

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Special Meeting
January 26, 2024
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon**

Present in-person:

Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Roy Drago, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Matthew Jensen, Kevin Ince

Present via Zoom: Doug Carl

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 9:00 am

Open Agenda: None

Business Items:

2024 Budget Transfer of Appropriations

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

Mr. Ince began by introducing the promissory note of \$192,000 to the Columbia Development Authority (CDA). The promissory note was addressed at the last Board of Commissioners meeting on January 17th, but it the amount required a transfer of appropriations from the operating contingency to the department 101 General Fund to pay the invoice from CDA.

Commissioner Wenholz provided some background information. He explained that the U.S. Army required \$1 million to transfer property to the CDA, and in 2014, the Port of Morrow offered to provide the funds in exchange for the 640 acres. However, later the CDA backed out of the agreement and the CDA would pay the \$1 million. The CDA got a promissory note from the Bank of Eastern Oregon (BEO) with a year to pay that money back.

Commissioner Wenholz moved to approve Resolution R-2024-2 authorizing transfer of appropriations as described.

Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous yes.

Commissioner Wenholz moved to authorize payment of the invoice dated December 18, 2023, from Columbia Development Authority in the amount of \$192,000.00.

Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Contract for Architectural Services for the Circuit Court Building

Matthew Jensen, Administrator

Mr. Jensen apologized for the lack of documents, and suggested discussing the topic, but tabling the contract to February 7, 2024.

Addressing Doug Carl from DLR Architecture Group, Chair Sykes acknowledged the Circuit Court Building project is not without controversy and asked if project managers can help prepare displays to present to those who are still questioning the project. Mr. Carl said they are engaged to help; however, the architect team would be who would provide schematics and designs to present before interested community groups or stakeholders.

Chair Sykes also asked if a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) will be required, and both Mr. Jensen and Mr. Carl confirmed that will be necessary. DLR Architectural Group will be responsible for putting the CUP together.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to table the discussion for February 7, 2024.

Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous yes.

Correspondence: None

Commissioner Reports:

Brief reports of Commissioner activity were provided.

Signing of Documents

Adjourned: 9:35 am