

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2019
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present

Chair Jim Doherty

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay

Commissioner Don Russell

Darrell J. 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: 9:00 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: None

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Lindsay requested to remove the seven Permit Applications to Build on the Right-of-Way.

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

1. *Accounts Payable, September 5th, \$236,480.17; Void Check, July 26th, \$127.50; Two Manual Checks, August 19th, \$1,800 & August 30th, \$24,730.37; Payroll Payables, August 27th, \$178,030.55*
2. *Minutes: August 14th*
3. *Intergovernmental Agreement #DCJ-IGA-R-11358-2020 with Multnomah County to allow Morrow County Parole & Probation access to its database dashboard on offenders; term to be two years at \$287.82 per year; and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County*
4. *Resolution No. R-2019-18 – A Resolution Adopting the Morrow County Housing Strategies Report dated June 2019, as a Guidance Document in Support of Continued Work Related to Goal 10 Housing*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Permit Applications to Build on the Right-of-Way, #OON through #OOR

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Mr. Scrivner explained these were crossing permits for the 230 kV line that will run north from the Wheatridge Project. He said he had concerns about Permit #OOR, the crossing at Bombing Range Road south of Finley Buttes Landfill. It listed a 36' clearance and he said he'd like to increase that to about 45', but there may be height restrictions from the Navy. The Board agreed with Mr. Scrivner's request to postpone a decision on Permit #OOR pending further research.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the following Permit Applications to Build on the Right-of-Way from Umatilla Electric Cooperative:

1. #OON – Frontage Lane 0.07 miles from intersection with Bombing Range Road, Electric Transmission Line (230 kV)
2. #OOO – Homestead Lane at the intersection with Bombing Range Road, Electric Transmission Line (230 kV)
3. #OOP – Bombing Range Road 0.2 miles from the intersection with Frontage Lane, Electric Distribution Line
4. #OOQ – Lindsay West 1 mile from the intersection with Bombing Range Road, Electric Transmission Line (230 kV)
5. #OOS – Bombing Range Road 1 mile from the intersection with Wilson Lane, Electric Distribution Line
6. #OOT – Little Juniper Lane 1 mile from the intersection with Bombing Range Road, Electric Transmission Line (230 kV)

Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

Treasurer's Monthly Report

The written report submitted by Treasurer Gayle Gutierrez was reviewed.

Business Items

Draft Comment Letters: Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility Draft Proposed Order (DPO), Fourth Amendment to Site Certificate; Army Corps of Engineers Mid-Columbia River Regional Master Plan

Stephen Wrecsics, GIS Planning Tech

Mr. Wrecsics presented the letters on behalf of Planning Director Carla McLane. The first letter to the Department of Energy (DOE) pertained to NextEra's application to add a photovoltaic solar energy generation facility with battery storage and other necessary components to the Wheatridge Project. NextEra also requested to amend the site boundary and extend the construction commencement deadline. Ms. McLane's letter listed several minor errors and omissions in the DOE's Draft Proposed Order, and identified areas of concern to the County.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the comment letter to the Oregon Department of Energy and directed Planning Director McLane to finalize the letter for submission on or before September 9, 2019. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Ms. McLane's second letter about the Army Corps of Engineers' Mid-Columbia River Regional Master Plan, was drafted on behalf of Morrow County as a Cooperating Agency. The Plan is a guidance document only, said Mr. Wrecsics, and does not involve decision-making. The letter contained a few suggestions and corrections to the Plan.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the comment letter to the Army Corps of Engineers and directed Planning Director McLane to finalize the letter for submission on or before September 9, 2019. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Proposal for New Parks Reservation System

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Sandi Pointer, Public Works Management Assistant

Ms. Knop said at the Budget Committee Meetings this spring, the Parks Department and Public Works discussed a new system for reservations at County Parks and for Transfer Station transactions. However, based on research, today's proposal is for the Parks reservation system only, she said. The solution for the Transfer Stations was still being reviewed but she said she anticipated it will come to the Board in November or December.

A PowerPoint presentation comparing the current system to the recommended system, ResNexus, was viewed and discussed. Ms. Knop said the change will mean cost savings and efficiencies, as well as being more user-friendly. The contract with ResNexus will be on next week's Consent Calendar, she said. A question and answer session took place.

Eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA) Dues Invoice

There were several discussions surrounding the payment of the \$10,500 EOCA dues invoice, for instance, the current activities of EOCA, particularly concerning the hiring of a lobbyist; the fact that non-dues-paying counties have a vote at EOCA meetings; and the need for that organization to come up with a firm budget, membership and voting requirements, and a formula to determine dues.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve paying \$7,500 in dues this year with the idea it may be adjusted in the future. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Review Updated Employment Application

Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director

Ms. Carlson said she worked with CIS (Citycounty Insurance Services) to develop the new application to bring it into compliance with current laws. She reviewed the changes for the Board, which then agreed with the updates.

Reclassification Request Update

Karmen Carlson

Ms. Carlson said the submitter of the request for a reclassification decided to pursue the next step in the process and appeal the decision of the Appeal Committee to the Board of Commissioners. After determining everyone's availability on September 11th, Ms. Carlson discussed sending the packets of information to the Commissioners in advance of that meeting.

Request to Form Committee to Revise Reclassification Policy

Karmen Carlson

Ms. Carlson requested permission to move forward with forming a committee to work on revising the current Reclassification Policy. She recommended it consist of two employees who are union members, two employees who are in management and one elected official. The Board asked her to return in the near future with names for appointment.

Collective Bargaining Team for Retirement Plan Redesign

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green explained the last round of union negotiations concluded with all parties signing Letters of Agreement to reopen the retirement portion of the contracts. He asked that a Retirement Bargaining Team be formed consisting of the Finance Director, Human Resources Director, Administrator and Labor Counsel. During the discussion that followed, Commissioner Lindsay requested additional time to consider options other than the current proposal to change from a defined-benefit plan to a defined-contribution plan. The item was moved forward to next week's agenda.

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green

Mr. Green said the asbestos survey was conducted last Friday on the building to be demolished and the written report was anticipated next week. The Request for Qualifications for the Progressive Design-Build Team will close September 17th and consensus scoring will take place October 4th, he said.

Discuss Local Representation on the Governor's Interview Panel for Morrow County Justice of the Peace Vacancy

Darrell Green

Mr. Green said the Governor's interview panel for the Justice of the Peace vacancy will not include a representative from Morrow County. While the Commissioners expressed disappointment, Mr. Green reminded them the Governor's Office did not commit to including a local representative on the panel even though the County communicated its desire to do so.

Department Reports

Administrator's Monthly Report

Darrell Green

Mr. Green reviewed his report. He then introduced the new Juvenile Department Director, Christy Kenny. Ms. Kenny, who most recently worked for Umatilla County, said she was born and raised in Morrow County and was excited to be with the County.

Sheriff's Office Monthly Report

Administrative Lieutenant Melissa Ross

Lt. Ross reviewed the report of statistics for August. She said the request to further refine the types of code enforcement calls on the report will be reflected in next month's report.

Commissioner Russell, as a member of the Code Enforcement Task Force, said the members are looking at the level of staffing needed for code enforcement and which department should absorb code enforcement. The Task Force will present its recommendations to the Board.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Russell discussed upcoming meetings: Columbia Development Authority; and a meeting with the Managing Director of the Community Renewable Energy Association, Brian Skeehan. Discussion ensued on the viability of CREA and what would happen if it ceased to exist; County Counsel Justin Nelson said he would look into it. Commissioner Russell said he was interviewed last week by KGW's Pat Dooris about the closure of the coal fire plant in Boardman, but the airdate was not yet known.
- Commissioner Lindsay discussed her interactions with Veterans Services Officer, Linda Skendzel, about a grant opportunity, and with Public Works to activate the Airport Advisory Committee. Commissioner Lindsay said she was working with GEODC (Greater Eastern Oregon Economic Development Council) to bring more of its program offerings to Morrow County, including a housing program. At the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group meeting, the new duplexes being built in Heppner were discussed. She said the intent is for them to be purchased by a private party. A discussion transpired on the Community Enhancement Funds received by WCVEDG, Boardman Community Development Association and the City of Irrigon from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone II Board. Chair Doherty asked if WCVEDG could use its funds to help businesses, in particular a veterinarian who wants to stay in Lexington but the Community Enhancement Funds were more attractive in Boardman. Commissioner Russell said there were no "sideboards" when CREZ distributed the funds and each entity makes its own decisions. He also said WCVEDG had the flexibility to change its plan, which currently focuses on a rehab program for existing housing.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:30 a.m.