

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2020
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Finance Director Kate Knop, Executive Assistant Roberta Lutcher, County Counsel Justin Nelson, Kristen Bowles, Sheriff Ken Matlack, Dave Sykes (Heppner Gazette)

Via Electronic Means

Mike Gorman, Bobbi Childers, Gayle Gutierrez, Linda Skendzel, Vickie Turrell, Sherry Wright, Gregg Zody, Sheryll Bates, John Murray

Excused

Administrator Darrell J. Green

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

City & Citizen Comments: Heppner City Manager Kraig Cutsforth asked to address the Board regarding the potential donation of a piece of property to the County. Chair Lindsay scheduled the discussion as the first Business Item.

Open Agenda: Discussion with Heppner City Manager, as referenced above.

Consent Calendar

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

1. *Accounts Payable, June 11th, \$318,682.95 & Visa APs, \$7,694.89; Manual Check, June 9th, \$8,756.46; Retirement Taxes, June 4th, \$24,429.26. Payroll Payables, May 27th, \$407.58; May 28th, \$191,766.76; May 21st, \$1,514.38; May 5th, \$174,998.39*
2. *Minutes: April 8th, with correction*
3. *Personal/Professional Services Contract, Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) Services, between the County and Jessica L. Rose to provide professional service work and coordination for the Morrow County LPSCC; effective April 1-September 30, 2020; \$24,060.10; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*

Chair Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

City of Heppner – Donation of Parcel/Property

Kraig Cutsforth, Heppner City Manager

Mr. Cutsforth said he recently learned of the County's need for a piece of property to locate a storage facility for the Sheriff's Office. He said the City owns a one-quarter acre lot by the Fire Hall and the City Council was willing to offer it to the County with one caveat. The caveat would be, if after the building was constructed and the County decided to surplus the property, the City wanted the first right to purchase and the first right of refusal. He then handed out maps with the location highlighted and explained the relevant easements.

Commissioner Doherty asked that this be brought forward as an official agenda item.

Commissioner Russell said a few things would first need to fall into place, such as the Port of Morrow authorizing the sale of the current Sheriff's Station 2 at the former mill site, and the County then exercising its first right of refusal.

Chair Lindsay thanked Mr. Cutsforth and the City for the offer and said there was a process still to be worked through with the three government entities.

North Morrow Vector Control District Update

Greg Barron, Manager

Mr. Barron provided a brief history of the Vector Control District, followed by an update of staff activities.

Request to Approve Appointments to the North Morrow Vector Control District

Mr. Barron presented the request to appoint Irrigon resident, Pat Tolar.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the appointment of Pat Tolar to the North Morrow Vector Control District Board of Trustees, serving out the remainder of the term for Board Trustee Position 1, which ends June 21, 2023. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Discussion – Umatilla Police Department Request for Dispatching Services from Morrow County

Sheriff Ken Matlack & Communications Lieutenant Kristen Bowles

Umatilla Police Chief Darla Huxell, Umatilla City Manager Dave Stockdale, Umatilla Finance & Administrative Service Director Melissa Ince

The City of Umatilla representatives proposed a contract with Morrow County to take on the City's 911 calls and dispatching service. The City currently provides its own dispatch service during the day and contracts the remaining time with Umatilla County. It was explained that 911 funds follow where the dispatch center goes, so those funds would transition to Morrow County. In addition, the City would pay Morrow County the equivalent of one full-time dispatcher position (including benefits), as well as pay to bring an unused dispatch console into use (about \$20,000-25,000). Discussion.

Commissioners Russell and Doherty expressed a willingness to move forward with the concept. However, a draft contract would need to be submitted by the City for review by Morrow County's Finance Director and County Counsel.

Government Command Center Update

- There were formerly two separate weekly meetings of the Morrow County Government Command Center and the Emergency Operations Center that have now been consolidated into a joint weekly meeting.
- Research continues on housing options for people in quarantine who can't quarantine at home or are homeless.
- General Maintenance Department installed plexiglass dividers for multiple staff members.
- The negative impact to County-wide businesses was discussed.

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

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

During the June 3rd BOC Meeting, the Commissioners discussed whether to request intervener status but postponed a decision until today. This pertains 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 he did not see an issue with the County joining as an intervener to the process.

During the ensuing discussion, Commissioner Russell cautioned against the County appearing to take sides and said he didn't see the purpose when all the information was public. He said he would hate to see the County be disqualified from supporting or overriding a decision of the Planning Department because the Board potentially took sides on something ahead of time. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Doherty moved to have County Counsel submit Morrow County as an intervener in the Public Utility Commission process. Commissioner Russell seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty said this should be used as an example that routes need to be fully vetted. Even now, they are looking at a potentially different route. He cautioned against boxing the Planning Department in to a use-allowed and a desk decision if it's a transmission line, adding there was still a major question as to whether it's a distribution line, which goes through a completely different process. Vote: Aye: Chair Lindsay, Commissioner Doherty. Nay: Commissioner Russell. Motion carried.

Census 2020 Update

- The Boardman and Heppner Chambers of Commerce will host a Facebook Live event on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. The purpose will be to inform people about the distribution of federal funds based on census figures, such as school funding, and funding after a natural disaster, etc. The presentations will be translated into Spanish.

Budget Resolution No. R-2020-11

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop reviewed the increases needed in various departments for unforeseen increases in appropriations, which resulted in an increase to budget appropriations in the General Fund in the amount of \$285,800.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve Resolution No. R-2020-11: In the Matter of Appropriations for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Agenda Building for June 17th Joint Meeting with Grant County at the OHV Park

Chair Lindsay said Grant County Judge Scott Myers will be the only representative from Grant County who can attend. The current agenda includes updates from Forest Service personnel and Morrow County Parks personnel. She said the County will hold a short Business Meeting at 8:00 a.m. at the Bartholomew Building to deal with routine business items before leaving for the meeting at the Park. That agenda will be light as there will be no ability to attend electronically and space will be limited.

Commissioner Doherty suggested there be a discussion about fire resiliency or lessons learned from previous fires, while Commissioner Russell suggested the annual youth elk hunt at the park also be discussed.

Department Reports – Written

The following written reports were reviewed:

- Community Development Department Monthly Report, submitted by Gregg Zody
- Planning Department Monthly Report, submitted by Stephanie Case

Correspondence

- Letter from the President of Move Oregon's Border, Mike McCarter, requesting a non-binding advisory question to the ballot.
- Notice from the Port of Morrow of closure of the gun range on Port property due to misuse of rifles that caused damage to equipment for emergency communications and a UEC substation.
- Letter from The Blanc Firm, LLC, to the PUC requesting intervener status for Gary and Casey Frederickson, Case No. PCN 4.

Commissioner Reports

The Commissioners provided reports on a variety of meetings attended, primarily via Zoom.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:48 a.m.