

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2020
Irrigon Branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, Community Room
Irrigon, Oregon

Present

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Darrell J. Green, Administrator
Richard Tovey, County Counsel
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 9:00 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Commissioner Doherty requested to discuss a to add a letter of support for the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA).

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable, February 13th, \$82,904.38; Visa \$10,797.78; Retirement Taxes, February 4th, \$21,357.70; Payroll Payables, January 15th, \$166,655.82*
- 2. Seventh Amendment to Oregon Health Authority Intergovernmental Agreement #159824 for the Financing of Public Health Services, and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*
- 3. Sheriff's Office request to surplus two vehicles: 1. 2016 Dodge Charger, VIN 2C3CDXKT4GH319669. 2. 2017 Dodge Ram 2500, VIN 36CTR5CT0HG502477*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

Planning Department Monthly Report

Stephanie Case, Interim Planning Director

Ms. Case reviewed her report. She pointed out the LUBGWMA item in her report and asked if the County wanted to make comment. After various discussions, Chair Lindsay said this could potentially be brought to a future agenda for discussion.

LUBGWMA Letter of Support

Commissioner Doherty said time was of the essence in sending a letter in support of SB 1562. ["SB 1562 Summary: Creates program for gathering and reviewing data and research regarding ground water in Umatilla Basin and creating implementation plan to improve ground water quality and obtain full or partial removal of ground water management area designation from Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area. Requires that program include department recommendation of scientifically based rationale for removing designation in specific areas of Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area if practicable. Requires that program include appointment of, and support for, task force. Sunsets program January 2, 2030.

Appropriates moneys to State Department of Agriculture for biennium ending June 30, 2021, to carry out program activities.”]

Commissioner Doherty moved, as a Board, to support SB 1562 and to individually take the opportunity to send an email in support, and to also inform the Director of the Northeast Oregon Water Association (NOWA), J.R. Cook. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Presentation by Tamra Mabbott

Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD), Eastern Oregon Regional Representative, Community Services Division

Ms. Mabbott reviewed the hard copies of her PowerPoint presentation and explained her new duties as the Eastern Regional Rep for DLCD and noted her previous employment ties to Morrow and Umatilla Counties. She offered to be of assistance to the Morrow County Planning Department staff, as needed. She said when inquiries come to her from the multiple jurisdictions within her region, she either handles them herself, or refers them to the appropriate colleague with the necessary expertise. Various discussions.

Legislative Updates

Mr. Green said the chambers of commerce in the area are coordinating video conferences with legislators every Tuesday morning during the short session. The Bartholomew Building’s Upper Conference Room was one of the locations to access the video conference, he said.

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector discussed the status of SB 1525 dealing with enterprise zones (prevailing wage and increased reporting). He said it “flew” through the Senate but he didn’t know when it would be heard in the House.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Presentation

Ken Kraus, LEPC Chair, Zea2 LLC

Scott Burn, LEPC Committee, PGE

As members of LEPC leadership, Mr. Krause and Mr. Burn invited the Commissioners to attend LEPC’s meetings, held every other month on the third Tuesday. Discussion topics included:

- The role of the Committee – to form a partnership with local governments and industries as a resource for enhancing hazardous materials preparedness.
- The composition of the Committee – state and local officials, emergency management, emergency responders, hospital personnel, transportation personnel, community groups, representatives from private and commercial facilities, members of the public and others deemed appropriate by LEPC.
- If a facility has a certain amount of a particular substance, it is mandated that be reported, in accordance with the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986. However, Mr. Kraus said the LEPC does not have access to that information and he was looking for guidance. He said some facilities that should have representatives attending LEPC meetings were not doing so, and he did not have the time or resources to track that.
- Mr. Burn stressed the importance of two things, 1.) knowing what hazardous materials are at locations and, 2.) having emergency response plans on file for places with these substances. The top priority of the LEPC is to save lives, he said.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Kraus and Mr. Burn for the presentation and said they would add LEPC meetings to their list of meetings.

Miscellaneous

Sheriff Ken Matlack dropped in to provide an update on radio-related items. He said the work on the new microwave system was completed and they were in the process of obtaining costs for grounding equipment needed at the Sheriff's Office. He said the new radio system has the ability to encrypt what goes out over the airwaves. Law enforcement people were united in the desire to encrypt but fire districts want it to remain unencrypted. He listed some of the reasons for encryption and said they have to weigh public information vs. privacy rights. Sheriff Matlack said the Radio & Data District Board "wants us to acknowledge we want it encrypted." As the new system continues to be implemented in the area from west to east, Morrow County will be the first entity to get the new radios, he said.

Circuit Court & Courthouse Space Use Discussion

Chair Lindsay said she met with Presiding Judge Daniel J. Hill, who was more willing than his predecessor to give the County some time to conduct a space-use study of the Courthouse. She asked if her fellow Commissioners agreed with pursuing an estimate for such a study. Commissioner Russell agreed, and Commissioner Doherty asked if she had an approximate dollar amount in mind. She said she estimated \$25,000-30,000, while Judge Hill's estimate was \$50,000. At the conclusion of the discussion, Commissioner Doherty said at the end of the process, the County reserved the right to make the final decision.

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

- March 12th is the tentative date to look at furniture at the Umatilla Army Depot.
- County staff will meet with the contractor (Fortis) on March 21st regarding the corporate activity tax and to develop a clear path going forward.

Fair Board Appointments

Ann Jones, Fair Secretary

Ms. Jones explained there were two vacancies and three applicants. Cody High requested to be reappointed, she said. After a discussion about the number of new people on the Fair Board, Commissioner Doherty suggested there would be value in retaining Mr. High for the experience and institutional knowledge he could bring to that Board.

Commissioner Doherty moved to reappoint Cody High, Heppner, to the Fair Board.

Commissioner Russell seconded. Commissioner Doherty noted, as a friendly amendment this is for the timeframe of February 12, 2020 to December 31, 2023; Commissioner Russell agreed. Unanimous approval.

Discussion took place on the benefits the other two applicants could bring to the Board. The Commissioners suggested the person not being appointed today could be considered for a future vacancy or as an alternate, if the Fair Board were to choose to change its structure.

Commissioner Russell moved to appoint Maria Cambero, Boardman, to the Fair Board, term to be February 12, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports, continued

Fair Office Quarterly Report

Ms. Jones reviewed her report.

Justice Court Quarterly Report

Judge Glen Diehl

Judge Diehl reviewed his report.

Treasurer's Written Report

The report submitted by Gayle Gutierrez was reviewed.

Correspondence

- Regional Solutions Weekly Report, February 5, 2020

Commissioner Reports

The Commissioners provided reports on meetings attended.

Break: 11:11 a.m. – 11:18 a.m.

11:18 a.m. Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) – To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions

11:41 a.m. Closed Executive Session

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:45 a.m.