

Board of Commissioners Meeting
June 4, 2025
Upper Conference Room, Bartholomew Building
Heppner, Oregon

Present In Person Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Gus Peterson, Valerie Ballard, Matthew Jensen, Eric Imes, Kevin Ince, Vince Guerrero, Kristin Bowles, Doug Carl, Brian Snyder, John Bowles, Lindsay Grogan

Present Via Zoom Robin Canaday, Mindy Wilson, Sandi Pointer, Karen Pettigrew, Yvonne Morter, Rose Kylo, Tamra Mabbott, Lindsay Grogan, Mike Gorman, Erin Anderson, Kirsti Carson; non-staff: Scott Hayes, Lori Coppenrath, Brenda Proffitt, Jessica Rose, Austin Gutierrez, Griffin Beach, Kelli Stewart, Torrie Griggs

Call to Order

9:00 a.m.

Public Comment

None

Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

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

Department Reports

The Public Works report was presented by Eric Imes

The Local Public Safety Coordinating Council report was presented by Jessica Rose

The Finance report was provided by Kevin Ince

The Administrator report was presented by Matthew Jensen

Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes: May 7, 2025
- b. Treasurer's Annual Authorization to Invest Funds
- c. Level 3 Hot Mix Asphalt Contract Awarding
- d. Irrigon County Roads Paving Project Intent to Award
- e. Parks – OHV Operations Maintenance ATV Grant Agreement
- f. Seventeenth Amendment to IGA Financing of Public Health

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

Business Items

Northwest Accreditation Alliance Presentation

Joining via Zoom, Scott Hayes, Executive Director of the Northwest Accreditation Alliance, presented the Sheriff's Office and the 911 Communication Center each with plaques signifying

their second accreditation awards. These awards represent adherence to 110 law enforcement centers and 56 communication center standards, and the reaccreditation occurs every three years.

Renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement for Information Technology Services

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

The current agreement for Information Technology (IT) services with the City of Hermiston expires at the end of the fiscal year. The recommendation is to renew the service agreement for one year as the business continuity and disaster recovery plans will be incorporated into the next agreement once the plans have been implemented.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Hermiston and authorize the County Administrator to sign. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Resolution R-2025-05 for Inclusion Under the State of Oregon Deferred Compensation Plan

Lindsay Grogan, HR Director

This Resolution would authorize Morrow County to participate in the Oregon Savings Growth Plan, allowing employees to contribute a portion of their wages to a tax deferred retirement savings account. This program is optional to employees and comes at no cost to the County.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve Resolution R-2025-05, authorizing Morrow County's participation in the Oregon Savings Growth Plan, a voluntary deferred compensation program administered by the State of Oregon, and to authorize the necessary payroll deductions and administrative coordination to implement the plan. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Senate Bill 1154 Comments

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Senate Bill 1154 (SB 1154) was introduced by Governor Tina Kotek concerning laws and practices related to designating Groundwater Areas of Concern and Groundwater Management Areas. The Bill has been pared down substantially since its introduction and while its current form does not affect the Lower Umatilla Ground Water Management Area (LUBGWMA), it could affect LUBGWMA depending on legislation changes.

Commissioner Wenholz noted a numbering error in the comment letter.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the comment letter regarding SB 1154 with the correction requested. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Morrow County Public Transit Logo Change

Vince Guerrero, Assistant County Administrator

Having been approved by the majority of the Transit Advisory Committee, the proposed new logo for Morrow County Public Transit is meant to represent the changes and growth to the service while recognizing the community it serves.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to authorize staff to move forward with implementing the new logo for Morrow County Public Transit. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Circuit Courthouse Façade Options

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator, Kelli Stewart and Austin Gutierrez, DLR, Doug Carl, Alliance Construction

The Circuit Courthouse design team presented Commissioners with three proposed façade options. Commissioners expressed the desire for design continuity from the Historic Courthouse to the Bartholomew Building, and the new Circuit Courthouse such as adding blue basalt or something similar in appearance to the exterior.

As the design team was only looking for Commissioner input, no action was taken.

Deflection Sole Source Determination

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

In December 2024, Commissioners approved the deflection contract between Morrow County and Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) which serves as the contracted provider for community mental health, addiction treatment, recovery and prevention, and problem gambling services. The contract award did not follow the procurement process as it was initially considered to be an extension of services already provided by CCS. Staff concluded it would be the best practice to bring this back to the Board as a Sole Source Determination.

Commissioner Wenholz noted typos that needed correction before publication and asked Counsel to revise them as needed.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to adopt the findings of fact and analysis in May 30, 2025, Sole Source Memo from County Counsel with corrections 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 Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Hot Mix Contract Corrections

Commissioner Peterson rescinded his motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: unanimous approval.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the consent agenda, removing item C. Hot Mix Contracts. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve the Level 3 Hot Mix Asphalt Contract awards with updates to the contractor information and authorizing the County Administrator to sign. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: unanimous approval.

Correspondence

None

Commissioner Reports

Nothing to report

Recess

10:27 a.m.

Resume

10:36 a.m.

Executive Session

10:37 a.m.

Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Return to Open Session

10:47 a.m.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to cancel the public hearing set for June 11, regarding Columbia Development Authority (CDA) property annexation into Boardman Rural Fire Protection District. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Commissioner Peterson motioned to direct county administration to work with CDA on a date for the extension hearing. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Adjourn

10:48 a.m.