

Board of Commissioners Meeting
February 19, 2025
Don Adams Conference Room, Irrigon Government Center
Irrigon, Oregon

Present In Person Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Matthew Jensen, Valerie Ballard, Justin Nelson, Kevin Ince, Brian Snyder, Nathan Braun, Tamra Mabbott, Clint Shoemake, Jim Bagley

Present Via Zoom Commissioner Gus Peterson, Vince Guerrero, Jaylene Papineau, Tami Ewing, Amanda Kenderick, Robin Canaday, Lindsay Grogan, Eric Imes, Sabrina Bailey-Cave; Non-staff: Frank McDonald, Autumn Morgan, Aaron Palmquist, Brett Mueller, Ryan Hill, Erika Morton, Brena Proffitt, Andrea Di Salvo

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:18 a.m.

Public Comment

No Comment

Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator, requested striking 9a (executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) from the agenda and rescheduling 4g (Accounts Payable Report).

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to remove 4g and 9a from the agenda and approve the rest.

Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Department Reports

The Planning Department monthly report was presented by Tamra Mabbott. Ms. Mabbott took the time to introduce new members of the Planning Department, Clint Shoemake and Jim Bagley.

The Sheriff Office's report was presented by Brian Snyder

The Weed Department quarterly report was submitted by Corey Sweeney

The Veterans Services report was presented by Amanda Kenderick

There were technical problems with the submittal of the Treasurer's monthly report, and it was not included in the packet prior to the meeting. The report was distributed to Commissioners and will be made available within the meeting minutes.

The Treasurer's quarterly investment report was submitted by Jaylene Papineau

The Accounts Payable report was rescheduled for March 5.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the consent agenda as written.

- a) Minutes: December 4, 2024; January 22, 2025
- b) Invoice Approval: Rock Crushing for November, December, and January

- c) Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistant Grant Program Application
- d) Resolution R-2025-01 Creating an Agency Fund for the Clean Water Consortium

Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Business Items

Wagon Trail Energy Center PILOT Agreement

Ryan Hill, NextEra Energy Resources

Commissioner Wenholz recused himself declaring a conflict of interest as a board member for Umatilla Electric Coop who provides service to NextEra

This Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement is modeled off existing PILOT agreements within Morrow County and a product of collaboration with Public Works Director, Eric Imes; Assessor, Mike Gorman; and Weed Program Manager, Corey Sweeney to supply the Weed Department with separate payment to be used for weed mitigation.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve and sign the Wagon Trail Energy Center PILOT Agreement. Vote: 2 aye, one recused. Motion carried.

Morrow County Public Transit Service Changes

Steven Davis, Transit Manager; Pat Keeley, Transit Supervisor

The proposed changes to the fixed route service due to a loss in funding have been approved by the Public Transit Advisory Committee. The route changes take the current two routes and create three to better serve the community as a whole. Within the routes, there is also an allowed ¼ mile deviation for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve Morrow County Public Transit service changes as presented. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Legislative Updates

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

House Bill (HB) 2725 Relating to the inclusion of ports in strategic investment program agreements, limits the kind of port districts that are required to be involved in strategic investment program agreements with respect to eligible projects that are located in the port district's territory. Morrow County has asked for support from Port of Morrow opposing HB2725 in hopes to revert to pre HB2009 language (from 2023). Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) President, John Shafer has asked Mr. Jensen to create a report on the legislation in case further messaging is needed.

AOC is asking for help opposing HB2944, allowing labor unions' ability to file civil action against governing bodies if the governing body doesn't provide information in a timely basis.

While not exactly applicable to the County, HB2950 relates to land use planning goals would require the Land Use Conservation and Development C (LCDC) to update statewide land use planning goal relating to "citizen involvement" by rule by June 30, 2027.

HB3369 would authorize the State Treasurer to issue bonds to pay to expand courthouses which are satisfactory and in service but would benefit from expansion and remodeling.

Several requests for letters of support on Congressionally Directed Spending were submitted after the agenda deadline for this meeting. A Special Session over Zoom was scheduled for Friday, February 21 to review the letters of support.

Correspondence

No correspondence

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Wenholtz attended a Community Renewables Energy Association (CREA) meeting where Umatilla County did a presentation on HB2410 which would allow the Energy Facility Siting Council to issue a site certificate for a small modular reactor energy facility demonstration project in Umatilla County. A presentation for Morrow County Commissioners is planned for March 19 and the Board is asked to consider signing letters of support of the measure.

Oregon Representative Cliff Bentz will be hosting a Town Hall on February 20 and will be preceded by a meeting with local government officials and representatives.

Recess

10:58 a.m.

Resume

11:02 a.m.

Executive Session

The Morrow County Board of Commissioners met in executive session 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.

Return to Open Session

11: 34 a.m. No action was taken by the Board.

Adjourn

11:35 p.m.