutical representatives. He said it was a very good meeting and the group listened intently as his daughter made the pitch for better labelling. (Chair Russell added he attended this meeting at his own expense, not the County’s.)
- Commissioner Lindsay reported on the Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Group meeting, as well as a meeting with the County Surveyor to look at the maps of the former mill site in Heppner that likely contain floodplain overlay mistakes. She said meetings with other parties are planned on this subject. Commissioner Lindsay also informed the Board the Morrow County LPSCC (Local Public Safety Coordinating Council) Coordinator resigned.
- In reference to the upcoming retirement of Justice Court Judge Ann Spicer, Commissioner Doherty mentioned his wife, Kelly, met with the Judge and others to research what that position involves. He noted he does not know what the future holds for this position, but he’s made a deliberate effort to separate himself from being involved.

### **Signing of Documents**

**11:59 a.m. Executive Session:** Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) –To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection

**12:26 p.m. Closed Executive Session:** No decisions

**12:26 p.m. Executive Session:** Pursuant to ORS 192.600(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

**12:52 p.m. Closed Executive Session:** No decisions

**Adjourned:** 12:52 p.m.