

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2020
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Darrell J. Green, Administrator
Gregg Zody, Community Development Dir.
Richard Tovey, County Counsel
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant
David Sykes, Heppner Gazette-Times

Present Via Electronic Means

Karmen Carlson, Human Resources
Stephanie Case, Interim Planning Director
Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector
Gayle Gutierrez, Treasurer
Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director
Linda Skendzel, Veterans Services
Joe Armato, Kalie Davis, Torrie Griggs,
Jerry Healy, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Aaron
Palmquist, Sandy Toms

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 9:02 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: David Sykes asked if the County was willing to enable the recording function in the Zoom meetings; the Board agreed.

Roll Call: Chair Lindsay conducted a roll call but some who were attending electronically did not reply.

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

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

1. *Accounts Payable, April 23rd, \$508,003.27; Three Payroll Payables: March 30th, \$198,703.73; April 7th, \$165,816.84 & \$3,000*
2. *Resolution No. R-2020-6: County Assessment Function Funding Assistance (CAFFA) Grant Application to the Department of Revenue*
3. *Morrow County Personal/Professional Services Contract, Counseling Services, with Community Counseling Solutions, Inc. for services to the Sheriff's Office, 20 hours per week, described as, 1.) Mental health assessment and treatment, 2.) Drug and alcohol counseling and treatment, 3.) Batterer's intervention, 4.) Sex offender treatment, 5.) DUII evaluation and treatment. Effective July 1, 2020 for one year; amount \$24,000.*
4. *Law Enforcement Services Agreement with the Morrow County School District for School Resource Officer. Effective when signed by all parties and shall continue to the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The school district shall pay the County \$50,000 for the SRO serving Irrigon schools and \$25,000 for the SRO serving Heppner schools.*
5. *Law Enforcement Services Agreement with the Ione School District for School Resource Officer. Effective when signed by all parties and shall continue to the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The school district shall pay the County \$25,000 for the SRO serving the Ione school.*
6. *Intergovernmental Agreement for Sheriff's Services with the City of Heppner; effective July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021; not to exceed amount \$178,683.20; 2020-2021 budget year requires the City to purchase a vehicle at an estimated cost of \$26,500-\$33,000, which will be turned over to the City at the end of its three-year rotation.*

7. *Request to issue a Bank of Eastern Oregon credit card to the Community Development Director, Gregg Zody, with a credit limit of \$3,000*
Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green reported there was good participation at yesterday's stakeholders meeting. The County's architectural and engineering firm, CIDA, will have another proposed design in a few weeks. He said he was planning toward a work session, possibly in late May/early June, for presentations by office furniture vendors.

Governor's Executive Order No. 20-16 – Public Meetings

County Counsel Richard Tovey said the Order reiterates the County's current practice (limited seating for the public to attend in-person, but electronic capabilities are offered, such as Zoom Meetings). He said it also gives the County some leeway if the public meeting is held electronically and all attendees are not at the same location.

Chair Lindsay said if the COVID numbers increase, the County could opt to not set up the four or five seats available for the public and go to more of a Zoom meeting format only.

Morrow County Government Command Center Update

- Chair Lindsay said the Government Command Center members recommended the County "spend some dollars" to improve the audio capabilities for electronic meetings. She suggested the possibility of using the Court Discretionary Fund if there was not another option, to which the other Commissioners agreed.
- Commissioner Doherty said he was assisting with efforts to procure a ventilator for the County and anticipated positive news this evening. Chair Lindsay said she enlisted his help as President of the Association of Oregon Counties, explaining that of the two ventilators in the County, one must be available for ambulances and the second one at the hospital was old enough that replacement parts were no longer available. Currently, someone in need of a ventilator has to leave the County for Portland or the Tri-Cities. The need is fairly desperate if we see growth here, she said, and the response back to us was Morrow County wasn't being considered. It was disappointing that no contact was made, she said. Pioneer Memorial Hospital services this County, as well as Gilliam and Wheeler Counties, so it's important we have a supply, she said.

Updates for Code Enforcement Draft Amendment and RV Campgrounds

Gregg Zody, Community Development Director

- Mr. Zody stated his goal was to strengthen the County's Code Enforcement Ordinance while not being overly restrictive for property owners. He said it should include a "solid" ordinance for inoperable, unlicensed vehicles, which is a fairly common standard. He said he forwarded his first draft to County Counsel for review.
- RV Campgrounds – Mr. Zody said he and Planning Department staff have been working with the Department of Land Conservation and Development on the notice and other process requirements regarding the temporary RV housing associated with

the energy projects in the County. Discussion. Mr. Zody said he would do more research and report back.

Enterprise Zone III Application

Chair Lindsay said she was bringing forward the Port of Morrow's draft minutes and motion made during the April 13th Joint Meeting between the BOC and the Port Commission, however she said she was not certain of the exact intent of the entire motion, which she then read aloud:

“Commissioner Murray made a motion to move forward with a co-sponsored application for an enterprise zone with the County and the Port but always having a third-party vote. He amended his motion to say the third-party would be determined by using the fire district boundary map as currently set with additional acreage added around Lexington to include the airport property. Any area that doesn't have a fire district or is included in a neighboring county's district would be treated as if it were in the nearest Morrow County fire district. Commissioner Taylor seconded that motion. No further discussion was had, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Morrow County Commission asked for clarification on the details of the motion and decided they will discuss further and get back to the Port.”

Discussion about different interpretations of the motion.

Commissioner Doherty said he didn't have anything further to add other than where we've been the last three weeks. He said the City of Boardman reached out and wanted to form its own enterprise zone but he believed either the Port or the County needed to sign-off on that. He wouldn't have a challenge with it, he said.

Commissioner Russell moved to agree to the Port of Morrow's motion to have a third-party city there using fire district boundaries, with the understanding we need to tweak those boundaries a bit to take in unincorporated areas or unprotected areas in the County, and the fire district boundaries from neighboring counties would be swallowed by the closest fire district boundary. Basically, do it around fire district boundaries with a little tweaking with the borders. Chair Lindsay said she included the fire district boundaries map and Commissioner Doherty's proposed map. Commissioner Doherty said he would not second it but to not read that as an indication there can't be a discussion down the road, it's just not a discussion that needs to take place, necessarily, at this time. Chair Lindsay said she had been clear she does not prefer the fire district boundaries. Motion died for lack of a second.

Discussion continued with representatives from the Port of Morrow and the City of Boardman characterizing the County, and specifically Chair Lindsay, as “uncooperative” and “uncompromising.” She defended her actions and cited specific examples of the County's willingness to compromise. She ultimately said she was in favor of an enterprise zone but not in favor of someone “owning a third-party vote,” but declined to elaborate further.

Break: 10:23-10:30 a.m.

Umatilla Electric Cooperative/Public Utility Commission Filing

Following a brief discussion, Chair Lindsay directed Mr. Zody and County Counsel, Richard Tovey, to determine what needs to be done and when, from a planning perspective, and to be sure to include the County's areas of concern. She asked that it be ready for the first meeting in May.

Parks Opening Date

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Mr. Scrivner explained the previously scheduled opening date was May 7th, but State Parks released a statement they will not open until May 8th. Mr. Scrivner said as of this morning, his contact at State Parks said no decision had been made on whether they were changing that date. Mr. Scrivner asked the Board for direction as staff needed adequate time to prepare or close down the Parks, depending on today's decision. Extensive discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to open the Day Use Area and follow State Parks' lead on the rest of the Park, meaning if State Parks open on May 8th, then the County would open on May 8th. If State Parks opts for a different date, then the County will follow that same date. Chair Lindsay clarified, the County will provide porta-potties but will not open our facilities. Commissioner Russell said yes, the County will not be opening up its restrooms and will leave those closed in the Day Use Area and will wait on opening up the main Park for opening up those types of facilities. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Additional discussion. Unanimous approval.

Public Works Purchase Request – Articulated Vibratory Roller, \$53,370

Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Purchase Pre-Authorization Request for a 2020 offset vibratory roller from Western States Cat in the amount of \$53,370.59. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

Written reports were reviewed for the following departments:

- Road Department, submitted by Mr. Imes
- Clerk's Quarterly Report, submitted by Bobbi Childers
- Human Resources Quarterly Report, submitted by Karmen Carlson
- Surveyor's Quarterly Report, submitted by Stephen Haddock
- Public Health Department Quarterly Report, submitted by Interim Director Diane Kilkenny
- Weed Department Quarterly Report, submitted by Dave Pranger

Correspondence

- Oregon Department of Energy Public Notice – Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility, Request for Comments on the Complete Request for Amendment 5 and Draft Proposed Order
- Grant of Easement – United States of America (Navy) to Idaho Power Company. Chair Lindsay discussed the Termination clause, Section 19, and the Surrender clause, Section

21 and said these were terrible actions for Morrow County from where we are with the BPA line, and not the fault of Idaho Power.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Russell reported on yesterday's Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting and the meeting with Department Directors to review the first draft of a floor plan for the new building in Irrigon. He commented on the amount of meetings being held electronically, due to COVID.
- Commissioner Doherty provided brief reports on the meetings he attended electronically, such as the Oregon Health Authority and the Association of Oregon Counties.
- Chair Lindsay said last week's Budget Meetings went well and many robust conversations took place. She said the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Morrow County Government Command Center teams have been working on plans for reopening the County and will be bringing that forward to the Board.

Miscellaneous

- Planning Department Interim Director Stephanie Case asked about the County submitting a letter to the Oregon Department of Energy regarding the Wheatridge Request for Amendment 5. It was agreed by consensus that the Planning Department would submit a letter stating the County had no comment, since the County is required to submit some sort of comment on the matter.
- Chair Lindsay requested the Planning Department add the Board of Commissioners Office to the distribution list for notices it sends out, and to also include them on decision notices, as well.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:45 a.m.