

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting
January 22, 2025
Don Adams Conference Room, Irrigon Government Center
Irrigon, Oregon

Present In Person Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Gus Peterson, Matthew Jensen, Valerie Ballard, Kevin Ince, Steve Davis, Patrick Keely, Brian Snyder; Non-staff: Mike Hughes, Lisa Pratt, Tess Rehak, Earl Eastman

Present Via Zoom Sabrina Bailey-Cave, Amanda Kendrick, Christy Kenny, Mike Gorman, Robin Canaday, Tami Ewing, Justin Nelson; Non-staff: Natalia Wight, Marty Broadbent, John Murray, Brenda Profitt, Berit Thorson, Autumn Morgan, Austin Gutierrez, Andrea Di Salvo

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance 9:10 a.m.

Public Comment

Mike Hughes, Boardman Fire Rescue Chief, said he would like to comment and answer questions when the City of Irrigon request is addressed,

Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Peterson motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

- a. Minutes: January 8, 2025
- b. Appoint Members to the Morrow County Property Value Appeals Board
- c. Payment Authorization: STEM/STEAM Payment to Schools
- d. Payment Authorization: Morrow County Health District Ambulance Services

Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Public Hearing

Morrow County Public Transit: Supplemental Budget for FY 2025

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

Chair Sykes opened the Public Hearing for Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) Kevin Ince, Finance Director, provided the staff report. The supplemental budget is for the purchase of equipment and technology for Public Transportation operations. The transfer of appropriations from the operations contingency under local budget law usually doesn't require a budget hearing, but this requires a hearing as it involves a new appropriation.

Chair Sykes opened the hearing to public testimony to which there was none.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to adopt the supplemental budget as presented in Resolution R-2025-01 and make supplemental appropriations as reflected therein. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Selection of CM/GC for Courthouse Project

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

To help confine costs, a Construction Manager/General Contractor role is suggested for the Circuit Courthouse project. The selection team comprised of three members of County staff: Matthew Jensen, County Administrator; Vince Guererro, Assistant County Administrator; and Eric Imes, Public Works Director. Kelli Stewart of DLR Group and Earl Eastman of Alliance Management rounded out the group.

The Request for Proposals (RF) was posted on December 9 with Bouten Construction, Kirby Nagelhout Construction, and Chervenell Construction being the three highest scoring respondents.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the intent to award the CM/GC contract to Bouten Construction and direct staff to enter into contract negotiations. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Set Long Range Capital Improvement Plan Work Session

David Sykes, Commission Chair

A Work Session to identify priorities for Long Range Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was scheduled for February 19, in Irrigon.

Irrigon City Manager Request

Gus Peterson, Commissioner

A letter from Irrigon City Manager, Aaron Palmquist, was submitted as correspondence the Board of Commissioners as part of the January 8 meeting and it is brought before the Board today for discussion. Of the requested action items, The CREZ IGA Areas of Influence, annexation of CDA properties, and roadway development were deemed outside of County purview at this time.

The portion of the 640 acres used for water sourcing falls under Port of Morrow. It could however be beneficial to the City of Irrigon, and it may be something the Clean Water Consortium could address.

Update on Supplemental Environmental Project West Glenn

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

Morrow County submitted a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) application to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) allowing County to utilize over \$581,000 of fines paid by Port of Morrow for discharge violations. The application was denied by DEQ after which Port and County officials met to discuss other options.

It is presumed but not confirmed that the SEP monies will be awarded to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Morrow County will potentially have access to those funds through OHA.

Legislative Update – 2025 Bills Impacting Economic Development and SIP

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

Two bills have been presented for the 2025 legislative session, HB 2377 and HB 2725, both of which impact Strategic Investment Program (SIP) relating to HB 2009 from the 2023 session which included ports in consideration of all SIPs.

There is a meeting at the request Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) legislative consultants on January 27 with port representatives, City of Hillsboro, and others. Mr. Jensen will be attending the meeting and sought Board representation at the meeting. Commissioner Peterson said he would like to attend.

February 10 is AOC Legislative Day in Salem. State legislators will be attending, and the Board is invited to attend without the concern of quorum due to the meeting being hosted by AOC and not as a public forum.

Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee Claim Distributions

Valerie Ballard, Executive Assistant

The Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee received claims from five applicants from livestock producers for the 2024 grant. The committee recommends awarding \$5,000 to Lightning Bolt Cattle Co and \$1,000 each to Brian Thompson, John Qualls, and Proudfoot Ranches.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to distribute compensation funds in the amounts recommended by the Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

The Juvenile Department report was presented by Christy Kenny

The Emergency Management report was presented Steve Freeland

The Public Transportation report was rescheduled for February 5 as the new Transit Manager is still getting acclimated in his role. Steve Davis, Transit Manager, introduced himself to the Board.

The Justice Court report was presented by Glen Diehl

The Planning Department report was presented by Tamra Mabbott and Kaitlyn Kennedy

The Sheriff's Office report was presented by Brian Snyder

Recess

11:36 a.m.

Resume

11:42 a.m.

Correspondence None

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports on Commissioner activity were provided.

Executive Session

11:53 a.m.

The Morrow County Board of Commissioners met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d), which allows the Commission to meet in executive session **to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.**

Return to Open Session

12:19 p.m.

No action was taken.

Adjourn

12:20 p.m.