

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2020
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Darrell J. Green, Administrator
Kate Knop, Finance Director
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant
Sheriff Ken Matlack
Justin Nelson, County Counsel
Gregg Zody, Community Development
Dave Sykes, Heppner Gazette

Via Electronic Means

Gayle Gutierrez, Ann Jones, Christy Kenny,
Diane Kilkenny, Sandi Pointer, Linda
Skendzel, LeAnn Wright, Sheryll Bates,
Heather Baumgartner, Erika Lasater, Aaron
Palmquist, unknown callers

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 9:00 a.m., followed by roll call

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Commissioner Doherty requested to add a discussion on declaring a local state of emergency.

Consent Calendar

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

1. *Accounts Payable, June 4th, \$220,613.67*
2. *Resolution No. R-2020-10: In the Matter of the Application for the Recreation Trails Program Grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for the Construction of a Snow Groomer Barn at Cutsforth Park*
3. *Amended Criminal Justice Commission, Maximizing LPSCC (Local Public Safety Coordinating Council) Capacity Program Grant – changes funding types from Personnel/Travel/Equipment to Contractual Services; \$24,060.10; effective April 1, 2020 or when fully executed, and ending on the Project End Date of September 30, 2020; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*
4. *Award McNab Lane Overlay Project to Interstate Concrete & Asphalt Company, dba American Rock Products; \$775,550*
5. *Award Contract for Trucking Services to Andy Ashbeck Trucking LLC*
6. *Award bid for Lexington Public Works Sand Shed Building to K3 Construction LLC; \$198,800*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Request to Approve Hiring Part-Time Drivers for The Loop

Katie Imes, Coordinator, The Loop

Ms. Imes reminded the Board that on March 20, 2019, they approved the Transit Driver position for The Loop. She then asked that 14 driver positions be added, with the associated pay scale.

Commissioner Doherty said the ultimate goal, as determined a year ago, was for a fixed route as the County works toward attracting people to live, work and stay here. He asked if that was still the shared vision.

Ms. Imes replied, absolutely. She then talked about the number of people denied rides because of the lack of volunteer drivers.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve up to 14 part-time demand response driver positions, not-to-exceed 38 hours per pay period. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Public Hearing on the Approved Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Chair Lindsay called for abstentions, conflicts of interest or ex parte contact. Hearing none, she outlined how to offer testimony and called for the Staff Report.

Ms. Knop provided the Staff Report, which included a review of the changes since the budget was approved by the Budget Committee on April 16, 2020.

Chair Lindsay individually called for proponents and opponents and heard no reply in each instance. The Public Hearing was closed at 9:26 a.m. for deliberations.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the budget changes with a net zero impact. Budget appropriations remain the same at \$50,299,189. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items, continued

Morrow County Government Command Center Update

- Administrator Darrell Green said a good portion of the meeting covered reopening County government, such as bringing employees back, effective June 8th, while at the same time keeping them safe and healthy by having appropriate safeguards in place. He explained that Friday, June 5th was the 21st day, therefore the County technically could open on June 6th or 5:00 p.m. on June 5th, depending on the Governor approving Phase II for Morrow County.
- Commissioner Doherty clarified the County and County government were not closed. What was meant by “reopen” was there will be increased access to County facilities, etc.
- County Counsel Justin Nelson said a motion was needed to rescind employee Work from Home and Remote Work agreements.

Commissioner Doherty moved to rescind the signed Work from Home agreements and open County buildings, effective June 8, 2020. Commissioner Russell seconded. Discussion: Mr. Green requested clarification on whether this would be regardless of the Governor’s decision. Commissioners Doherty and Russell replied, yes. Unanimous approval.

Emergency Declaration

Chair Lindsay said a great deal of research went in to whether or not to declare an emergency as a result of the storm on May 30th. She said it appeared an emergency declaration would assist

with insurance claims and could provide other benefits, as opposed to not declaring an emergency. Discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve Order No. OR-2020-4: An Order Declaring a Local State of Emergency. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Reopening Plan – Phase II Opening Request to the Governor

Chair Lindsay said a brief BOC meeting was held on Monday, June 1st at about 10:45 a.m. so the Board could review the letter to the Governor about Phase II Reopening and approve its signing by the full Board. She said she reached out to media (Dave Sykes), as well. The letter was provided in today's Agenda Packet, she added.

Courts Reopening/Facility Use

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Mr. Nelson explained what State Courts were doing to return to more normal operations by June 4th in Morrow County. For example, he said the bookcases in the back of the courtroom were removed and replaced by benches to address social-distancing, thereby allowing space for 14 people on the right side of the room. (Mr. Nelson previously noted the bookcases were of no historical significance and the majority of the books will be available electronically. Those not available electronically, were consolidated to one smaller bookcase.) He also talked about the challenges if a jury trial takes place when a large number of potential jurors need to be called in. He talked about the strain that will put on several County departments and facilities, including the Sheriff's Office for security.

Public Utility Commission – Discussion Regarding Petition to Intervene, Case No. PCN 4

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

The discussion pertained to Umatilla Electric Cooperative's request to the PUC to allow them to condemn private property in the Boardman area for a transmission line to service Amazon data centers, among others. Mr. Nelson said the County was not a party to the action but the proposed route goes around County property. If the County was granted intervener status, Mr. Nelson said it would mean the County could appear at hearings as a party; make arguments; be asked to provide additional information; have a greater ability to make comment; and be involved in the process later on.

Commissioner Russell said he hadn't had a chance to review the information in the Agenda Packet and preferred to postpone the discussion until June 10th; which was agreeable to the other Commissioners.

Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) Coordinator Contract

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Mr. Nelson reviewed the draft changes to the Morrow County Personal/Professional Services Contract, LPSCC Services, as it was not included in the Agenda Packet. After a brief discussion, it was determined the final version will be placed in next week's Consent Calendar for consideration.

Federal Aviation Administration CARES Act Airport Grant Application

Sandi Pointer, Public Works Management Assistant

Ms. Pointer said she contacted representatives with the FAA and Century West Engineering, the County's contracted consultant for services related to the Lexington Airport, and was advised by both parties that this grant could be used for operations and maintenance. She said the \$20,000 grant would be used toward the costs of an airport feasibility study.

Commissioner Russell moved to sign the Federal Aviation Administration CARES Act Airport Grant Agreement, Part II – Acceptance, and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Purchase Pre-Authorization Request – Water Tank & Spray Components

Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master

Mr. Imes said Public Works would like replace the 34-year-old water truck with a new 4,500-gallon water tank and spray components mounted on a 2018 truck already owned by the County.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the Purchase Pre-Authorization Request from Public Works for a new 4,500-gallon tank and necessary components, to be installed by Smith Equipment & Welding, approximate amount \$31,217, to be capped at \$35,000. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

A break was taken to watch the Governor's press conference: 10:54 a.m.-12:07 p.m.

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

- Representatives from IMESD will join the team meetings to provide technical input.
- Solar panels will be installed but the building will use more than the panels will produce.
- A discussion took place at the team meeting on naming the building, with one idea being to name it after a north County historical figure.

Department Reports – Written

The following written reports were reviewed:

- Administrator's Monthly Report, submitted by Mr. Green
- Sheriff's Office Monthly Report, submitted by Administrative Lieutenant Melissa Ross
- Treasurer's Monthly Report, submitted by Gayle Gutierrez

Commissioner Reports

The Commissioners discussed the storm of May 30th and how they helped those impacted. Chair Lindsay talked about upcoming Census 2020 events and research she was doing on a potential land swap with the City of Heppner.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:28 p.m.