

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting
July 3, 2024
Bartholomew Building
Heppner, Oregon 97836

Present In-Person: Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Roy Drago Jr., Matthew Jensen, Valerie Ballard, Gregory Goebel, Justin Nelson, Tamra Mabbott, Lindsay Grogan; Non-staff: Greg Sweek, Mike Hughes, Lisa Pratt, Jodie Ferguson, Nicole Mahoney, Emily Roberts, Kelly Doherty, Tess Ann Rehak

Present Via Zoom: Sabrina Bailey-Cave, Morgan Browning; Non-staff: Aaron Palmquist, Alex Jones, Andrea Fletcher, Autumn Morgan, Bob Blackmore, Emily Colins, Erika Lasater, Jesse Reynen, Josie Foster, Judith Hall, Julie Baker, Larissa Gray, Levi Renfrew, Marty Broadbent, Natalie Wright, Rick Stokoe, Sara Bayless

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment:

Kelly Doherty, Boardman, presented two grievances for public record questioning compliance with the Request for Proposals (RFP) regarding ambulance services and how the Ambulance Service Area (ASA) selection committee was organized.

Administrator's Report

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator, took a moment to note that one year ago today he interviewed for the position of County Administrator, and he appreciates the opportunity.

Providing an update on the Circuit Courthouse Project, Mr. Jensen said environmental samples have been taken at the Kinzua Mill site and the geotechnical review will begin July 9. It is estimated that both reports to see if Kinzua is a feasible construction location will be available by July 23, within the three month timeline.

Open Agenda

No items

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the following items:

1. Minutes, June 18, 2024 Regular Meeting
2. Amendment a to IGA #14832 Expunction of Juvenile Records
3. Out of State Travel Request: Western Planners Conference
4. Granite Construction Payment Authorization

Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Ambulance Provider Selection and Recommendation for Notice of Award

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

As the County worked on a new ASA, negotiations failed with the previous ambulance service provider, with that provider ceasing service as of March 12, 2024. Interim service was put in

place and the new Ambulance Service Plan (ASP) was adopted April 17, 2024 with an implementation date of July 17, 2024.

The new ASP reestablishes the County as the authority over the service area and plan as well as reestablishing the three service areas within the County, allowing for the possibility of multiple providers. The ASP establishes an independent ASA advisory committee and updates technical requirements meeting Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) standards.

The ASA Advisory Committee consisted of a representative appointed by each of the five cities (Emily Jack of Heppner, Sheilla Miller of Lexington, Jerry Reitmann of Ione, Brenda Proffitt of Boardman, and Michelle Patton of Irrigon), an EMS professional from a neighboring county (Dave Anderson from North Gilliam County Rural Fire Protection District), with Mr. Jensen and outside legal counsel, Bob Blackmore rounding out the committee. Each committee member reviewed the applications and provided scores as part of the evaluation process.

Applications were submitted by Morrow County Health District (MCHD) and Boardman Fire Rescue District (BFRD). After review of the applications and scoring, MCHD scored 48.624 for the Northern ASA while BFRD scored 70.25. For the Southern ASA, MCHD scored 66.24 with BFRD scoring 45.375, and for the Northeast ASA, MCHD received a score of 61 and BFRD 62.125. It was the recommendation of the committee to award the Northern ASA to BFRD and award the Southern and Northeast ASAs to MCHD.

Commissioner Wenholz noted the MCHD application included a required Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the County, MCHD, and the five cities in the County. Commissioner Wenholz' concern was the IGA length being 20 years when the ambulance service contract is for five years, and the requirement of cities to stay within MCHD's territory. He said he didn't see how the IGA terms were enforceable, and it enters third parties into something that has nothing to do with ambulance service.

Commissioner Drago said he doesn't have a problem with the IGA, but the County will need to work with legal counsel to make sure laws are followed and everything is done correctly.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to direct staff to consult with legal on the IGA and concerns expressed by the Board. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous agreement

Break 9:55 a.m.

Resume 10:07 a.m.

EOC Grant to ODOE

This item was postponed for a future meeting

Department Reports

The District Attorney's report was presented by Justin Nelson

The Human Resources report was presented by Lindsay Grogan
The Public Health report was presented by Robin Canaday
The Public Works report was provided by Eric Imes

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports on commissioner activity were provided.

Adjourn 10:44 a.m.