

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
July 8, 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, Executive Assistant Roberta Lutcher, County Counsel Richard Tovey, Greg Sweek, Barb Huwe

Present Via Electronic Means

Stephanie Case; Bobbi Childers; Mike Gorman; Gayle Gutierrez; Christy Kenny; Diane Kilkenny; Public Works staff; Vickie Turrell; Gregg Zody; Sheryll Bates; Torrie Griggs; Leah Harris; Erika Lasater; Aaron Palmquist

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 9:01 a.m., followed by roll call.

City & Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda: Chair Lindsay added a discussion about a possible grant partnership with Tillamook Creamery.

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable, July 9th, \$264,336.33; Retirement Taxes, July 6th, \$24,429.26*
- 2. Minutes: April 15th*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Right of First Refusal – Sheriff’s Station 2 Building

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said the Port of Morrow provided the County with a copy of a bonified offer to purchase the building at the former mill site. This invoked the Right of First Refusal in the lease agreement, therefore the County has 30 days to decide to purchase or not.

Commissioner Russell moved to decline on the Right of First Refusal. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Morrow County Government Command Center Update & Reopening Plans

- Mr. Green said a great deal of discussion took place at the weekly meeting on the new requirement to wear masks. He said he sent an email to staff recommending people wear masks in the buildings (hallways, public areas, etc.) and take personal responsibility outside of work. He said, according to Interim Public Health Department Director Diane Kilkenny, the majority of new cares are community acquired through gatherings such as BBQs, where it then spreads to the workplace. He said he put signs up today about the mask requirement and will distribute signs to the rest of the departments. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was being distributed to cities and chambers of commerce to disburse to businesses. The County is in good shape for PPE but Undersheriff John Bowles will continue to make sure the supply levels are maintained.

- Commissioner Russell commented on the updates from the Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer that no longer contain the same amount of detail. Chair Lindsay said some statistics, such as number of people recovered or isolated take a lot of work to track and staff doesn't have the time to gather those details because of the extensive amount of time taken for contact tracing. She agreed that the statistic regarding people recovered would be good to know and said she would bring it up at the next Emergency Operations Center meeting. She also mentioned that a variety of statistics continue to be available through the Oregon Health Authority website.
- Chair Lindsay said the Command team talked about the scenario if the County is downgraded by the Governor. The group decided a letter should be sent to the Governor requesting that not happen and it was sent under the signatures of the Chair, the Interim Public Health Director and the Emergency Manager.

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

- A decision regarding a furniture vendor is anticipated early next week.
- Work continues on the site plan and should be wrapped up this week or next.
- A ground-breaking ceremony could take place late September or early October.

Letter to the Governor Regarding Federal Funds for Counties

Commissioner Doherty said the Governor and her administration have been reluctant to let go of the CARES dollars that belong to counties. In May, the County sent a joint letter with Umatilla County to the Governor, as did the Association of Oregon Counties in June. At this point, he said, another letter probably wouldn't make a difference.

Tillamook County Creamery Association Grant Application

Chair Lindsay requested approval from the other Commissioners to move forward with a grant application and return at another meeting with additional details. She reviewed the process, as she understood it, since information was still forthcoming. She said the funds would likely be used to assist main street businesses suffering the impacts of COVID-19. Commissioners Russell and Doherty had no objections.

Department Reports

The following written reports were reviewed:

- Community Development Department Monthly Report, as submitted by Director Gregg Zody
- Planning Department Monthly Report, as submitted by Interim Director Stephanie Case
- Justice Court Quarterly Report, as submitted by Judge Glen Diehl
- Veterans Services Quarterly Report, as submitted by Veterans Services Officer Linda Skendzel

Correspondence

- U.S. Forest Service News Release: Northeast Oregon Forests seeking members for Resource Advisory Committee. Assessor/Tax Collector Mike Gorman voiced his interest in being nominated for this committee. Chair Lindsay said she also had an interest and

would continue to promote this notice and also prepare a letter of support for an upcoming agenda.

Commissioner Reports

The Commissioners discussed recent and upcoming meetings.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 10:10 a.m.