

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Special Session
November 7, 2025
Upper Conference Room, Bartholomew Building
Heppner, Oregon**

Present In Person Chair David Sykes, Matthew Jensen, Kevin Ince, Robin Canaday

Present Via Zoom Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Gus Peterson, Justin Nelson; non-staff: Berit Thorson, Griffin Beach

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:00 a.m.

Public Comment

No Comment

Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

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

Business Items

Consideration of Columbia Development Authority (CDA) Invoice

Morrow County's invoice for CDA contributions totals \$54,363.35 for administrative expenses. Morrow County received an additional payment request of \$66,706.12 for the County's 1/5 share of a grant match, legal expenses, and insurance, which Commissioner Wenholz added that the County already contributed its share of insurance costs. Whether or not Morrow County would contribute to the lawsuit issued by Umatilla County against the CDA and Port of Umatilla was discussed and previous consensus was the County would not contribute to those legal fees, however the Board was unsure if the listed legal expenses were due to the referenced lawsuit, or operational legal expenses and they would get clarification before approving or denying payment.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to direct staff to verify amounts owed for CDA operations and to prepare necessary budget adjustments to accommodate payment of those amounts through the 2026 budget year. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Amendment to Mental Health and Addiction Services Grant

The amendment to the contract between Morrow County and Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) would remove prevention services from the services provided by CCS. Robin Canaday, Public Health Director, clarified Public Health would continue with tobacco prevention services, however alcohol prevention services would be paused until the Oregon Health Authority established a regional group to take over alcohol prevention.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to table Amendment 1 to the Mental Health and Addiciton Services contract until written confirmation is received from OHA regarding their plan to take over alcohol prevention services. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Adjourn

9:28 a.m.