

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2019
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present

Chair Jim Doherty

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay

Commissioner Don Russell

Darrell Green, Administrator

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director

Roberta Lutchter, Executive Assistant

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

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Commissioner Lindsay requested a discussion on the status of the Building Inspector position for which the County contracts with the City of Boardman.

Consent Calendar

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

1. *Accounts Payable, April 4th, \$43,967.54*
2. *Minutes: March 6th & 13th*
3. *Seventh Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2017-2019 Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Mental Health, Substance Use Disorders, and Problem Gambling Services Agreement #153133, and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Public Hearing – Code Enforcement Ordinance Amendments: New Chronic Nuisance and Environmental Health Sections; Updates to the Weeds Section and other minor changes

Chair Doherty called for abstentions or conflicts of interest. Hearing none, he outlined how to testify and called for the Staff Report.

Carla McLane, Planning Director, explained the Public Hearing held on March 20th in Boardman was continued to today. She said at that first Public Hearing, Boardman Police Chief Rick Stokoe urged the Board to increase the setback listed in the Draft Ordinance from 200 feet to 400 feet. She asked the Board for direction as to whether to retain the original 200 foot designation, or change it to 400 feet. In addition, she said, a timeframe determination is needed for the First and Second Readings and effective date.

Ms. McLane said the Draft document was done in consultation with County Counsel Justin Nelson, Sheriff Ken Matlack, Chief Stokoe and Commissioner Russell. The people engaged in implementing it, were also engaged in writing it, she commented.

Chair Doherty said if Chief Stokoe determined 400 feet to be more practical, then he would agree with that.

Commissioner Russell said it would be his preference as well. This Chronic Nuisance draft has been tested in the courts and is in place in Umatilla and Multnomah Counties, he added.

Commissioner Lindsay said she would agree.

Chair Doherty called for proponents – no response; opponents – no response; neutral parties, general comments or questions – no response. At 9:13 a.m. he closed the Public Hearing but said the comment period would remain open until the close of business on April 4, 2019.

Brief discussion to clarify that any and all comment received after the close of this Public Hearing would be brought forward to the Board.

Ms. McLane said she planned to return next week for the First Reading, followed by the Second Reading and tentative adoption on April 24th.

Legislative Updates

Commissioner Russell said he will be in Salem on Monday for a Work Session regarding House Bill 2408 [Oregon Legislative Information, Staff Measure Summary: “House Bill 2408-A requires prevailing wage rate be paid on projects in enterprise zones in which a property tax exemption has or will be received and in which total project cost is at least \$20 million.”] He said he was in favor of an amendment to exempt the first \$25 million and will speak at the Work Session to Morrow County’s experiences and the fact our wage base has come up.

Department Reports

Treasurer’s Monthly Report

The report from Gayle Gutierrez was reviewed in her absence.

Update from Community Counseling Solutions as Contracted Provider of Mental Health Services

Kimberly Lindsay, CCS Executive Director

Ms. Lindsay provided multiple documents for her update. A few discussion highlights:

- The County will be asked to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO). It should be released sometime this summer or fall. Ms. Lindsay said there have been concerns about the need to fund new projects as opposed to funding existing projects that work well. She said the County can add the things it deemed important to the MOU. She asked the Board to advocate for the programs that exist in Morrow County, especially the CARE program, as it’s a fight each year to get funding.
- A recent site review by the Oregon Health Authority went well, according to Ms. Lindsay. She discussed the changes as to how OHA conducts reviews and discussed the

findings in greater detail. She said there were no health & safety items and CCS turned in its response and it was accepted.

- Commissioner Lindsay said the County is the ultimate responsible party and should have received notification from OHA about the review and results. She said she would follow-up with the State on the question of the County receiving documents, notifications, etc.

Business Items

Building Inspector Vacancy

Commissioner Lindsay said she just learned about the retirement of the Building Inspector and admitted she was unclear how that position worked.

Ms. McLane said in 2000, the City of Boardman agreed to take on the Building Inspection program and reached an agreement with the State. Morrow County and the City of Irrigon have agreements with the City of Boardman for those services.

Discussions took place on the value of having a local building inspector; whether or not Morrow County could sustain such a position on its own; and amendments the County requested to the agreement with the City of Boardman, but were not made. Commissioner Lindsay said she wanted to do additional research to better understand the process and would report back in a week.

Eastern Oregon Healthy Living Alliance MOU

Sheree Smith, Public Health Director

Ms. Smith explained the MOU will provide \$4,425.94 in additional funding to offset travel expenses and salary/benefit costs of nursing staff to attend four Learning Collaboratives and to participate in the “Integrated Nurse Home Visiting Program” pilot project.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Eastern Oregon Healthy Living Alliance and Morrow County Health Department, and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County. Project period is August 21, 2018 to August 20, 2019. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Award Bid – Bridge Widening Projects, Marcum & Sons, LLC

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Mr. Scriver reviewed the Bid Tabulation spreadsheet and said Public Works recommended awarding the bid to Marcum & Sons, LLC.

Commissioner Russell moved to award the Keen & Snyder Bridge Widening Project to Marcum & Sons, LLC. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Laurel Lane & Wilson Lane Improvement Project – Consent to cross Bureau of Reclamation Right-of-Way

Mr. Scrivner said the Consent to Use contract was from a project completed in 2017 and allows Public Works to work on and over structures owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. Brief discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve Consent to Use Contract No. 19-07-1U-L0208, and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Travel Policy Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green reviewed the process undertaken by the members of the Travel Policy Team, such as the major topics of discussion, and the kinds of documents they reviewed from other counties, agencies and organizations. The changes to policy recommended by the Team were:

1. Add more specific information and clarification about out-of-state travel
2. Add more specific information and clarification about in- and out-of-County meals, such as using a link to GSA rates for reimbursement or payments on Visa accounts

Finance Director Kate Knop requested the effective date allow sufficient time for her office to develop new forms, etc.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the updates to the Morrow County Travel Policy, with an effective date of July 1, 2019. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Management Trainings

Mr. Green requested to bring in managements trainings for Department Directors and Elected Officials, possibly through Blue Mountain Community College. He said trainings can be motivational, provide opportunities for growth and development, and help people do their jobs more efficiently and effectively. All of this, he said, can provide better service to external and internal customers. He said he would gather more information regarding expenses, if the Board was interested. The Commissioners were in favor of the proposal.

Video Recording BOC Meetings

Mr. Green said as more and more counties have moved to video recording meetings, the Board discussed that possibility as a way to make BOC meetings more accessible to the public and to eliminate the need for written minutes, thereby freeing up some of the Executive Assistant's time. However, he said his research indicated written minutes would still need to be produced. He further proceeded to outline the pros and cons of video recording meetings. County Counsel Justin Nelson said he would check with Co-County Counsel Richard Tovey to see if their office made a final determination about the requirement for written minutes. The Commissioners decided to gather more information on the subject by reaching out to their counterparts around the State.

Break: 11:09 a.m. – 11:16 a.m.

Pre-Budget Meetings Discussion

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop said for budgeting purposes, a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will be used for all employees. Comments from the Commissioners included:

- Chair Doherty said his stance has been to stand behind recommendations from boards and committees appointed by the BOC, unless those recommendations were egregious. Next year the Compensation Board needs the full budget in front of them, or the BOC needs to make a recommendation to them prior to that meeting.
- Commissioner Russell requested the Finance Department provide budget impacts for both 2.5% and 3% COLAs. He said he'd like the Budget Committee to have the information and be able to weigh-in on the decision.
- Commissioner Lindsay said as the three decision makers, the Commissioners have been looking at the information for months; the Budget Committee doesn't have the knowledge we do. The leadership comes from the three Commissioners. There will be union negotiations this summer, which can have a domino effect. The Commissioners have to take the tough look. If there are any changes in opinions, the Board should move this budget forward with what those opinions are and take that leadership into the Budget meetings.
- Chair Doherty said he was willing to reconsider the COLA rather than wait another year for the Compensation Board. What gets discussed at Budget, still winds up back at the BOC. It's an odd situation, he admitted.
- Commissioner Lindsay said as the lone vote against the 3% COLA, she can't make the argument to reconsider that decision; it should come from the proponents of it. She said she made her opinion clear.
- Commissioner Russell said the COLA can't be 3% every year when it's actually only 2%, especially when we look at the nexus four to five years out and things go from black to red.

Department Reports, continued

Sheriff's Office Monthly Report

Administrative Lieutenant Melissa Ross

The report was reviewed. Discussion turned to Code Enforcement. Commissioner Russell said Code Enforcement goes largely undone. There used to be an officer dedicated to that but that went away. He said during his time as Commissioner, the Sheriff's Office has more people working there than ever. Who decided to make that position go away, he asked.

Lt. Ross said she would pass his concerns on, but currently all deputies handle Code Enforcement, not just one.

Commissioner Lindsay said the Board wanted to understand that piece going into Budget as it looks at the Planning Department and Sheriff's Office.

Fair Office Quarterly Report

Ann Jones, Fair Secretary

Ms. Jones reviewed her report. Discussion items not specifically in the report were:

- Lamb Weston will be a gate sponsor for one of the days during Fair. Ms. Jones is contacting two other companies about sponsoring other days.
- Entertainment sponsorship dollars are up from last year and currently stand at \$15,000.
- Weather related water damage occurred at the rodeo arena and football field, however, the inside of the Fair Pavilion building did not sustain damage. The soil recently added to the outdoor arena may have been washed away, she said.
- Commissioner Lindsay said the most recent joint meeting between the Fair Board and Rodeo Board went well.

County Counsel/District Attorney Quarterly Report

Justin Nelson, County Counsel/DA

Mr. Nelson reviewed his report. He handed out copies of an article from the East Oregonian titled, "ACLU calls for DAs to make policies public." Various discussions ensued.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Green reviewed his report. After discussing the status of the Travel Team and the Fleet Team, he said cash handling and Visa policies will be a priority following Budget Committee meetings later in April.

Correspondence

- Email to County employees regarding the formation of a Wellness Team, with a kick-off meeting to take place on April 15th.
- Newsletter regarding the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project, "The B2H Connection: March 2019."
- Letter from Chair Doherty to the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services that he read at a Public Hearing on March 26th; in it he encouraged the Subcommittee to invest in Public Health Modernization.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Lindsay discussed activities related to the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC). She said she appreciated the work of Jessy Rose, who is assisting Morrow County with Coordinator duties, especially regarding her efforts to map the system and processes of the agencies that make up the LPSCC. Commissioner Lindsay participated via phone conference in a presentation by Senator Jeff Merkley's office regarding the USDA's ReConnect Program. One of the goals of the ReConnect Program is to expand broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access (according to the USDA website). Commissioner Lindsay said Morrow County is a prime candidate for internet to the home; she believed it to be attainable and wouldn't settle for less than that. Commissioner Lindsay also attended the CCS Advisory Board meeting; has been working with the local snowmobile club on possible funding for a

warming hut and/or storage area for emergency vehicles in the mountains; and attended the Morrow County Economic Development Group where a discussion came up about whether or not it's the County's responsibility to hire an economic development person.

- Commissioner Russell said as the County considers changing its retirement plan from defined benefit to defined contribution, he and Mr. Green talked to a Vice President of Finance at Oregon Health Sciences University about its recent retirement plan change. Commissioner Russell also met with Courtney Crowell (Regional Solutions, Eastern Oregon Region Coordinator) and Kathleen Cathey (Field Representative, Senator Ron Wyden) about his ongoing concern that the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District did not receive reimbursement from the Department of Defense for a fire it, and others, battled on the Naval Weapons Training Systems Training Facility (Bombing Range). Commissioner Russell provided an update on the Cap & Trade legislation, House Bill 2020, saying a 199 page amendment was added that takes away all exemptions. What was a bad bill, is worse now, he said.
- Chair Doherty offered to attend the Cultural Coalition conference if Commissioner Lindsay was unable to do so.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:45 p.m.