

**Board of Commissioners Meeting
August 21, 2024
Irrigon Government Center
Irrigon, Oregon**

Present In-Person Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Roy Drago Jr., Matthew Jensen, Valerie Ballard, Justin V. Nelson, Brian Snyder, Daisy Goebel, Tamra Mabbott, cory sweeney; Non-Staff: Paul Martin, Tess Ann Rehak, Doug Earl

Present Via Zoom Mike Gorman, Amanda Kendrick, Vincent Guerrero, Bobbi Childers, Deona Siex; non-staff Jodi Ferguson, Autumn Morgan, Aaron Palmquist, Heppner Gazette Times, Lisa Pratt, Brenda profit, David Richards

Call to Order 9:00

Public Comment No Item

Open Agenda

Consent Agenda

*Commissioner Wenholz asked to take item B of the consent agenda to discuss separately
Commissioner Drago motioned to approve the following items on the consent agenda*

1) Minutes: August 7, 2024

Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous Approval

On Call Contract – Traffic Engineer Consultant, Lancaster Mobley

Commissioner Wenholz noted that dates in the contract don't align with the fiscal year and requested the dates be adjusted.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to authorize Chair Sykes to sign the On Call Contract after the effective dates have been changed. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Adopt Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

It is required to update the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years to continue to receive disaster relief funds. The grant is provided through the State Agency of Land

Conservation and Development. Included in the plan is an addendum for cities to adopt.

Commissioners noted some errors in the document as well as language they would like cleaned up before giving their approval. It was decided that staff would revise the mitigation document and bring it back before the board for approval.

Consideration of Nomination for Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Advisory Committee

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

Per the Ambulance Service Plan (ASP), the ASA Advisory Committee (Committee) needs to be finalized. Committee is responsible for monitoring reports from providers on a quarterly basis

at minimum, look into issues and conflicts, and provide responses reports. Oregon Health

Authority (OHA) has asked County to review response times and shorten response times in the more densely populated areas. The Committee will consist of two representatives from County

with the Public Health Director as chair and a 911 dispatcher to be selected by the Sheriff's

recommendation. Other members include George Apostolopoulos, representing Boardman Fire Rescue District; Paul Martin, from Pioneer Memorial Hospital; Judy Gabriel, from Good Shephard Hospital; Thomas Roberts of Irrigon, Tamara Beardsley of Boardman, Eric Chick of Heppner, Adam McCabe of Lone, and Josie Miles of Lexington. At this time, no one has been selected from Morrow County Health District (MCHD) due to finalizing the service agreement. The goal for the Committee is to have unbiased opinions when reviewing services. Representation was formerly based on two-year terms and appointees will now vary from one to two years in duration. Membership is voluntary and committee members will not be compensated.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to authorize the formation of the ASA Advisory Committee as discussed with specific approval of the representatives from the five fire districts as outlined in the report. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Consideration of ASA Assignment to MCHD for Northeast and Southern ASAs

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

Negotiations have continued for the Northeast and Southern ASAs. The agreement is close to being finalized and MCHD is meeting tonight to possibly approve of the agreement. If MCHD agrees to the terms of the agreement, County may need a short special session to finalize the agreement.

Update and Consideration for Circuit Court

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

The geotechnical report and environmental study at the proposed Circuit Courthouse location at the Kinzua Mill Site have been submitted to the County. It was found that there varying depths of fill material up to ten feet deep which would require further study and remediation if that location was selected. Additional testing would be necessary with a cost of approximately \$20,000 and the estimated cost for remediation is \$1.5 million but could be higher.

Commissioner Drago said he was highly concerned with continuing with the Kinzua Mill Site and Commissioner Wenholz agreed, anticipating more problems will arise.

6th District Circuit Court Judge Hon. Dan Hill provided an opinion letter suggesting Morrow County follow Umatilla County's approach, in their case with an annex in Hermiston and retaining a courthouse in the County Seat. In Morrow County's case, the annex could be placed in Boardman and the historic courthouse in Heppner would be used at the District Attorney's discretion.

It is unclear if funding from the State would allow for construction of an annex, rather than a new courthouse and will be looked into. A work session will be scheduled for next week to hear Judge Hill's concerns and comments about possible locations. Chair Sykes is of the opinion that the Fairgrounds is the best location for the courthouse and Commissioner Wenholz agreed.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to hold a Work Session to meet with Judge Dan Hill to hear what his ideas are for a North annex. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: two for, one against.

Award Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) Funds to Morrow County Sheriff's Office

Brian Snyder

Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) was awarded \$100,000 in CREZ funds which MCSO would like to use to build a fire-arms range and replace two 4-wheelers and a trailer.

There is a County-owned abandoned rock pit off Juniper Road which would need to be cleared out and leveled, but already has features which would suit it well to be a firing range. It's a mid-way point in the County; saving MCSO employees travel time as they currently practice in Arlington. The Firing range would preferably be closed to the public due to liability reasons, but Undersheriff Snyder thought other law enforcement agencies could utilize the range. Bids have not gone out, but the estimate is \$65,000 to complete the work.

MCSO would like to use the remainder of the funds for two new search and rescue vehicles and a new trailer, trading in old vehicles which lack power and torque to cover the rest of the funds needed.

Commissioner Drago stated many residents of Morrow County have expressed the need for a local, legal firing range and asked if it would be open to the public. Due to liability issues, Undersheriff Snyder recommends not opening the firing range to the public, but other law enforcement agencies could potentially use it. Logistically opening to the public would be difficult between staffing, insurance, and liability issues. Commissioner Drago then suggested MCSO work with the City of Boardman and Boardman Police Department to explore the possibility of working together for a firing range that the public could also use.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the Morrow County Sheriff's Office spending \$30,000 for new search and rescue vehicles. Commissioner Drago seconded. Motion: Unanimous approval

Commissioner Wenholz moved to authorize staff to look into the costs of a shooting range. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve Resolution R-2024-17. Commissioner Drago seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Comments on Pinegate Renewables Solar Project Draft Proposed Order

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director; Daisy Goebel, Principal Planner

Commissioner Wenholz recused himself from the discussion and vote as he is a member of the Board of Directors for Umatilla Electric Coop

The Sunstone Solar Facility (Sunstone) is a project requested by Pinegate Renewables, LLC and has a hearing before the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) on August 22, 2024. The Board of Commissioners has previously submitted letters two other times, and this is the third. Previous letters have addressed weed mitigation, traffic impacts, fire prevention and mitigation, housing impacts, and Goal 3 Agricultural Exception.

Commissioner Drago motioned to approve the letter to submit to EFSC. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: 2 yes, one recused.

Mental Health and Addiction Services Contract – Sole Source

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) has been providing mental health and addiction services on behalf of Morrow County for many years. County has an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the state to receive money for mental health services, and then contracts with CCS for those services. The current contract with CCS expired in June 2023 and staff are requesting Commissioner approve contracting with CCS for continued service. This is sole-source procurement, and notice will be posted to allow for protest through September 3.

Commissioner Drago motioned to adopt the findings of fact and analysis in the August 16, 2024 Sole Source Memo from County Counsel and authorize a sole source procurement contract with Community Counseling Solutions. County staff are directed to post public notice as required by the Oregon Revised Statutes and present a proposed contract for consideration by the Morrow County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Wenholtz seconded. Vote: Unanimous Approval.

Department Reports

The Sheriff's Office monthly report was presented by Brian Snyder

The Weed Department quarterly report was presented by Corey Sweeney

The Planning Department monthly report was presented by Tamra Mabbott

The Treasurer's monthly report was provided by Jaylene Papineau

The Accounts Payable monthly report was provided by Kevin Ince

Break 11:49-11:58 a.m.

Department Reports

Brief reports on Commissioner activities were provided

Adjourn 12:08 p.m.