

Board of Commissioners Meeting
August 20, 2025
Don Adams Conference Room, Irrigon Government Center
Irrigon, Oregon

Present In Person Chair David sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Gus Peterson, Valerie Ballard, Matthew Jensen, Kevin Ince, Tamra Mabbott, Justin Nelson, Jaylene Papineau, Corey Sweeney, Eric Imes, Mindy Wilson; non-staff: Deanne Woodring, Samantha Woodring

Present Via Zoom Sandi Pointer, Brian Snyder, Raymi Cain, Vince Guerrero, Kirsti Cason, Deona Siex, Yvonne Morter, Tami Ewing, John Bowles; non-staff: Griffin Beach, Aaron Palmquist, Mark Reineke, Julie Jensen, Greg Reince

Call to Order 9:04 a.m.

Public Comment

No Comments

Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

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

Department Reports

Planning Department monthly report presented by Tamra Mabbott

Weed Department quarterly report presented by Corey Sweeney

Finance Department quarterly report presented by Kevin Ince

Accounts Payable written monthly report provided by Kevin Ince

Treasurer's quarterly investment report presented by Jaylene Papineau with Deanne Woodring of Government Portfolio Advisors

Treasurer's monthly written report provided by Jaylene Papineau

County Administrator's monthly report presented by Matthew Jensen

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the consent agenda with corrections to the minutes. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Century West Engineering PAPI Design Contract

Eric Imes, Public Works Director

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has awarded Morrow County a grant for a Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI), providing a visual guide to incoming pilots during landing, significantly reducing the risk of approach errors and improving safety. The total project cost is \$178,598 with the FAA covering 95% at \$169,668, the State covers \$5,352, leaving the County contributing \$3,578.

This project is included in the budget, however there is an additional budgetary impact of \$59,650 which will primarily be covered by the increase of grant funding but will require a budget adjustment via resolution.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve the PAPI design contract with Century West Engineering and approve the County Administrator to sign. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to direct staff to prepare the necessary budget adjustment for the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

PAPI Reconstruction FAA Grant Approval

Eric Imes, Public Works Director

Commissioner Peterson motioned to designate Eric Imes as the authorized representative to sign necessary grant documents. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Morrow County and Port of Morrow Strategic Investment Program Intergovernmental Agreement

David Sykes, Board of Commissioners Chair; Mike Gorman, Assessor

State Legislators passed House Bill 2725, making counties and ports partners in Strategic Investment Program (SIP) agreements. Port of Morrow (POM) passed a motion to develop an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the County to define how the process is handled.

Questions were raised regarding the duration of the IGA and Commissioner Peterson said that when he and County Administrator, Matthew Jensen testified against the bill, Senator Meek made assurances that he would readdress it during the short session. Commissioner Wenholz expressed his opinion that ports should only be involved in SIP agreements when port property is involved.

Commissioner Peterson agreed with Commissioner Wenholz and said he would like to see a termination clause in the IGA and Commissioner Wenholz emphasized the importance of making it clear that the IGA is for SIP agreements going forward, not retroactively.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to table the item to the next meeting to vote on the IGA with the changes discussed. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

HB 2089 Surplus of Foreclosed Properties Process

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

With HB 2089 passing, the moratorium on selling foreclosed properties will lift on September 27. As properties foreclosed from failure to pay taxes typically sell more than the tax lien, counties will need to turn the excess funds back to the former property owners. Surplus money from property sales will be turned over to the Oregon State Treasury to be held until the former property owner makes their claim.

Morrow County will need to develop a process for selling these properties as well as recouping administrative and maintenance costs. Holding auctions on a specific date, semi-annually, or once a certain number of properties were available was discussed, but no decision was made.

Sanctuary State Impact of Federal Grants and County Revenue

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator; Kevin Ince, Finance Director

Oregon is one of seventeen Sanctuary States and due to the State's sanctuary designation, federal funding could be revoked if the State doesn't agree to implement enforcement of immigration rules. Impacts have already been felt on federal grant revenue cycled through the State, however federal grants directly awarded to the County have not yet been affected.

Morrow County has several departments dependent on grants with over \$2.4 million in federally funded programs and \$1.5 million of federally funded programs passed through by the State. The grant for marine patrol coverage has been reduced by 30%, and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which supports Victim Advocates and Child Support Enforcement, might be reduced up to 80%. Public Health, Public Transportation, and Emergency management receive federal funding, but at this time those departments have not been impacted. The County does have reserves that can be used to help bridge the gap with funding if further cuts are made, but that is not a sustainable option and budgets may require revision.

No action was taken. Elected officials and department heads will be instructed to watch for changes and shortages of grants and notify the County Administrator and Finance Director of any developments.

Correspondence

None

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports on Commissioner activity were provided.

Recess

11:12 a.m.

Resume

11:20 a.m.

Executive Session

11:20 a.m.

The Board met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d), to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations and 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

12:02 p.m. No action was taken.

Adjourn

12:02 p.m.