

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2019
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center
Boardman, Oregon

Present

Chair Jim Doherty	Kate Knop, Finance Director
Commissioner Melissa Lindsay	Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director
Commissioner Don Russell	Justin Nelson, County Counsel
Darrell Green, Administrator	Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 9:03 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Chair Doherty thanked the Port for the use of the Port Commission Meeting Room for the Boardman BOC Meetings.

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Lindsay requested to remove the Surplus Vehicles Request.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the following items in the Consent Calendar:

- 1. Accounts Payable, February 21st, \$62,262.07. Payroll Payables: February 4th, \$187,846.53; February 12th, \$166,586.18; Employee Final, February 1st, \$1,491.93.*
- 2. Minutes: January 16th*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay noted the item in the APs to the Heppner Chamber of Commerce was for the purchase of dinner tickets for veterans to attend the Town & Country Community Awards event, where veterans were being honored. It was the idea of Veterans Services Officer Linda Skendzel, said Commissioner Lindsay, and she is to be commended. Unanimous approval.

Request to Surplus Vehicles – Sheriff’s Office

Brian Snyder, Criminal Sergeant

Commissioner Lindsay commented that six vehicles in one request seemed like a high number.

Sgt. Snyder explained some of the vehicles have been stored at Station 2, and due to timing and scheduling, were not requested to surplus until now. In addition, he said some of those vehicles were still being used while the new vehicles were outfitted as Sheriff’s Office vehicles, which took longer than expected. Sgt. Snyder said the Public Health Department just asked for the 2011 Ford Expedition that was included in the request.

Commissioner Russell moved to authorize the Sheriff’s Office to take the listed vehicles to surplus in Salem, noting if the departments can come to an agreement on the Expedition, then it will be kept by the County. If not, it will be taken to surplus. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Administrator Darrell Green said the Expedition will be used by Public Health to

haul the medical trailer used by the Health Care Preparedness and Medical Reserve Corps Program, contingent upon mechanical inspection. Commissioner Lindsay requested a vehicle fleet list, including the Sheriff's Office, before further decisions are made. She said she's making uneducated decisions and wants to see what we have. Chair Doherty said Mr. Green and the Fleet TEAM are currently working on matters surrounding vehicle management. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Compensation Update

Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director

Ms. Carlson asked the Commissioners if they wanted any additional information when the recommendations of the Compensation Board are reviewed at the March 6th BOC meeting.

Commissioner Lindsay asked if the Finance Department was preparing a detailed analysis of the impact of Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs). Ms. Carlson said Ronda Fox, Finance Management Assistant, was working on that.

Commissioner Lindsay then asked Finance Director Kate Knop if there was any other input the Board should have.

Ms. Knop said it would be helpful if the Board had the total compensation change as it pertained to the General Fund and other funds.

Commissioner Lindsay said she would like to see that analysis.

Mr. Green informed the Board of a vacancy on the Compensation Board and said a few names have been suggested but he did not know how soon the Commissioners wanted to appoint that position.

Commissioner Lindsay said information was brought in during the Compensation Board meeting that was not provided in the books. She said to make sure that's brought to the Commissioners.

Chair Doherty said it can be a difficult challenge as to what comes before the Commissioners, but nothing precludes someone from going to the Compensation Board meeting and presenting additional materials. He said it was an interesting thought but he didn't know the answer.

Second Reading and Adoption, Ordinance No. ORD-2019-2 – Columbia Mill Site Rezone

Carla McLane, Planning Department Director

Ms. McLane provided by Second Reading by title: "An Ordinance Amending the Morrow County Comprehensive Plan, Taking an Exception to Goals 3, 11 and 14, Changing the Comprehensive Plan Designation from Agricultural to Industrial, and Changing the Zoning Map from Resource Related Industrial to Port Industrial"

Commissioner Russell moved to approve Ordinance No. ORD-2019-2 as presented. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay said the effective date of April 1st relied on the mill being closed down. She asked if that had been verified since it was important to the conversation. Ms. McLane said there had been no additional follow-up but she had not heard it wasn't happening. Commissioner Russell said the inventory of the raw product was almost gone. Commissioner Lindsay said she wanted to see confirmation. If it's not closed, it could come back because it's predicated on that date. County Counsel Justin Nelson said it was part of the decision, but it was not a separate condition. Ms. McLane said based on the testimony of a closure date in March, the motion was to make the Ordinance effective April 1st. No precedent condition was established, she said. Commissioner Lindsay said her vote was based on it being closed. Mr. Green suggested there be a follow-up with Don Rice; Commissioner Lindsay agreed. Chair Doherty said he was opposed to this zone change at the time, and that vote showed up in one of the "Whereas" sections, but he fully supported the notion of the Board that once the Board had spoken, then that's the position of the County. He said he would sign where needed, but voting yes today ultimately recognized his earlier vote against the zone change, correct? Ms. McLane said she agreed, and that his earlier vote at the close of the public hearing did not dictate how he had to vote today. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Draft Comment Letter – Preliminary Request for Amendment #4, Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility

Ms. McLane's draft letter to the Oregon Department of Energy pertains to Wheatridge's request to add solar components, associated battery storage, and increase the size of a previously approved substation. She stressed the County's Solid Waste Management Plan and Ordinance continue to be applicable, as outlined in the letter. Discussion ensued on several topics, including access to maps showing project location details, and the five active solar projects currently in the County. (Wheatridge Project information can be found online at: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Facilities%20library/2018-11-30-WRW-AMD4-pRFA4.pdf>, pages 85-116)

Commissioner Lindsay said she recused herself from prior motions and decisions, however she had no interest in the amended section of the solar and wouldn't recuse herself, unless someone felt there was a reason to do so.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Planning Director's letter to Sarah Esterson with the Oregon Department of Energy concerning the preliminary Request for Amendment 4 for the Wheatridge Energy Facility. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Chair Doherty said relative to the recusal, this involved an amendment to a Strategic Investment Program agreement, which was separate and he didn't have any challenge, but to protect the process and Commissioner Lindsay, can it be parsed out? Mr. Nelson said the letter referenced just the solar, the wind has already been approved. He added he did not see a connection so the letter didn't concern him much at all. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Olson Road Discussion

Mr. Green explained Vadata (Amazon) would like to use Olson Road to access the construction site of its new data center. He explained a meeting is scheduled for February 26th to negotiate the Road Use Agreement, and suggested he be on the committee, as well as Mr. Nelson, Public Works Director Matt Scrivner, and one Commissioner.

While each Commissioner expressed interest in being on the Committee, the discussion concluded when Commissioner Russell said he and Commissioner Lindsay would come to an agreement as to who should show up at the meeting, perhaps by tossing a coin.

Proposed Replacement of Homestead Canal Bridge in Partnership with Columbia Improvement District

Mr. Scrivner

Doug Ferguson, Ferguson Engineering

Mr. Scrivner explained Public Works was approached by Anderson Perry, working with Columbia Improvement District, about improvements to the Homestead Canal Bridge. CID is willing to assist with 33% of the project, but the work needs to start November 1st.

Chair Doherty asked if this has been before the Road Committee.

Mr. Scrivner said there was a conversation at the last Road Committee Meeting and it has been “on the radar to do something,” but emergency repairs to two other bridges on major collectors have been the focus of the office. He reviewed the Engineer’s Estimate:

- Total cost \$522,970
- Morrow County’s portion \$347,970
- CID’s portion \$175,000

The Board concurred with moving this forward.

Olson Road Discussion, continued

Commissioner Lindsay said she was not connected to this project in any way, and made the following motion:

Commissioner Lindsay moved to have the Olson Road Use Agreement negotiating team consist of Mr. Scrivner, Mr. Green, Mr. Nelson and herself, to meet with Vadata and work toward an agreement that will be brought back to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Russell seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Russell said he thought Commissioner Lindsay can do a good job, but the only connection he had to that area was he used to live near there and was familiar with the traffic pattern and the property owners. He said those things don’t necessarily make him a better representative on the committee than Commissioner Lindsay, especially if she feels passionately about it. Vote – Aye: Commissioner Lindsay, Commissioner Russell. Nay: Chair Doherty. Motion carried.

Correspondence

- Confirmation of two Resolutions passed by the City of Boardman as required by Morrow County Orders OR-2019-1 and OR-2019-2 – Transferring Jurisdiction Over a Portion of County Roads to Boardman (Columbia Avenue and Laurel Road).
- Portland State University Population Research Center, schedule of spring 2019 public meetings
- Energy Facility Siting Council Meeting Notice & Agenda, Friday, February 22nd in The Dalles

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Lindsay said she received an email from Commissioner Mark Owens that Harney County issued a letter in support of additional State funding for County fairs.
- Commissioner Russell reported on the Boardman Town Hall Meeting held by Representative Greg Walden. Commissioner Russell also thanked County staff for issuing the County address to Vadata without compromising the Road Use Agreement process.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 10:30 a.m.