

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2020
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty

Darrell J. Green, Administrator
Justin Nelson, County Counsel
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

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

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar:

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

1. *Accounts Payable, March 19th, \$88,522.17; Manual Check, March 12th, \$1,214; Void Check, March 15th, \$212.83; Three Payroll Payables: February 20th, \$3,000; February 25th, \$161,630.05; March 4th, \$196,061.02*
2. *Minutes: February 5th*

Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

COVID-19 Update

Sheree Smith, Public Health Director

Shelley Wight, Communicable Diseases/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Ms. Wight offered the following:

- Cases in Oregon as of yesterday: 65
- Testing in Morrow County: No confirmed cases. The Public Health Department is working with other providers to request tests. The State is allocating 10 test kits per request and indicated more will be available.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Received first shipment from national stockpile. Every partner in the joint request received some supplies. Another larger shipment is anticipated next week.
- Hospitals and clinics are limiting visits and are screening visitors to protect staff and patients.
- Public Health staff normally work in specific programs, but the State is releasing people from those programs to help with COVID response.
- Schools are out until April 28th and group gatherings are limited to 25 people, but must adhere to social distancing. (Sheree Smith said the State is even recommending it be no more than 10 people.)
- Every call that comes into the Public Health Department receives a follow-up call.

Ms. Wight said the Public Health Department received a request from a grassroots volunteer group in the County called "People Helping People." They want to distribute food and other non-perishable goods, and contacted the department for guidance. Ms. Wight said she was working with Umatilla County Environmental Health, our contracted provider for food safety

related issues. She said law enforcement recognizes the benefits of managing and vetting volunteer groups, and then turned the floor over to Brian Snyder, Criminal Sergeant, Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

Sgt. Snyder talked about conducting streamlined background checks on the volunteers and producing an identification badge. He said this would help people feel more comfortable about someone coming to their homes. Discussion.

Chair Lindsay expressed concern over potential liability for the County, and Commissioner Doherty asked if the Chair and County Counsel could work together toward a happy-medium. It was decided to continue the discussion at the afternoon Work Session.

Order No. OR-2020-3: An Order Declaring a Local State of Emergency

Chair Lindsay explained this was listed on the agenda because there may be a decision at this afternoon's Work Session. She noted decisions do not normally take place at Work Sessions.

Board of Commissioners Meeting Location Rotation

Chair Lindsay said she made the decision that BOC meetings will be held in County facilities in order to have control over the meeting room environment. This will continue until further notice, she added.

Legislative Updates

Chair Lindsay explained this topic remained on the agenda in case there were emergent updates from the Governor.

Commissioner Doherty quipped he yearned for the days of providing updates on the fighting over cap and trade.

Sheriff's Office Request to Purchase Dispatch Recording System

Undersheriff John Bowles

Communications Lieutenant Kristen Bowles

Undersheriff Bowles said the funds for the recording system were within the Sheriff's Office budget but they were in 911 Contingency. He asked to have the funds moved in order to pay for the equipment. He then reviewed the bids received.

Lt. Bowles explained the maintenance fees will likely occur in the next fiscal year, but some decisions and discussions were pending with Umatilla County.

Chair Lindsay suggested the dollar amount being moved should also include the maintenance fees; Lt. Bowles agreed.

Commissioner Doherty moved to propose a budget resolution to move the dollars from Operating Contingency to Capital Outlay, 207-113-5-50-5999 to 207-113-5-40-4411. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the purchase and accept the bid from Goserco, Inc.; \$84,485.57 cost to be split equally between Morrow County and Umatilla County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Purchase Pre-Authorization Request, Public Works, Grader

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Mr. Scrivner said this purchase was anticipated through the department's fleet rotation plan. He reviewed the quotes received and said the Parks Department asked to purchase the older grader that is being replaced.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the purchase of a 2018 772GP John Deere Grader from Pape Machinery in the amount of \$330,445, with payments to be made through the 2026-2027 budget cycle; and allow the older grader to go to the Parks Department in the next budget cycle. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said the kick-off meeting was held last Friday and a great deal of information was shared among the participants. At the next meeting in mid-April, the owner's rep will present the ideas behind a progressive design-build. It's important for everyone to understand the concept and let go of their more traditional ideas of a building project, he said.

Mr. Green said he and Commissioner Russell viewed the surplus furniture at the Umatilla Army Depot and concluded it would not be suitable for the project.

Request to Appoint a Representative to the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center Advisory Committee

The Board tabled the request until after Budget Committee meetings in April since HAREC will be making an unanticipated budget request of Morrow County.

Discussion in Advance of the Work Session with School Districts Regarding the Wheatridge Project Strategic Investment Program (SIP) Agreement

Mr. Green reminded the Board of the initial meeting with school district representatives on February 19th where it was determined a work session was needed (April 1st). It was later requested that the BOC have a planning discussion prior to the Work Session.

Commissioner Russell said he hoped the school districts would come to the Work Session with a plan on how to allocate the funds between the two districts. Brief discussion.

Correspondence

- News Release – Heppner Ranger District offers summer job opportunities for local youth (Youth Conservation Corps)
- News Release – Northeast Oregon forests seeking members for Resource Advisory Committee
- Oregon Water Resources Department, Summary Report of activity in Morrow County by the District 5 Watermasters, as required by the intergovernmental agreement

- Oregon Department of Energy Public Notice, Carty Generation Station, Preliminary Request for Amendment 2

Commissioner Reports

The Commissioners discussed the latest meetings in which they participated regarding COVID-19 updates from state and federal partners.

Break: 10:17-10:25 a.m.

10:25 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

10:34 a.m. Closed Executive Session

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 10:38 a.m.