

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2020
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Darrell J. Green, Administrator
Roberta Lutchter, Executive Assistant
John Bowles, Undersheriff
Kristen Bowles, Communications Lt.
Justin Nelson, County Counsel
Gregg Zody, Community Development
Sheryll Bates, Heppner Chamber
Karen Pettigrew, Boardman City Manager
John Murray, Port of Morrow Commissioner
David Sykes, Heppner Gazette-Times

Via Electronic Means

Stephanie Case, Bobbi Childers, Ronda Fox,
Mike Gorman, Gayle Gutierrez, Nichole
High, Katie Imes, Ann Jones, Public Works,
Linda Skendzel, LeAnn Wright, Joe Armato,
Heather Baumgartner, Torrie Griggs, Lisa
Mittelsdorf, Aaron Palmquist, Greg Sweek

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

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Chair Lindsay requested to clarify or correct last week's motion pertaining to Enterprise Zone III. It was decided to add it as the first Business Item.

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Amended request from the Sheriff's Office to purchase a new dispatch recording system jointly with Umatilla County Dispatch from Goserco – accept change order bid of \$18,629.32 (Morrow County portion to be \$9,314.66), bringing the revised total to \$103,114.89 (Morrow County portion to be \$51,557.45).*
- 2. Ninth Amendment to Oregon Health Authority Intergovernmental Agreement #159824 for the Financing of Public Health Services; funding increase of \$38,344 for an added Program Element specific to COVID-19 response; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County.*
- 3. Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization, Community Benefit Initiative Reinvestment Program Agreement; project title: Morrow County Public Health Electronic Health Record Implementation; grant amount: \$25,000; term to be May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Clarification of May 6, 2020 Motion Related to Enterprise Zone III

Chair Lindsay described the unintended error in the map accepted last week with the County's draft resolution, and said she would entertain a motion to amend it.

Commissioner Doherty moved to amend the map labelled County Exhibit A to include the small area of industrial ground near the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge that was inadvertently not included. Chair Lindsay seconded. Discussion. Vote: Aye: Chair Lindsay, Commissioner Doherty. Nay: Commissioner Russell. Motion carried.

Morrow County Government Command Center Update

Chair Lindsay asked for input from other members of the Command Center team.

Justin Nelson said the Reopening Plan was submitted and the County was waiting to hear back from the Governor's Office. Team members have been working on housing options in the County for people who need to be isolated or who test positive but might be homeless.

Various discussions, including the different levels of testing available; the cancellation of July 4th celebrations; distribution of Personal Protective Equipment being limited to first responders, medical staff, hospitals, clinics, etc.; and brief discussion about the way the Governor views church services.

Chair Lindsay said the County's amended Reopening Plan was in today's meeting packet but had to be submitted last Friday. She said the intent of the plan did not change but she asked for her fellow Commissioners to ratify it.

Commissioner Russell said the motion last week said it would be a living document, subject to change.

Commissioner Russell moved to ratify the May 8th Reopening Plan, as it was submitted to the Governor, and as part of this, give Chair Lindsay the leeway to treat it as a living document. He added, as guidance comes from the State, she can make adjustments, as needed. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Break: 9:26 – 9:38 a.m.

Access to County Building During the May 19th Primary Election

Mr. Nelson said the Courthouse would be open but the interior office doors would be locked, with the exception of the Clerk's Office.

Clerk Bobbi Childers said the building would be open from 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. but none of her usual volunteers would be coming in to help.

Updates for Code Enforcement Draft Amendments, RV Campgrounds and Rural Residential 10-Acre Zone

Gregg Zody, Economic Development Director

Mr. Zody said he submitted the draft Code Enforcement update language to County Counsel for review. He said he also worked with Planning Department staff and project developers to locate RV campgrounds associated with the temporary workers. He said it was important for first responders to know these locations in the event they are called to an emergency, and to make sure the RV owners are properly emptying their waste holding tanks.

Regarding Rural Residential 10-Acre Zones, Mr. Zody said he will use Umatilla County's existing zone and resolutions as templates for Morrow County's.

The Commissioners agreed with Mr. Zody's plan to present the drafts to the Planning Commission for review before submitting them to the Board of Commissioners.

Follow-Up on the Umatilla Electric Cooperative/Public Utility Commission Filing

Mr. Nelson discussed the timeline to make comment on UEC's request to the PUC for condemnation of private property for a new line in the Boardman area. He then took the time to review the documents because they were not included in the Agenda Packet. In reviewing his draft of the comment letter, he said it focused on the County's concerns, rather than any objections. He suggested the letter be taken up near the end of the meeting.

Request to Approve Enterprise Zone Application from the City of Boardman

Karen Pettigrew, Boardman City Manager

Ms. Pettigrew said the City of Boardman was going to apply for an enterprise zone, which included its urban growth boundary, but needed the County's permission to do so. She briefly reviewed the map she provided.

Chair Lindsay said the request was received somewhat late for our process, which didn't allow time to gather information from the Assessor's Office or City of Boardman for the Agenda Packet. When she said she wanted to obtain answers to her questions from the Assessor's Office, Commissioner Doherty suggested tabling the request. Discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to table the request from the City of Boardman. Chair Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Sheriff's Office Station 2 Proposal

Chair Lindsay explained Sheriff's Station 2 is currently housed in a building leased from the Port of Morrow at the former mill site, and that building is in the process of being sold. The original idea to build a similar facility on County-owned property next to the Sheriff's Office met with resistance from nearby property owners, so Chair Lindsay began to explore other options. The idea of a land swap with the City of Heppner has been discussed as a possibility, she said. It would involve swapping the County-owned property next to the Sheriff's Office for City-owned property near the fire station where the City was considering a dog park. She attended the Heppner City Council meeting to see where the Council stood on the idea. She said the idea was given a "head nod" but a lot of work remains.

Commissioner Russell said the County should exercise its right of first refusal on the property.

Chair Lindsay said that discussion will come forward but she would be against standing in the way of industry and jobs in south County, which are very hard to come by.

Human Resources Director Interview Team

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green reviewed the list of his recommended team members from the Agenda Cover Sheet included in the Packet. Following a brief discussion, the Commissioners concurred with his recommendation: Mr. Green, Commissioner Russell, Finance Director Kate Knop, Undersheriff John Bowles, and possibly a fifth member (Department Director or outside party).

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

- Stakeholder meetings continue with Fortis and CIDA.
- Another building diagram will be received tomorrow.
- Future steps – present a building plan to the BOC; present an approximate budget to the BOC; determine guaranteed maximum price.
- Phase I will begin at the end of June or beginning of July, with construction to start in August or September.

ORS 204.112 Sheriff's Salary

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green read ORS 204.112(4), which states, "...the Sheriff's salary shall be fixed in an amount which is not less than that for any member of the sheriff's department." He explained the County applied this ORS to increase Sheriff Ken Matlack's salary in 2014 and 2016 and will be required to apply it again as of April 24, 2020, in order to keep his salary above that of a subordinate. Mr. Green said past practice has been to pay the Sheriff \$100 more per year than the next highest paid Sheriff's Office employee, but that amount was never officially set.

Commissioner Russell moved to follow past practice and increase the Sheriff's salary \$100 annually higher than the next highest paid Sheriff's Office employee. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty asked if this precluded an adjustment, either direction, relative to who the Sheriff is and the additional emergency management duties of the Undersheriff. He said it would be valid to have a "relook" if all that goes away.

Commissioner Russell agreed and said the Compensation Board reviews salaries for all the elected officials and compares them to salaries in the region and state. He said the Morrow County Sheriff consistently ranks high in our region. He said it's a fair comparison to continue to look at it annually.

Chair Lindsay asked if the motion was to have the salary go up or down until the Compensation Board corrects it.

Commissioner Russell said the motion was to move it up this year until the Compensation Board looks at it again next year.

Chair Lindsay said it's a relook, not an automatic; Commissioner Russell agreed.

Unanimous approval.

Break: 10:28-10:38 a.m.

PUC Letter

Mr. Nelson reviewed the changes he made to his draft letter presented earlier in the meeting.

Commissioner Doherty moved to sign and submit the letter to the Public Utility Commission, as amended. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports – Written

- Mr. Zody presented the Community Development Department Quarterly Report.

The Board reviewed the following written reports:

- Planning Department Monthly Report, submitted by Stephanie Case
- Finance Department Quarterly Report, submitted by Kate Knop

Correspondence

- Letter from U.S. Representative Greg Walden to Governor Kate Brown asking her, and the Emergency Board of the Legislature, to reconsider the decision to not share the Coronavirus Relief Funds with local governments.
- Letter from Oregon’s Congressional Delegation to Ryan McCarthy, Secretary of the Army, urging the Army to complete the remediation work at the former Umatilla Chemical Depot.
- Public Utility Commission notice In the Matter of Umatilla Electric Cooperative’s Petition for Certification of Public Convenience and Necessity (PCN 4) – Prehearing Conference Memorandum – Procedural Schedule

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioners Russell and Doherty said they provided reports at yesterday’s Department Directors meeting.
- Chair Lindsay said she was proceeding with plans for a joint meeting with Grant County at the OHV Park and that social-distancing would be accommodated. She said Grant County Judge Scott Myers was enthusiastic about the meeting. Chair Lindsay also said the County’s former Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) Coordinator, Jessica Rose, would like to propose to the County that she once again serve in that capacity, with the understanding she would obtain grant funds to support the position. Chair Lindsay asked Commissioners Russell and Doherty if they would entertain that prospect, after it was first submitted to LPSCC. They both indicated their willingness to consider the proposal.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:15 a.m.