

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2020
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Administrator Darrell J. Green, Finance Director Kate Knop, Executive Assistant Roberta Lutchter, County Counsel Richard Tovey, Treasurer Gayle Gutierrez, Gazette Times Editor Dave Sykes, Greg Sweek

Via Electronic Means

County Counsel Justin Nelson, Assessor/Tax Collector Mike Gorman, Public Works Management Assistant Sandi Pointer, Torrie Griggs, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Karen Pettigrew, unidentified callers

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

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable, June 25th, \$60,043.75*
- 2. Personal/Professional Services Contract, Trucking Services, Andy Ashbeck Trucking LLC; effective June 24, 2020 for three years*
- 3. Intergovernmental Agreement #WRD 20-055, Oregon Water Resources Department, Umatilla Basin Assistant Watermaster Program; effective July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; \$12,220; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*
- 4. Amendment #10 to Oregon Health Authority Intergovernmental Agreement #159824 for the Financing of Public Health Services; increase of \$111,948 specific to COVID-19 response; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*
- 5. Amendment #13 to OHA IGA #159824 for the Financing of Public Health Services; modifies all Program Elements for the mid-biennium; overall increase from fiscal year 2020 is \$51,174; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*
- 6. Professional Services Contract with Helion Software, Inc. to provide Assessment and Taxation Computer Software Services; effective July 1, 2020 and shall expire on June 30, 2021; not-to-exceed amount \$51,855; and authorize Assessor/Tax Collector Mike Gorman to sign on behalf of the County*
- 7. State of Oregon Department of Administrative Services Grant Agreement No. 1025 – Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act; effective when fully signed for a grant funding start date as of March 1, 2020 and will expire on December 30, 2020; a not-to-exceed amount will be provided for eligible costs for the project, as outlined in Exhibit A; appointing Finance Director Kate Knop as the Grantee Grant Manager; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Order No. OR-2020-5: Authorizing the Treasurer to Invest Funds

Discussion took place on the length of the Order being less than the traditional one year. Chair Lindsay said doing so allowed for a transition time for the new Treasurer after the election, particularly in regards to the development of an Investment Policy.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve Order No. OR-2020-5: In the Matter of Authorizing the County Treasurer to Invest Funds. Commissioner Russell offered an amendment that the timeframe for the Order was July 1, 2020 until January 29, 2021, unless amended earlier by the Board of Commissioners. He then seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Morrow County Mental Health Advisory Board Appointments

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Mr. Nelson explained that in his role as District Attorney, he serves on this advisory board. He said according to the bylaws, appointments must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. He went on to discuss the importance of County involvement on Community Counseling Solutions' Advisory Board. This advisory board focuses on mental health issues in Morrow County and policy changes for CCS, but does not get into specifics about patients, due to confidentiality, he added. Mr. Nelson then reviewed the recommended appointments.

Commissioner Russell moved to appoint Linda Skendzel and Marissa Turner as Advisory Board members. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Insurance Renewals – General Liability, Automobile and Property; Workers' Compensation and Pollution Policy

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop reviewed the upcoming insurance renewal information for the Board. She explained some of the reasons for increases – three vehicles totaled in the last 18 months, the five year appraisal of buildings took place, and there were two large Workers' Compensation claims.

Equity Fund – Loan Review Committee and Policy & Procedures

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop said an Equity Fund loan request was received by GEODC (Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation). The next step would be for the Equity Fund Loan Review Committee to review the request, but the County first needs to update the committee list. She said the Community Bank representative needs to be removed because they no longer have a presence in the County. Brief discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to remove Community Bank as a member of the Equity Fund Loan Review Committee since they no longer have a presence in Morrow County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Resolution Discussion – First Addendum to 2017 Vadata Enterprise Zone Agreement

Commissioner Russell said typically these were just an acknowledgement that the agreement has taken place and that was how it has worked for a lot of years. He said the CREZ (Columbia River Enterprise Zone II Board) met in May and approve an addendum to an existing enterprise zone agreement for Amazon/Vadata. Commissioner Russell said his understanding after

reviewing the intergovernmental agreement between the three entities (Morrow County, Port of Morrow and City of Boardman) was it gave the enterprise zone committee the authority to enter into binding contracts and the County should have done this (resolution) a long time ago.

Commissioner Doherty suggested skipping to the next agenda item then.

Enterprise Zone Manager Greg Sweek urged the County to move forward with a resolution as Business Oregon would probably reject the addendum for lack of a resolution from the County.

Commissioner Doherty asked Mr. Sweek if the application noted the need for a resolution from the sponsoring entities.

Mr. Sweek replied yes, by statute, and added the City and County but not all the zone sponsors.

Commissioner Doherty said he didn't think the County could write a local IGA that circumvented an ORS (Oregon Revised Statute).

Mr. Sweek said there was a reading that the authority could reside with the CREZ Board but there hadn't been a discussion with Business Oregon's Business Incentives Coordinator, Art Fish.

Commissioner Doherty suggested slowing the process down until County Counsel could look into it and possibly reach out to the legislature. Perhaps the County didn't need to be involved in this, he added.

Mr. Sweek again encouraged the Board to pass the resolution and said there was the potential that the current enterprise zone might not expire June 30th, depending on what happens in the Special Session.

Commissioner Doherty asked if any of the sponsoring entities requested that legislation be put in.

Mr. Sweek said not to his knowledge.

Commissioner Doherty said he looked into this yesterday and learned the legislation will affect one county only – Morrow County. He said we've discerned no sponsoring entity was aware of this and the legislation was moving through without anyone being aware of it. How did this come to pass, he asked. He said he could possibly be in favor of it, "but this was not how to bake the sausage."

Chair Lindsay asked Port of Morrow Economic Development Director Lisa Mittelsdorf if she was aware of the legislation; no response.

When Chair Lindsay and Commissioner Doherty pressed to know the origination of the legislation, Mr. Sweek said he thought it would have come through the Association of Oregon Counties.

Commissioner Doherty, who is also President of AOC, said AOC supported a lot of things and maybe would have even supported this, but people can't do these back room things and slide legislation into bills. He said when he and Chair Lindsay ran for office, one of their platforms was government transparency and this was not transparent.

Extensive discussion took place on this resolution and another that will be considered very soon that further amends the agreement; the changing size of the Amazon buildings and the payments already negotiated according to size, and the need for additional time for the County to analyze different aspects, such as valuation, etc.

Commissioner Doherty moved to table the resolution. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Morrow County Government Command Center Update

- Administrator Darrell Green said distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was still a topic of discussion as some things are harder to obtain, such as hand sanitizer stands for the few remaining events that will take place at the Fair.
- Community Development Director Gregg Zody will serve as the contact person for inquiries from private businesses about PPE.

Order No. OR-2020-6: An Order Declaring a Local State of Emergency (COVID-19)

Chair Lindsay explained it was important to maintain the declaration and extend the earlier declaration an additional 180 days.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve Order No. OR-2020-6: An Order Declaring a Local State of Emergency, effective June 24, 2020 and continuing for 180 days from the date of this Order, unless extended or terminated earlier by the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

- The presentations by furniture vendors will take place this afternoon.
- Work continues on the budget and the scope of the building.
- Interior and exterior building security has been discussed at the weekly meetings.

Department Reports, Written

The Board reviewed the Road Department Monthly Report, as submitted by Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master.

Correspondence

- Letter from Governor Kate Brown to the Association of Oregon Counties and the League of Oregon Cities in response to their joint letter of June 5th on the allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds.
- Letter to Governor Kate Brown from the Jackson County Board of Commissioners asking that school kids be allowed to engage in sports programs.

- Public Notice from the Oregon Department of Energy on the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility I Request for Comments on the Request to Transfer Site Certificate.

Commissioner Reports

Reports were provided of meetings, primarily having to do with COVID-19 issues.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:15 a.m.