

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
**May 15, 2024**  
**Don Adams Conference Room, Irrigon Government Center**  
**Irrigon, Oregon**

**Present In-Person:** Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Roy Drago Jr., Matthew Jensen, Valerie Ballard, Vincent Guerrero, Tamara Ewing, Kevin Ince, Justin Nelson, Kevin Ince, Daisy Goebel, Lindsay Grogan, Tamra Mabbott; non-staff: Karen Pettigrew, Richard Drake

**Present Via Zoom:** Sabrina Bailey-Cave, Bobbi Childers, Deona Siex, Jaylene Papineau, Mike Gorman, Stephen Wreccics Morgan Browning; non-staff: Aaron Palmquist, Danielle Hoeft, David Ledbetter, Erika Lasater, Jodi Ferguson, Kelly Doherty, Lisa Pratt, Tammie Warren

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

**Public Comment:** Karen Pettigrew voiced her support for the County Commissioners

**Administrator's Report**

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

The Request for Applications (RFA) for ambulance service provider(s) has gone out and notice was delivered to two interested parties in the area. Boardman Fire Rescue District's Chief Hughes met with Mr. Jensen and was very cognizant of expected crowds at County parks. Greg Close, Parks manager is an EMT intermediate and reported handing out two bandages over Mother's Day weekend. Secondary EMTs were brought on site as backup and the Heppner Ambulance was available.

Noting public questions regarding the recently published Emergency Medical Services (EMS) budget, Mr. Jensen explained it is an estimate for the cost of providers and was partially based off Morrow County Health District's base point cost to run services for the County. No public input was provided during the budget meetings held on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. There are plans to add a second ambulance in the south end of the County this summer. Since the Ambulance Service Area Plan (ASA) goes into effect July 17, permanent providers aren't expected until July. Invoices are often a couple of months behind, so the County hasn't yet seen costs, but staff is aware and expecting to see costs in June.

There will be two Town Hall meetings today regarding the Circuit Court Project and will include a presentation from the design team. The first Town Hall will be held at 1p.m. in the Don Adams Conference Room and the second meeting will be at 6 p.m. in Heppner in the Bartholomew Building. Public input will be welcome and encouraged. Information regarding the proposed locations is available online on the County website.

Mr. Jensen shared his appreciation of the Budget Committee. The budget meetings for fiscal year 2024-25 went well.

There have been some additional discussions on the nitrate well water issue. The County continues to combine efforts with the Port of Morrow, State of Oregon, and independent agencies. Mr. Jensen and Planning Director, Tamra Mabbott, met with the Chief Executive

Officer of Oregon Rural Alliance on how to approach different communities. The County wants to utilize state and federal funds in the best way possible. Touching base with people and not tripping over ourselves to solve the issue.

### **Open Agenda**

No Items

### **Consent Agenda**

*Commissioner Drago requested pulling Contract no. EOF012 Amendment 1 for further discussion.*

*Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the following items:*

- 1) Contract Paving Boardman Area Roads
- 2) Annual Order Authorizing County Treasurer to Invest Funds
- 3) Umatilla County Sheriff's Office Jail Bed Payment Authorization
- 4) Property Tax Refund – American Tower

*Commissioner Drago seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

#### Contract no. EOF012 Amendment 1

Commissioner Drago asked what happens if the project isn't completed in time. Sandi Pointer, Morrow County Public Works Administrative Manager, explained the fiber and electrical project was completed in September 2023, but money was leftover, and Business Oregon asked that they spend the rest of the funds. The extension to spend the money goes through December 31, 2024, and the projects should be completed in that time. The project extension includes two concrete pads for drones and other unmanned aircraft systems.

*Commissioner Drago motioned to approve the amendment to contract EOF012. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

### **Public Hearing**

#### Second Reading of ORD-2024-05 to Adopt a Goal 3 Exception for a 753 Acre Solar Farm

Daisy Goebel

Justin Nelson, County Counsel clarified that while this is labeled as a public hearing, this is the second reading of the ordinance after the public hearing. The Board can take action after the second reading of the title without additional public testimony.

*Commissioner Wenholz recused himself from the discussion and vote as Umatilla Electric Coop (UEC) is named as service provider and he is a member of the Board of Directors for UEC.*

*Commissioner Drago motioned to approve the application, adopt the findings as presented, and adopt ordinance no. ORD-2-24-05. Chair Sykes seconded the motion. Vote: 2 yes, 1 recused.*

### **Business Items**

#### Introduction of the new Assistant County Administrator and Finance Manager

Matthew Jensen and Kevin Ince, Finance Director

Mr. Jensen introduced Vinent Guerrero who will serve as Assistant County Administrator (ACA). The ACA is a new department head level position. Mr. Guererro will oversee the fair, tourism, public works, veterans' services, and will help with special projects and act as backup when Mr. Jensen is out of office. Mr. Guerrero previously worked in the recreation department of the City of Pasco and has experience with coordinating large events.

Kevin Ince, Finance Director introduced Tamara Ewing who started on Monday as Finance Manager. Ms. Ewing will relieve Mr. Ince of day-to-day activities with a special emphasis on grant compliance. She comes to Morrow County after working with Lincoln County as Assistant Finance Director for Health and Human Services.

Ms. Ewing and Mr. Guerrero bring over 20 years of municipal experience and the County is excited to have them here.

#### Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System Update

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

The County has been working on the selection process for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. BerryDunn, the consulting firm contracted to manage the process has surveyed County employees across departments to define what is needed with the ERP system.

Tammie Warren and David Ledbetter of BerryDunn joined via zoom to give a brief presentation on the process and current status of the project. The project is designed around five tasks: project management, Request for Information (RFI) creation, RFI issuance, system selection, and contract negotiation. One challenge BerryDunn found is staff identified 40 different software applications used to conduct day-to-day business and a program is needed that will replace and consolidate programs. Goals include workflow, improving communication, and centralizing document management.

Options for ERP systems range from cloud-based systems to installing programs on onsite servers. There are pros and cons to both and it's a matter of finding the best solution to fit the County's needs. IT is involved in the selection process and their involvement could change depending on what kind of system is chosen.

#### Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Request for Amendment 2

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

*Commissioner Wenholz declared a potential conflict of interest. UEC isn't a partner, but there is the potential that UEC may eventually use the project.*

The B2H project is permitted and approved by the State of Oregon. Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, said relocation of some alignments makes sense. A noted change to the site plan includes increasing the micro-siting corridor width from 200 feet to 1.2 miles. Staff are unsure of landowner involvement and whether they were consulted regarding this change, but that is to be reviewed by the Energy Facilities Siting Council (EFSC) and effected landowners can go to the EFSC meeting May 30 to ask questions and provide input.

*Commissioner Drago motioned to approve and sign the letter. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

#### R-2024-9 Transit Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Reasonable Modification Policy

Ben Tucker, Transit Manager

In order for Public Transportation to receive Special Transportation Funds (STF) from the State and federal government, a policy for reasonable medication requests must be enacted and easily available to the public. The Policy provided in the packet needs to be adopted by the governing body (the Board of Commissioners) and submitted to Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

*Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve and adopt Resolution R-2024-9. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

#### R-2024-10 Drug and Alcohol Policy

Ben Tucker, Transit Manager

Another policy which must be in place in order to receive STF support, a drug and alcohol policy must be in place for employees and drivers. In June, a new method was added for approved testing and the new policy reflects that update. To stay within compliance for federal and state funding, the new policy must be adopted by the Board.

*Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve R-2024-10 to update the drug and alcohol policy. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

#### **Department Report**

The Planning Department Monthly Report was presented by Ms. Mabbott

The Veteran's Services Report was provided by Stephanie Case

The Assessment & Taxation Report was presented by Mike Gorman

The Sheriff's Office Report was provided by Melissa Camarillo

The Weed Report was presented by Corey Sweeney

The Treasurer Report was provided by Jaylene Papineau

#### **Correspondence**

Sherman County sent a letter thanking Monte McGuire for donating his time and materials to make metal signs for Sherman County 4-H goat club members and the Future Farmers of America (FFA) goat club.

#### **Commissioner Reports**

Brief reports on Commissioner activity were provided.

**Recess** 10:45 a.m.-10:50 a.m.

#### **Executive Session**

ORS 191.660(2)(D) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

ORS 192-660(2)(e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

**Resume from Executive Session**

**Adjourn 12:10 p.m.**