

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
July 1, 2020
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Administrator Darrell J. Green, Human Resources Manager Lindsay Grogan, Finance Director Kate Knop, Executive Assistant Roberta Lutcher, County Counsel Justin Nelson

Present Via Electronic Means

Interim Planning Director Stephanie Case; Assessor Mike Gorman; Treasurer Gayle Gutierrez; Fair Secretary Ann Jones; Juvenile Director Christy Kenny; Public Works staff; Veterans Services Officer Linda Skendzel; Juvenile Department Office Support Specialist LeAnn Wright; Community Development Director Gregg Zody; Heppner Chamber staff – Sheryll Bates & Lori Roach

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 9:00 a.m., followed by roll call. Chair Lindsay welcomed the County's new HR Manager, Lindsay Grogan.

City & Citizen Comments: Sheryll Bates with the Heppner Chamber of Commerce introduced her replacement, Lori Roach as the new Executive Director.

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable, July 2nd, \$60,465.29*
- 2. First Amendment to Oregon Department of Corrections Intergovernmental Agreement #5854; reducing Inmate Welfare Release Subsidy Fund by \$1,362.52; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*
- 3. United States Department of Agriculture, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Services – Wildlife Services Agreement No. 20-7341-5126-RA, Work and Financial Plan; \$60,000; effective dates July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*
- 4. Amended Physician Assistant-Certified Agreement; adding an additional PA-C, Amanda Fabian; commencing June 24, 2020 and continuing until the agreement is terminated*
- 5. Disposition of Asset – Title Transfer, 2017 Dodge Charger; Vehicle Identification Number 2C3CDXKT7HH621300; Oregon license plate number E270697*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Resolution No. R-2020-20: In the Matter of Declaring a State of Drought Emergency

Chair Lindsay explained Umatilla County was designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a primary natural disaster area due to a recent drought. Being contiguous to Umatilla County, this opened the door for a similar designation for Morrow County, she said. The federal and state designations could mean additional assistance to those affected and this Resolution would be the first step, she added.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve Resolution No. R-2020-20: In the Matter of Declaring a State of Drought Emergency in Morrow County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Letter to Oregon Water Resources Department and Oregon Office of Emergency Management Requesting an Executive Order from the Governor Declaring a Drought in Morrow County

Commissioner Russell moved to approve signing the letter dated July 1, 2020 addressed to Ken Stahr, OWRD, and Traci Naile, OEM, regarding a drought declaration for Morrow County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Morrow County Government Command Center Update

- Governor's Executive Order regarding masks: County Counsel Justin Nelson said he and Administrator Darrell Green have reviewed it to understand all the nuances. Mr. Green sent guidance to staff based upon the Executive Order, but fully understanding the Order was still a work in progress, he said.
- Discussion took place on the short timeframe between the Order and its implementation; the lack of clear guidance from the State regarding what to do in the event someone refuses to wear a mask at a County facility, i.e., enforcement mechanism, if any; and the fact that business owners/managers were already contacting Commissioners to ask how to interpret the Order.
- Mr. Nelson said if a person refuses to wear a mask, the County could arrange to serve the person elsewhere, such as outside or in a larger room.
- The County will contract through Express Personnel for Contact Tracers. Discussion on the increased demand on Public Health Department staff, who are still required to maintain normal services, per State contracts. Mr. Green talked about the need for another position in Public Health to assist at a higher level than a Contact Tracer, that could be needed for up to two years and would not be a contracted position. He said something needed to be in place in the next 72 hours. Finance Director Kate Knop said there were currently two Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions open in the Public Health Department and appropriations were available to contract with Express Personnel. She suggested the Command Center Team redefine the FTEs.

Commissioner Doherty moved to allow the Administrator the flexibility to change those job descriptions and hire someone, as needed, for a temporary/permanent position. Unanimous approval.

- Chair Lindsay said Undersheriff John Bowles was researching options to house quarantined individuals who have no place to do so, for instance, in travel trailers. She said the Director of the Office of Emergency Management has said this was not a county responsibility, but rather the responsibility of the State's Department of Human Services, the Red Cross, and other organizations. Chair Lindsay said the County can't default to the State, as we've seen. She added that her understanding of the Government Command Center was, in order to be nimble, it had the authority to obtain travel trailers for this purpose and bring that information back to the next Board meeting.

State Courts Reopening Update

Justin Nelson, District Attorney/County Counsel

State Courts reopened last week and Mr. Nelson said the new requirements issued by the judge have basically been no different from what was already being done, as far as cleaning, social-distancing, etc. He said there was the potential that a jury trial could go on for an extended period of time, which would mean the Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room would be needed to accommodate the jury.

Chair Lindsay said the BOC would then need to hold its meetings elsewhere because it was important that Circuit Court trials be held in Morrow County. She asked if the other Commissioners agreed, Commissioner Russell replied in the affirmative.

Community Counseling Solutions Quarterly Report

Kimberly Lindsay, Executive Director

Ms. Lindsay provided an update of activities at CCS. She also requested the Commissioners consider signing the “Morrow County Pledge for Zero Suicide,” which she said involved no commitment other than promoting the work of CCS and sharing the pledge with other counties. She added it could be beneficial in some application processes.

Commissioner Doherty moved to accept and sign the Morrow County Pledge for Zero Suicide and have Ms. Lindsay work with County staff to prepare the document. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Morrow County Equity Fund Loan Request

Jeff Bailey, Equity Fund Loan Committee Chair/Bank of Eastern Oregon President

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop summarized the Equity Fund Loan Committee Meeting of June 26th that considered an application from Patricia Rill to purchase a food truck and launch Upper Place Concessions. The Committee recommended the Board approve a five-year loan in the amount of \$11,735, she said.

Commissioner Russell asked Mr. Bailey for a suggested interest rate on the loan, which he deferred to the Board. However, he did go on to discuss rates for commercial loans. He said 4.5-6.5% on a five-year equipment loan for a situation such as this. He listed other rates, saying they were at historic lows with prime at 3.25%, and 10-year Treasury around 70 basis points. A case could be made for just about any rate on this, he said. Discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the loan to Patricia Rill, with a five-year term and 2% interest rate. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

- Mr. Green will meet tomorrow with a CIDA representative (architecture and engineering design firm) on the recommendation to the Board for a furniture vendor.
- The names of subcontractors in the County were forwarded on for review by Fortis and the subcontractors who made the list should be available next week.
- Work continues to bring the budget closer to \$6,800,000.

Department Reports

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
- Fair Office Quarterly Report, submitted by Ann Jones, Fair Secretary

Correspondence

- Letter from the Department of Environmental Quality thanking communities for continuing to provide essential services, such as garbage and recycling collection.
- Letter from the Association of Oregon Counties to Governor Kate Brown requesting Coronavirus Relief Fund allocations to local governments be made in accordance with U.S. Department of Treasury guidance, signed by AOC President and Morrow County Commissioner Jim Doherty.
- Email from Treasurer Gayle Gutierrez notifying the Commissioners and the Finance Department that the County was reimbursed \$192,236 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
- Notice to wheat producers from Oregon State University Extension's Christina Hagerty and Larry Lutchter about Fusarium crown rot in the area.
- PowerPoint presentation from the Governor's Office on "Maximizing Cost-Effective Mitigation Measures to Avoid Further Economic Impacts," dated June 30, 2020.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Doherty mentioned a call from a constituent experiencing internet outages and Commissioner Russell then briefly discussed Boardman's efforts toward its internet broadband project.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:15 a.m.