

Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
March 11, 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
Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director
Richard Tovey, County Counsel
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

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

City & Citizen Comments: Irrigon City Manager, Aaron Palmquist updated the Commissioners on sewer line, pavement and sidewalk improvements taking place. He also mentioned recent interest from about 10 housing developers in tracts of land that could possibly mean 50 multiple parcels.

Open Agenda:

- Commissioner Russell asked to add the resolution proposed by Chair Lindsay regarding Greg Walden Day in Morrow County.
- Chair Lindsay said Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director, will provide an update on the Wheatridge Project as part of his scheduled agenda item about the informational flyer on road safety conditions.

Resolution No. R-2020-4: Declaring March 14, 2020 as Greg Walden Day in Morrow County

Chair Lindsay said she hoped to present the Resolution this weekend to U.S. Representative Greg Walden during the Wee Bit O'Ireland festivities in Heppner.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve Resolution No. R-2020-4: In the Matter of Declaring Saturday, March 14, 2020 as Gregory Paul Walden Day in Morrow County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Consent Calendar

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

1. *Two Accounts Payable, March 12th, \$70,619.33 & Visa APs, \$11,007.72; Two Retirement Taxes, March 6th, \$21,357.70 & March 9th, \$1,206.89*
2. *Minutes: January 15th & 22nd*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Coronavirus Update

Shelley Wight, Communicable Disease/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Ms. Wight discussed the following:

- Last week there were three cases in Oregon; the number increased to 15 this week. Turnaround time for testing at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been understandably slow. Over 70% of patients have not been hospitalized and recovered at home.
- The Public Health Department reached out to community partners (hospital, fire districts, law enforcement, schools, care facilities, etc.) to learn the current status of personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies and assess future needs. The decision was made by the partners to request supplies from the national stockpile as one group, rather than individually. Each entity will sign the agreement and Ms. Wight reported to have eight signatures.
- Testing Process: People are tested after they meet specific criteria. Tests can result in false negatives so additional testing then takes place. Individuals are also tested for influenza because Influenza A has been going through the community.
- If a test is positive, the contact history going back 14 days is conducted. The 14-day trace-back can be very difficult and some organizations have started logging visitors.
- Last night the Oregon Department of Human Services issued a directive requiring long term care facilities to screen 100% of individuals coming into those facilities.
- The Public Health Department will do a pod training tomorrow, followed by fit-testing for masks, in conjunction with the Health District.
- The Public Health Department held a flu clinic at Heppner City Hall last Friday and more people participated than expected.

Sheriff's Office Pay Increase Requests

Undersheriff John Bowles

Operations Lieutenant Terry Harper

Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director

Undersheriff Bowles said the topic of adjusting the wage for part-time seasonal employees was recently discussed at a Work Session with the Board. He said the wages in that category have not increased in nearly 11 years.

Marine Deputy

Lt. Harper reviewed the funding for the Marine Deputy position funded by a grant from the Oregon State Marine Board.

Commissioner Russell moved to authorize the hourly wage for the part-time Marine Deputy position as \$22.11 per hour, beginning April 1, 2020, with the rate adjustment equivalent to the annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) concurrent with the Teamsters Collective Bargaining Agreement. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Chair Lindsay clarified the part-time temporary positions being considered today were non-union positions. Unanimous approval.

Court Security

Lt. Harper explained security personnel are provided to the Justice Court and State Circuit Court and the State reimburses the County on a quarterly basis. Chair Lindsay noted these positions fall under the District Attorney's budget and asked if he was onboard with the request. Lt.

Harper said he spoke to Roy Blaine, Sixth Judicial District Trial Court Administrator and he verbally agreed.

Commissioner Russell moved to authorize the hourly wage for the part-time Court Security Deputy position as \$22.11 per hour, beginning April 1, 2020, with the rate adjustment equivalent to the annual COLA concurrent with the Teamsters Collective Bargaining Agreement. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

ATV Law Enforcement

The OHV Deputy positions are funded through an Oregon State Parks grant, said Lt. Harper. However, the grant rate was \$21.34/hour so the differential over the two-year grant will be \$13,000.

Undersheriff Bowles said they were not asking for additional funds from the County. Funding can be found within the Sheriff's Office budget because a deputy position remains unfilled while that person is on deployment.

Commissioner Doherty moved to authorize the hourly wage for the part-time ATV Law Enforcement Deputy position as \$22.11 per hour, beginning April 1, 2020, with the rate adjustment equivalent to the annual COLA concurrent with the Teamsters Collective Bargaining Agreement. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Extra Help

Commissioner Doherty moved to authorize the hourly wage for the part-time Deputy position as \$22.11 per hour, beginning April 1, 2020, with the rate adjustment equivalent to the annual COLA concurrent with the Teamsters Collective Bargaining Agreement. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Legislative Updates

- Commissioner Russell reported 255 bills were presented and three passed. None of the three impacted Morrow County, he said.

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

The first of multiple stakeholder meetings will take place this Friday. The Commissioners discussed the need for stakeholders to attend the meetings because decisions would be made regardless, in order to move the process forward. Mr. Green said progressive design-builds involve a fairly defined process with timelines and marks to hit. The design process will take about five or six months, and during that same time, initial construction will begin. Anticipated occupancy is August 2021, he said.

Follow-Up on the Gilliam County Town Halls – Waste Management

Chair Lindsay and Commissioner Russell provided reports on the Town Halls held in Gilliam County. They were about the Oregon Department of Energy's Notice of Violation to the hazardous waste facility in Arlington regarding the disposal of radioactive materials. The Arlington facility, Chemical Waste Management, is operated by Waste Management. Discussion

ensued. The Commissioners learned ODOE will conduct a risk assessment, a corrective action plan will be developed, and monitoring will take place, all of which will be reviewed in a future public meeting in Gilliam County.

Break: 10:21-10:30 a.m.

Rural Residential 10-Acre Zoning for Housing

Chair Lindsay sought concurrence from her fellow Commissioners to move forward with the County developing a policy to allow Rural Residential 10-Acre Zones. Currently, such requests come from individual landowners who have to navigate a cumbersome process for multiple exceptions to Oregon Land Use Planning Goals. The Commissioners agreed to moving forward, with the understanding the Planning Department is currently understaffed and workload volume has increased.

Review Flyer for Wind Project Road Safety Conditions

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Mr. Scrivner discussed the number and types of loads anticipated to travel roads in the area as the wind projects ramp up construction. A draft pamphlet and flyer were reviewed that will be distributed to the public via news media, chambers of commerce and local businesses.

Mr. Green said the bullet point style of the flyer was easier to read than the narrative of the pamphlet. He asked Public Works to add updates to the County website as things will be changing frequently and there will be times when the construction crews work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

National Association of Counties Conference Update

Commissioner Doherty recounted his recent trip to Washington, D.C., representing the Association of Oregon Counties and Morrow County. His report was titled, "Capital Investment."

Department Reports

Planning Department Monthly Report

Stephanie Case, Interim Planning Director

Ms. Case reviewed her report.

Correspondence

- Regional Solutions Weekly Report for March 4, 2020
- Email correspondence inquiring if a Morrow County Commissioner would like to be part of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center Advisory Committee. It was decided to list the subject on next week's agenda for further discussion.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Russell discussed a seminar he attended in The Dalles by the Department of Revenue on the corporate activity tax.
- Chair Lindsay said she has been exploring possible projects and ideas related to housing. For example, she's been in contact with GEODC about a rehab program for low-income

homeowners. She also discussed preparations for two upcoming Work Sessions, 1.) The memorandum of understanding with school districts for the Wheatridge Project Strategic Investment Program funds and, 2.) The next application for an enterprise zone.

- Commissioner Doherty talked about two recent deaths that impacted the communities in south County – the sudden death of a long-time Community Counseling Solutions employee and active volunteer, Shannon Boor, and the passing of Father Gerald Condon, retired Catholic priest who served Heppner and Ione for many years.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:52 a.m.