

Board of Commissioners Meeting
February 18, 2026
Don Adams Conference Room, Irrigon Government Center
Irrigon, Oregon

Present In Person Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commission Gus Peterson, Matthew Jensen, Valerie Ballard, Kevin Ince, Brian Snyder, Steve Freeland, Michelle Kessler, Tamra Mabbott, Rose Kylo

Present Via Zoom Sabrina Bailey-Cave, Patrick Keely, Amanda Kendrick, Sandi Pointer, Raymi Cain, Jaylene Papineau, Steven Davis, Vince Guerrero, Judith Santiago, Bobbi Childers, Kaitlin Kennedy, Mike Gorman, Justin Nelson; non-staff: Andrea Di Salvo, Griffin Beach, Torrie Philippi-Griggs, Karen Pettigrew, Samantha Woodring, Erika Morton, Kevin Miracle

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:02 a.m.

Public Comment

No Comment

Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

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

Department Reports

The Sheriff's Office report was presented by Brian Snyder
The Emergency Management report was presented by Steve Freeland
The Planning Department report was presented by Tamra Mabbott
The Treasurer's Investment report was presented by Jaylene Papineau
The Treasurer's report was provided by Jaylene Papineau
The Accounts Payable report was provided by Kevin Ince
The Finance Department report was provided by Kevin Ince
The County Administrator's report was presented by Matthew Jensen

Consent Agenda

- a. IGA 185824 Am. 6 Financing Public Health Services
- b. Sole Source Determination: Community Counseling Solutions Services to Sheriff's Office
- c. Request for Out of State Travel for Transit Supervisor
- d. Request for Out of State Travel for Treasurer

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve items a and b on the consent agenda, pulling items c and d for discussion. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Request for Out of State Travel for Transit Supervisor

There was discussion whether the Q'Straint scholarship would violate policy and it was determined to be a "gray area", the Board could request the County cover the lodging portion. This does not offer significant value for personal benefit and Q'Straint is the sole provider for wheelchair securement.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve out of state travel for Patrick Keely to participate in the National Wheelchair Securement Training Academy. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Request for Out of State Travel for Treasurer

Commissioner Wenholz pointed out the conference focuses on investment training and the County contracts investment services with Government Portfolio Advisors (GPA) and the Treasurer does not make investment decisions. Commissioner Peterson responded that it would be good for the Treasurer to understand what the consultant is doing and that it matches what the Treasurer thinks they should do.

Jaylene Papineau, Treasurer, provided further on the request. The conference has been budgeted for, and she has been keeping track of since becoming Treasurer and feels that it is time to attend and learn more about what GPA is doing.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve the Treasurer's request to attend an out of state conference as presented. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: 2 in favor (Peterson and Sykes) 1 against (Wenholz). Motion carried.

Business Items

Contractor Insurance Requirements Policy and Consideration of Exception

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

Currently, there is no formal adopted policy establishing minimum insurance requirements for contractors providing services to the County. The draft policy for consideration establishes minimum insurance requirements and would align with County contracting practices and comply with recommended practices.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve R-2026-04 adopting policy RSK .002 for Morrow County Contractor Requirements. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to apply the policy to park host contracts with reimbursement of insurance costs and administrative assistance and take it out of the General Fund if possible. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Airport Advisory Committee

Eric Imes, Public Works Director; Rose Kylo, Administrative Manager

The Airport Advisory Committee is regrouping and Eric Imes, Public Works Director with Rose Kylo, Administrative Manager are providing committee member appointment recommendations after advertising to fill committee vacancies.

Representing	Representative	Alternate	Term	Appointment	End Term
Position 1 Econ. Dev.	Lindsay Grogan	Cam Sweeney	3 years	February 2026	February 2029
Position 2 Business User	Jesse McCormach	John Boyer	3 years	February 2026	February 2029
Position 3 Public Works Staff	Rose Kylo	Rory Rowlette	3 years	February 2026	February 2029
Position 4 Emergency Management	Steve Freeland	Vacant	3 years	February 2026	February 2029
Position 5 Tenant/Pilot	Wayne Seitz	Mark Lemmon	3 years	February 2026	February 2029
Position 6 Member at Large 1	Bob Nairns	Keven Haguewood	3 years	February 2026	February 2029
Position 7 Member at Large 2	Joseph Santora	Vacant	3 years	February 2026	February 2029

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve the appointments as presented for the Airport Advisory Committee. Commissioner Wenholtz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Sanitary Disposal Establishing Rates for Curbside Recycling

Eric Imes, Public Works Director

To comply with Oregon's Recycling Modernization Act, Sanitary Disposal has submitted a rate proposal for curbside recycling services within the Urban Growth Boundary area of the City of Boardman. Single family residential rates would be \$8 per month with each additional 95-gallon cart at \$8 and \$24 per month for commercial and multi-family recycling and each additional 300-gallon cart would be \$48 per month.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve establishing curbside recycling rates for Sanitary Disposal. Commissioner Wenholtz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Consideration of the 2026-27 Intergovernmental Agreement for Financing Community Mental Health Services

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

The County Financial Assistance Agreement (CFAA) is an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between Morrow County and Oregon Health Authority for community mental health services. After several months of negotiations, Oregon counties and the State have reached an agreement that will be retroactive July 1, 2026. Once approved, the County will issue an intent to award with Community Counseling Solutions.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve Agreement 44300-00054298, an IGA with the State of Oregon through the Oregon Health Authority for Financing Community Mental Health Service for the 2026-2027 and authorize the County Administrator to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Oregon Department of Agriculture Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Application

Valerie Ballard, Executive Assistant

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the County Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant application and authorize Commissioner Gus Peterson to sign the application. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Consideration of Creation of a Community Assistance Grant Program

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator; Kevin Ince, Finance Director

During the Budget Committee meetings last year, the Budget Committee expressed that they would like to see a more formal process for local grant requests. Currently, there is not a good review process in place for requests, and this will vet requests before going forward to the Budget Committee and budget review process.

The grant process is meant to reduce politicization of assistance requests during the budget process and separate the funds into different categories with designated purposes. This would create a transparent and efficient way to distribute money that is designated by the Board of Commissioners and Budget Committee. Applications would be reviewed by a Grant Review Committee comprised of five members: Each Commissioner would appoint a community member, and two members would be members of staff.

Staff will work on a final draft of the grant procedure at an upcoming meeting.

Correspondence

No Correspondence

PacifiCorp has requested consideration of A Special Meeting for the easement request. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports on Commissioner activity were provided.

Recess

11:15 a.m.

Resume

11:22 a.m.

Executive Session

The Board met in Executive Session pursuant to 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.

And

ORS 192.660(2)(a), which allows the Commission to meet in executive session to consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.

And

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

12:25 p.m.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to authorize the County Administrator to extend an employment offer for the Principal Planner Position at up to Grade 26 Step 5. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve the tentative agreement with the Morrow County Sergeants Association and direct staff to forward them for ratification by the Association. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Adjourn

12:27 p.m.