

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting
April 17, 2024
Don Adams Conference Room
Irrigon, Oregon

Present In-Person: Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Roy Drago Jr., Matthew Jensen, Valerie Ballard, Justin Nelson, Greg Goebel, Tamra Mabbott, Kevin Ince, Brian Snyder, Glen Diehl, Sue Gibbs, Christy Kenny, and four members of the public.

Present Via-Zoom: Sabrina Bailey-Cave, Lindsay Grogan, Morgan Browning, Sue Gibbs, Deona Siex, and approximately 20 members of the public.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 9:01 a.m.

Public Comment: In-person: none

Via Zoom, Nicole Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer of Morrow County Health District (MCHD) requested Mr. Jensen announce when the Request for Proposals (RFP) will go out and proposals will be accepted in his Administrator Report.

Administrator Report:

After the second reading of the Ambulance Service Area Plan Ordinance at today's public hearing, the ordinance will take effect in 90 days. The County has received confirmation of four of five city representatives for the ad hoc committee and is waiting for confirmation of Emergency Medical Services representation from outside the County. The committee will also include Matthew Jensen, County Administrator, Bob Blackmore, outside counsel, and the District Attorney, with announcement of the full committee once the ordinance has passed. The RFP is expected to go out around the first of May with the committee formation to follow.

Vincent Guerrero of Pasco has accepted the job offer for Assistant County Administrator. The official announcement will follow in the next two weeks and his anticipated start date is May 15th.

Mr. Jensen met with Public Works and Planning to discuss road access permits and there is nothing to report back on at this time.

At the St. Patrick's Festival last month, Mr. Jensen met local photographer Michelle Hull, who has a large portfolio of photos around Morrow County. We are working with Ms. Hull to choose a selection of photos to display in County buildings and will look for commissioner input on the photo selection.

Open Agenda: None

Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the following items:

1. Minutes: April 3, 2024
2. Contract ACP Level 3 Hot Mix Supplier
3. Contract for Application of Liquid Asphalt Emulsion
4. Contract for Rock Crushing Services
5. Rock Crushing Invoice, 4-H Equipment

6. IGA for STEM STEAM Education Programs

Commissioner Wenholz asked why a permit and County signature were required for the OLCC permit. Undersheriff Brian Snyder provided further information, explaining the County is not granting the permit, only acknowledging receipt of the application to which OLCC grants the permit after the proper steps have been followed.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to authorize the County Administrator to sign once the insurance and server information has been provided. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Land Use Hearing

Due to a scheduling conflict with a work session, Daisy Goebel, Principal Planner recommended delaying the hearing until the noticed start time of 1:30 p.m. and continuing the hearing for May 1.

Public Hearing

Second Reading of Ordinance ORD-2024-2 Repealing Ordinance MC-C-4-1998

This ordinance repeals the 1998 ordinance establishing the former Ambulance Service Area Plan (ASA) and reaffirms the County is responsible for the ASA, ASA Committee, and manages ambulance service providers. Language has been updated to include references to Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) and administrative rules. The ordinance establishes the ASA Advisory Committee and the hearing on April 3 amends language to include Lexington Fire Department.

During the public comment portion of the hearing held on April 3, two comments brought up interim providers and a five-hour response time for a call. After review, the response time to the site was less than 30 minutes to a rural area. A previous call to the same address took 45 minutes. There was an issue with a vehicle getting stuck in snow which took extra time to extract the vehicle. Medical assistance was available to the patient and neighbors provided help with a 4-wheeler. A second ambulance was mobilized to Heppner so there was no 5-hour gap in coverage. Interim services were well within expectations, and this was a good window of opportunity to consider OHV (Off Highway Vehicle) Park response. The County has met with the City of Heppner to develop an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to ensure assistance is provided when requested.

Commissioner Drago noted a typo on the agenda listing the ordinance as ORD-2024-3, not 2024-2. Justin Nelson, County Counsel advised that as the documents in the packet were correct, that the error on the agenda had no negative effect and to note in the minutes that the ordinance is in fact ORD-2024-2.

Chair Sykes asked for comment in favor of the ordinance, both in the room and zoom with no response. He then asked for comments in opposition with no response. Chair Sykes then asked for comments in general relating to the ordinance.

Jodi Ferguson of Lexington and MCHD asked why a MCHD ambulance was not paged during the rural call.

Aaron Palmquist, City Manager, Irrigon said since there is a 90-day statute in place he would like to keep the process moving.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the second reading of Ordinance ORD-2024-2 In the matter of enacting Morrow County's Ambulance Service Ordinance and Repealing MC-C-4-98

Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: unanimous approval.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the second reading Morrow County Ambulance Plan of 2024 as previously amended to include Lexington Fire District on the ASA Advisory Board. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve certification by County for Ambulance Plan effective Tuesday, July 16, 2024. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous Approval.

Business Items

City of Heppner Contract for Law Enforcement

Brian Snyder, Undersheriff

The contract for law enforcement services provides at least 80 hours of public safety coverage a week with the city covering approximately \$115k per deputy per year. The contract includes a second-year increase for cost of living with a minimum of 2% and maximum of 5%. The City will also pay for a patrol vehicle replacement in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the contract for law enforcement services for the City of Heppner. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and Blue Mountain Governments

David Sykes, Chair

Chair Sykes met with members of the Forest Service the previous week. The Forest Service is working on a new Forest Service Plan. At Chair Sykes' request, the Forest Service put together a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to cooperate with local counties, tribes and other agencies. Chair Sykes' suggestion is to have Administrator Jensen named as County's Administrative Contact and Commissioner Drago named as Program Contact for the County.

Commissioner Drago motioned to name Mr. Jensen as County Contact in the MOU.

Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to name Commissioner Drago as Morrow County Program Contact. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Discussion on Moving the Oregon/Idaho Border

Fulfilling the obligation mandated by voters of Morrow County, the Board is required to discuss the possibility of moving the Oregon border three times a year. Ignoring the obligation could result in civil fines and penalties.

Mike McCarter, president of Citizens to Move Oregon's Border explained that Morrow County, in addition to eleven other Oregon counties passed measures requiring their counties to discuss moving the Oregon border. He encouraged commissioners to put something together and send it to the Oregon Senate, saying rural Oregon needs are different than the needs of urban Oregon.

HB 4002 Granting County as a Fiscal Agent

Justin Nelson, District Attorney

HB 4002 repeals Measure 110 which decriminalizes possession of controlled substances. HB 4002 includes a deflection program which law enforcement can refer offenders to in lieu of arrest. The bill provides funding to counties to develop their deflection programs with Morrow County being eligible for \$150,000. Commissioner Drago, Sheriff Bowles, and Rick Stokoe and Kimberly Lindsay of Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) have met to discuss the deflection program and funding.

Commissioner Drago motioned to allow Morrow County to act as fiscal agent for the grant, contingent on staff review and approval of the application. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Fair Board Member Appointment

Sue Gibbs

The Fair Board currently has two vacancies and has received a letter of interest from Joselyn Piper to fill one position.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to appoint Joselyn Piper to the Morrow County Fair Board. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

- The Fair Office Quarterly report was presented by Sue Gibbs
- The Loop/Public Transit report was presented by Ben Tucker
- The Justice Court report was presented by Glen Diehl
- The Juvenile Department report was presented by Christy Kenny
- The Sheriff's Office report was presented by Brian Snyder
- The Planning Department report was presented by Tamra Mabbott
- The Treasurer's report was provided by Jaylene Papineau
- The Quarterly Investment report was provided by Jaylene Papineau
- The Emergency Management report was provided by Steve Freeland
- The Accounts Payable report was provided by Kevin Ince

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports of activity were provided.

Break: 11:23 a.m.

Resume: 11:33 a.m.

Executive Session:

Chair Sykes read the following Executive Session Citation: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e), which allows the Commission to meet in executive session to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:34 a.m.

1:02 p.m.: Closed Executive Session

1:02 p.m.: Open Session

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to direct staff and the development team to move forward and get cost analysis for the mill site, Boardman, and Fairgrounds. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Adjourned: 1:02 p.m.