

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2020
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, Port Commission Room
Boardman, 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: Jerry Rietmann informed the Board he was recently appointed by the City of Ione as Director of Development to create a waste water solution for Ione. He said he “suspected Ione will be back to ask Morrow County to help in certain areas.”

Open Agenda: Commissioner Russell requested to provide an update on the car crushing program. Chair Lindsay asked to discuss the Eastern Oregon Economic Summit, which could include a decision.

Consent Calendar:

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

1. *Accounts Payable, February 20th, \$550,838.36; Four Payroll Payables: January 28th, \$167,498.90 & \$194,431.86, February 12th, \$158,299.53, Employee Final; February 7th, \$4,115.37*
2. *Request to increase petty cash at North Transfer Station from \$50 to \$100*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Legislative Updates

- The Commissioners discussed the video conference updates by Senator Bill Hansell and Representative Greg Barreto. Cap & Trade continues to dominate, but other bills were discussed regarding breaching the dams, a BOLI bill (Bureau of Labor and Industries), and funding for County Fairs.

Morrow County School District’s plans for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) Center using Strategic Investment Program (SIP) Funds

Dirk Dirksen, Morrow County School District Superintendent

Jon Peterson, Ione School District Superintendent

Mr. Dirksen outlined the planning on the part of the school districts, to-date, and said the school districts needed to know a timeframe before going any further. Discussion.

Jerry Rietmann, Wheatridge Project developer, said the anticipated start date of operations was October 20, 2020, with a worst-case scenario being January 2021.

Assessor/Tax Collector Mike Gorman explained the SIP payment would be billed and collected November 2021, if the project stayed on schedule.

After additional discussions, Chair Lindsay said a Work Session to start planning toward a memorandum of understanding (MOU) would be scheduled in the near future.

4-Corners Snowmobile Club Request – Multi-Use Building at Cutsforth Park

Mike Gorman, 4-Corners Club Secretary

Mr. Gorman said the topic of a building to house the trail groomer at a County Park was discussed about a year ago. Since then, conversations have taken place with the Sheriff's Office and the Forest Service, Heppner Ranger District. He said the Sheriff's Office would store search and rescue equipment at the facility, however, the Forest Service would not use the building but offered to provide staff in support of grant-writing. He asked the Board for permission to pursue the idea and work with County Parks and the other entities to obtain funding for the building. The County-owned building would be constructed at Cutsforth Park and MOUs would be in place for its use by other entities, he said. Regarding the timeline, Mr. Gorman said they would apply for the grant in June from Oregon State Parks and Recreation, with funds disbursement in the fall, if successful. Mr. Gorman said it would probably be built in the summer of 2021, at the earliest. The Commissioners gave Mr. Gorman the go-ahead. Chair Lindsay commented the building could possibly be used as a warming shed, and as something for bicyclists in the summer months, as well.

Sheriff's Office Building Grounding Project

Sheriff Ken Matlack

Undersheriff John Bowles

Communications Lieutenant Kristen Bowles

Shawn Halsey, Administrator, Umatilla-Morrow Radio & Data District

A new communications system has been scheduled for installation at the Sheriff's Office but the building needs electrical upgrades. Mr. Halsey briefly reviewed the bids and said the UMRDD Board recommended the low bid from Day Wireless of \$40,767.75. The contingent from the Sheriff's Office and Mr. Halsey fielded questions from the Board.

Commissioner Russell moved to authorize the expenditure of \$40,767.75 to improve the electrical at the dispatch center. Commissioner Doherty seconded and said he planned to vote no because the request needed to be looked at as a whole, in the entirety of the budget. Aye: Chair Lindsay, Commissioner Russell. Nay: Commissioner Doherty. Motion carried.

Report on cooperative emergency assistance provided during the recent flood

Sheree Smith, Public Health Director

Shelley Wight, Emergency Preparedness

Ms. Wight provided the timeline for assisting Umatilla County, beginning with the initial request for assistance that went out to other eastern Oregon counties. She said within a few hours of arriving, those responding to the request found their "niche." The 911 system was overwhelmed with calls and she found herself being put in charge of responding to media inquiries. Soon after, she suggested State resources be requested to assist the Public Information Officer. She said one of her biggest "take-away" lessons was to request help sooner rather than later. Such

requests have to follow a process and it can take time for people to travel to the affected area. She went on to discuss the new things she learned in assisting the lead PIO. She also said this was her first time experiencing the set-up of an American Red Cross shelter. Ms. Wight encouraged the Commissioners to take the Incident Command Trainings 100 & 700, at a minimum, in order to understand the structure of an emergency operations center. Trainers could be available on-site in Morrow County to facilitate the trainings, she said. She also stressed the importance of educating the public on how to be ready to evacuate, for example, how to know what to take (medication, important documents, etc.).

Chair Lindsay thanked Ms. Wright for being available to assist Umatilla County and added it made her proud to know we helped.

Commissioner Doherty said this event compelled him want to be more pro-active regarding emergency planning and preparedness exercises with our Emergency Manager, Undersheriff Bowles.

Administrator Darrell Green said The Loop was contacted to assist people with access to appointments, as well as other things that covered a wide breadth of circumstances. He said he instructed Nichole High (The Loop Dispatcher) to do whatever was necessary, and that the details could be worked through after the emergent event.

Compensation Board Recommendations for Elected Officials

Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director

Ms. Carlson summarized the recommendations of the Compensation Board:

1. The following positions to receive a three percent cost of living adjustment (COLA): Clerk, Commissioners, District Attorney/County Counsel, Justice of the Peace.
2. Treasurer to receive a three percent COLA with an additional recommendation that a wage study be conducted for a new Treasurer.
3. Assessor to receive a 10 percent wage increase and no COLA.
4. Sheriff – “adjustment to increase in April due to State Statute. COLA to maintain State Statute.”

Commissioner Russell moved to acknowledge the recommendations from the Compensation Board and forward them on to the Budget Committee for a final vote. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty said in light of the additional burdens put upon the Assessor’s Office as a whole, and his own suggestion during a Work Session that we earmark dollars for more staffing...the idea there’s a ten percent increase in the Assessor’s wage into the overall view has to be considered. He said he worried a little bit...that this negates the additional staff discussion. Chair Lindsay agreed. Commissioner Doherty added he wanted the staff to know the workload has increased considerably and he didn’t want to tell Mr. Green to do an office study...but the staffing discussion might have to be put off further down the road...it’s tough to make that leap...do you do it for the leader or for the staff...it’s a worthwhile discussion. Unanimous approval.

Chair Lindsay said it might be important for the budget conversation to discover the minutes where a decision was made by the Compensation Board that the Treasurer, Clerk, Justice of the

Peace and the Assessor should all be paid the same and raises were given at that time to make them the same. This now creates the same situation again. She suggested the minutes from that meeting be revisited because there were pointed arguments made to equalize those wages. She said she was not saying she agreed or disagreed, but that earlier conversation needed to be remembered.

Cybersecurity

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said he worked with Jordan Standley, IT Server Specialist, in researching cybersecurity options for the County. Mr. Green talked about government entities in Oregon that have been victims of cyber-attacks and the economic impact to those entities. He recommended the County purchase KnowBe4 Security Awareness Training through Eide Bailly, which has also been recommended by CityCounty Insurance Services (CIS). During the discussion, it was noted the funds were previously “earmarked” in the budget.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the purchase of KnowBe4 Diamond Level through Eide Bailly at a cost of \$2,250. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Doherty requested a discussion relative to Emergency Management prior to the Executive Session.

Car Crushing Program Update

Commissioner Russell said a meeting took place last Friday with representatives from the Sheriff’s Office, Planning Department, City of Boardman and the Port of Morrow. He explained County staff have been contacting owners about their junk vehicles but they are not complying because the County Ordinance has “no teeth.” Commissioner Russell said it would not be economically feasible to bring in a car crusher from Portland. The group should continue to meet to discuss an amendment to the Code Enforcement Ordinance and then bring a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, he said.

Eastern Oregon Economic Summit

Chair Lindsay said she received a request to sponsor the Economic Summit, which will be held in Hermiston in July. After discussion, it was agreed to schedule a specific request on the agenda soon.

Radioactive Materials

Commissioner Doherty referred to recent news stories that 2.5 million pounds of radioactive materials were illegally dumped in the landfill in Arlington and had travelled through Morrow County. He said he was concerned about the situation and then asked Emergency Manager, Undersheriff Bowles, to look into any required notifications, or lack thereof.

Correspondence

- Letter from the Department of the Navy stating they received the letter from the County dated January 22nd that requested a perpetual easement for the 500kV transmission line. In part, the letter said: “While your input has been received and considered, the Navy is

not at liberty to discuss, nor is it in IPC's (Idaho Power's) best interest to discuss private negotiations regarding their easement purchase."

- News article from Oregon Public Broadcasting about the radioactive waste illegally dumped in Arlington.
- Document on radiation exposure from MedlinePlus.gov
- Flyer for the 2020 Eastern Oregon Economic Summit

11:41 a.m. Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) – To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations

11:46 Closed Executive Session

Morrow County Local 2479/2479-02 Retirement Language Agreement

The parties agree to the following:

- Defined Contribution Retirement Plan for all County employees hired after July 1, 2020
- County will retain the existing Defined Benefit Retirement Plan for all current employees through June 2024
- The Defined Contribution Plan will consist of the following for all AFSCME General and Road employees newly hired after July 1, 2020: 1.) All newly hired employees will become eligible six months from the date of hire. 2.) Cost of the Plan – The Plan will be funded through employee and County contributions at the rate of six percent by the employee and nine percent by the County, for a total of 15 percent. 3) Vested – The employee will be vested when the sum of the months of employment equals 60 months. 4.) Retiree Medical Supplement is not available in the Defined Contribution Plan.

Commissioner Doherty moved to accept the agreement between Morrow County and AFSCME Council 75, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

The Commissioners thanked the represented employees for the work they do for the County. In addition, they thanked all the members of the negotiating team who worked diligently to come to this agreement.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:00 p.m.