Board of Commissioners Meeting
October 1, 2025
Upper Conference Room, Bartholomew Building
Heppner, OR

Present In Person Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Gus Peterson, Valerie Ballard, Matthew Jensen, Robin Canaday, Tylynn Cimmiyotti, Eric Imes, Justin Nelson, Rose Kyllo, Rory Rowlette, Brian Snyder, Kevin Ince,
Present Via Zoom Steven Davis, Sandi Proctor, Sabrina Bailey-Cave, Jaylene Papineau, Raymi Cain, Christy Kenny, Vince Guerrero, Yvonne Morter, Deona Siex, Erin Anderson, Sarah Rea, Tamra Mabbott, Mindy Wilson, Mike Gorman, Chelsey Grover-Price; non-staff: Dan Kearns, Griffin Beach, Andrea Di Salvo, Kaleb Lay, Jessica Rose, Erika Morton, Julie Jensen
Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
9:02 a.m.
Consideration and Adoption of Agenda
Commissioner Peterson motioned to move item 6f, Authorization for Use of County Funds for Tree Removal to follow item 6a, Transfer station User Fee Recommendation and approve and adopt the rest of the agenda as presented. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.
Department Reports
Community Counseling Solutions Quarterly Report
Kimberly Lindsay, Community Counseling Solutions Executive Director
Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) Executive Director, Kimberly Lindsay, introduced Sidney Miller, who recently joined CCS as Human Resources Director. Ms. Lindsay then provided updates to Medicaid/Oregon Health Plan (OHP) funding. In 2026, Oregon will review roles to ensure ineligible individuals do not receive Medicaid benefits and in 2028, a $35 copay will be instated. Due to this, she anticipates that a considerable number of those covered under OHP won't seek treatment due to cost, adding children and those in residential care will likely be the most impacted by the change as many receive services more than once a week.

Ms. Lindsay reviewed reports included in the packet. The employee pulse survey showed 73% positive responses, noting two negative responses focused on workload and feeling overwhelmed. She explained staffing is difficult, especially with competing against private practice which often pays more and requirement differences for reporting and other things of that nature.

Lastly, Ms. Lindsay thanked the Board for supporting the Boardman Food Pantry fundraising dinner. Amazon donated $100,000 and with additional donations from Umatilla Electric Coop, Bank of Eastern Oregon, and other private donations, approximately $250,000 was raised. Between fundraising and insurance, the food pantry should be able to rebuild and support the community for years to come.

Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) Report
Jessica Rose, LPSCC Coordinator

The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) which administers local, state, and tribal grants is streamlining the grant process making one general grant and application. The Improving People's Access to Community-based Treatment, Supports, and Services (IMPACTS) program is now an ongoing grant with $600,000 per biennium.

The Public Health report was presented by Robin Canaday
The Fair report was presented by Tylynn Cimmiyotti
The Public Works report was presented by Eric Imes
The District Attorney's report was presented by Justin Nelson
The County Administrator's report was presented by Matthew Jensen

Consent Agenda

a. Minutes: September 17, 2025
b. Second Amendment to IGA 185824
c. Payment Authorization: Morrow County Health District Ambulance Services
d. Juvenile Crime Prevention Grant 15684 Reinstatement and Amendment 2
e. Purchase Authorization: 2025 Caterpillar 160 AWD Grader
f. Payment Authorization: DLR Group
g. Payment Authorization: DLR Group
~~h. Consideration of Commissioner Message for Strategic Plan Document~~

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve the consent agenda, removing item 5h for discussion. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Consideration of Commissioner Message for Strategic Plan Document
Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve item 5h (Consideration of Commissioner Message for Strategic Plan Document). Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Transfer Station User Fee Recommendation
Eric Imes, Public Works Director; Rory Rowlette, Deputy Director; Rose Kyllo, Administrative Manager
Transfer station operating costs have increased substantially since 2025. Through a five-week test, the average user charge was roughly $13 per visit measured by cubic yard. The proposed change will charge by weight using the new scales at $90/ton or roughly $19 per user. The proposed $11 minimum is slightly below the state average.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve the transfer station user fees as presented. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Resolution 2025-12: Authorization for Use of County Funds for Tree Removal
Eric Imes, Public Works Director; Justin Nelson, County Counsel
At the June 18 Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board approved a request for tree removal along a public access road off Miller Road, Boardman. Resolution R-2025-12 complies

with ORS 368.031(2) which allows for expenditure of Road Fund monies for emergency/safety improvements with the resolution or order from the Board of Commissioners and requires final approval by the Board.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve Resolution R-2025-12 In the Matter of Authorizing the Official County Road to Perform Road Maintenance on Miller Road, a Local Access Road in Morrow County, Oregon. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

<u>Budget Adjustment: Dispatcher Workstations</u>
Brian Snyder, Undersheriff
Dispatcher workstation upgrades were approved in the 2025-26 budget. After getting bids however, the estimated amount that was budgeted for falls short by $23,457. This is a request to approve a transfer of appropriations out of the operating contingency of the Dispatch Emergency Fund to cover the budget shortfall. As the amount needed falls below 15%, a hearing is not required, only Board approval and a Resolution.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve and adopt Resolution R-2025- 11 adjusting appropriations in Fund 207 - Emergency Dispatch. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the procurement of goods and services as presented and recommended and authorize the County Administrator to sign and accept the proposal. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

<u>Consideration of Grant Process</u>
Matthew Jensen, County Administrator; Kevin Ince, Finance Director
The need for a standard process for grants within the County has been identified. There have been issues varying from late or incomplete reporting, reimbursements, and a lack of coordination between those departments applying for grants and the finance department which oversees records and accounting. These issues could potentially result in the County being blacklisted from federal grant eligibility and negatively impacting county programs and functions.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve Administrative and Finance staff to explore options to increase grant management compliance and to report back to the Board for final direction. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

<u>Consideration of Translation Services</u>
Gus Peterson, Commissioner; Matthew Jensen, Administrator
A large portion of the Morrow County population are Spanish speakers, either speaking English as a second language, or exclusively speaking Spanish. The County offers translations for Board of Commissioners meetings online through Zoom; however, those translations can be inaccurate and there is no in-person translation service. Concerns over additional overhead for in-person translating were raised, at this meeting, no public were in attendance.

The Public Health Department has handheld translation devices for real time conversation with good experience. The Board made no official action but directed staff to investigate the handheld devices for in-person translation services.

Finance Department Relocation Consideration
Matthew Jensen, County Administrator
At the August 20th Board of Commissioners meeting, the topic of moving the Finance Department to the North end of the County was broached to improve recruitment opportunities. The proposed move would place the Finance Manager in the old transit office and high wall cubicles, or hard walled office space would be added for the Finance Technician and Financial Analyst across from the Risk and Procurement Manager. The Finance Director would be in another part of the building and while there would be some separation from the rest of the department, there are benefits to the seclusion such as privacy for sensitive financial discussions.

These changes would be covered in the furniture budget, and the Finance Director would continue to split time between Irrigon and Heppner.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to relocate the Finance Department to Irrigon. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: 2 in favor, 1 opposed (Sykes). Motion carried.

Correspondence
The Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County sent a thank you letter for the recent vehicle donation.

Commissioner Reports
Brief reports on Commissioner activity were provided.

Executive Session
11:40 a.m.

a. ORS 192.660(2)(i), which allows the Commission to meet in executive session to review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any body, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing.
b. ORS 192.660(2)(h), which allows the Commission to meet in executive session 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.

Recess
11:41 a.m.

Resume
11:52 a.m.

Return to Open Session
12:58 p.m. No Action Taken

Adjourn
12:58 p.m.