

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, June 18, 2024
Don Adams Conference Room
Irrigon, Oregon

Present In-Person: Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Roy Drago Jr., Matthew Jensen, Valerie Ballard, Kevin Ince, Gina Wilson, Greg Close, Vince Guerrero, Brian Snyder, Steve Freeland, John Bowles, Tamra Mabbott

Present Via Zoom:

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

Public Comment No Comments

Administrator's Report

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

The geotechnical review of the Kinzua Mill site for the Circuit Courthouse has been approved and testing will occur in the next week or two. Once testing has been completed, results will be available 5-7 weeks later.

Other updates:

The committee for selecting ambulance service providers had two meetings in one week and applicant interviews are scheduled for Friday, June 21.

After today's meeting, commissioners will review photos of Morrow County taken by local photographer, Michelle Hull, to place around administrative buildings.

The Sheriff's Office will provide an update on the search and rescue mission that occurred over the weekend to find a missing child.

Open Agenda

No items

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the following items

1. *Minutes: May 15, 2024 Town Halls 1pm and 6pm; June 5, 2024*

Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Public Hearing

Supplemental Budget Hearing

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

Chair Sykes opened the public hearing to consider approval of the 2024 supplemental budget adjusting appropriations for fiscal year 2024.

Kevin Ince, Finance Director, said a public notice was published in the Heppner Gazette-Times for the supplemental budget hearing. This affects the budget for fiscal year 2024, with primary changes being moving property and liability insurances from non-departmental to the

corresponding departments, increases in landfill related fees due to the 37.5% customer rate increase, and the household hazardous waste event was much larger than anticipated. The last large adjustment is impacts to the Resiliency Fund with grants and interim ambulance service costs from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds which were not anticipated in the budget.

Chair Sykes opened the hearing for public testimony, asking for comments for, against, or neutral, both in the room and online and no speakers came forward.

Commissioner Drago motioned to approve R-2024-13 Supplemental Budget Adjusting fiscal year 2024. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Search and Rescue Update

Sheriff John Bowles and Steve Freeland, Emergency Manager

On June 8th, the Morrow County Sheriff's Office Received a report that a 2.5 year old male was missing. By the time the report came in, the child had been missing for over an hour, making the search more challenging with his head start. An incident command center was set up near the hospital and Emergency Manager, Steve Freeland, promptly coordinated resource requests. There was strong volunteer turn-out to canvas the area, searching by foot, using 4-wheelers, dogs, infrared cameras, and a helicopter with spotlights. The child, having traveled over one mile on foot and exceeding the search grid, was found the next morning by a volunteer. He had a couple of scrapes, but no major injuries or concerns arose.

Nineteen agencies were involved in the rescue with Mr. Freeland saying he appreciated Umatilla County's readiness to help as the night progressed, and the U.S. Coastguard being on standby to search by air.

Community Corrections IGA #6543 Amendment 1

Gina Wilson

With HB 5204, Oregon received \$16 million to distribute around the state. Morrow County received 15% due to Measure 110 reform.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve and sign Amendment 1 for IGA #6543 between Morrow County and Oregon Department of Corrections.

Pinegate Renewables Application for Site Certification

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Commissioner Wenholz recused himself from the discussion and vote as he is on the Board of Directors with Umatilla Electric Coop (UEC). While there is no current contract between Pinegate and UEC, there could be in the future, resulting in a conflict of interest.

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, explained that if approved, this will be the largest solar project in the country. The site cover 10,000 acres with 9,442 acres covered by solar arrays, 55 miles of new access roads, 9.5 miles of 230 kV transmission lines, 86 miles of 34.5 kV collector lines, 270 acres of temporary construction, approximately 36.8-127.6 acres of battery storage,

up to 58 miles of 7-8-foot-tall perimeter fencing, and four operations and maintenance buildings.

Housing impacts include ten permanent employees and 473 temporary construction workers and there is no guaranteed housing to mitigate this impact. The State lacks a cumulative impact standard, and the letter requests an ad hoc committee to improve regional housing be formed.

Other recommendations made in the letter include the applicant developing a fire prevention and mitigation plan approved by the County Emergency Manager. The applicant has a Road Use Agreement with Public Works and it's requested to be a condition of approval. The County also recommends including a condition that requires a noxious weed plan be reviewed and approved by the County Weed Supervisor.

Commissioner Drago motioned to approve and sign the attached letter. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: 2 yes, 1 recused.

Letter of Support for Town of Lexington

The Town of Lexington is applying for a grant through Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) Transportation & Growth Management Program. Grant funding will be used to hire consultants to develop a comprehensive plan for town development. The Board of Commissioners is asked to sign this letter of support.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to sign the letter of support. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

The IGA between the County and the OSU Extension Office expires the end of June. The extension office provides services which the County could provide, but many counties choose to collaborate with OSU. The duration of the agreement would be ten years, with a financial commitment of about \$200,000 a year with future expenditures required to go through the County's budgetary process.

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

Department Reports

The Parole and Probation semi-annual report was presented by Gina Wilson

The Sheriff's Office report was presented by Brian Snyder

The Planning Department report was presented by Tamra Mabbott

The Treasurer's Monthly report was provided by Jaylene Papineau

The Accounts Payable report was provided by Kevin Ince

Correspondence

None

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports of Commissioner activity were provided

Adjourned

10:57 a.m.