

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2020
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell; Staff: Darrell J. Green, Justin Nelson, Katie Imes

Present Via Zoom

Commissioner Jim Doherty; Staff: SaBrina Bailey Cave, Gayle Gutierrez, Deanne Irving, Christy Kenny, Diane Kilkenny, Roberta Lutcher, Matt Scrivner, Linda Skendzel, Vickie Turrell, LeAnn Wright, Gregg Zody; Non-Staff: Sheryll Bates, Torrie Griggs, Leah Harris, Rollie Marshall, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Kathy Street, Dave Sykes

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

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Commissioner Russell said PGE representatives would like a virtual meeting with the County and Port of Morrow to provide an update on the closure of the Boardman Coal Fire Plant and the Wheatridge Project. The proposed date of Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:00 p.m. was agreeable to the Commissioners.

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable, August 13th - \$571,085.61 & Visa APs \$16,160.97; Five Payroll Payables: July 2nd - \$3,125; July 29th - \$18,390.97 & \$1,478.28; July 31st - \$198,399.61 & \$1,658.21*
- 2. Minutes: June 10th, June 17th, June 24th, June 29th, July 1st, July 8th, July 15th*
- 3. Budget Committee Member – Approval to Recruit for Position #3*
- 4. Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2021-2022*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Wilson Lane/Olson Road Reconstruction Project – Award Bid

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Mr. Scrivner said the three bids were very competitive and he recommended the low bidder, Silver Creek Contracting, LLC. The improvements will be paid under the Road Use Agreement with Vadata, he added.

Commissioner Russell moved to award the bid to Silver Creek Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$1,085,591.94. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Mr. Scrivner said he would sign the Notice of Intent and added Silver Creek was planning a mid-September start date on the project. Commissioner Russell added to the original motion to authorize the Public Works Director to sign the contract on behalf of the County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Purchase Pre-Authorization Request, Public Works/Parks, Polaris Ranger

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Mr. Scrivner said three quotes were obtained and he recommended John Day Polaris in the amount of \$30,015. He said the Road Department planned to buy the Parks Department's electric Ranger that is being replaced, at the trade-in value of \$4,850.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Purchase Request for a Polaris Ranger XP 1000 in the amount of \$30,015. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty stated these were Parks funds, which are a "separate bucket" and not General Fund dollars. The Parks Department lives on its own resources, yes? Mr. Scrivner replied, "Correct." Chair Lindsay said she wanted to make sure the quotes were "apples to apples" because it always seemed to land on John Day Polaris. Mr. Scrivner said he compared them line-by-line. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Umatilla County and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for Fixed Route Planning Services

Katie Imes, Coordinator, The Loop

Ms. Imes said the three entities plan to collaborate on a new fixed route service for the Hermiston-Boardman Connector and the Port of Morrow Circulator. She then reviewed both routes in detail. She explained the MOU also allows for a Request for Proposals in order to hire a transit planning firm to research and prepare the routes and schedules. Discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the MOU with Umatilla County and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Update from Morrow County School District Superintendent on the Status of Schools Reopening
Dirk Dirksen, MCSD Superintendent

Mr. Dirksen said he interpreted the latest information from the State as MCSD being able to do small groups (1:10 ratio) in school two hours each day starting on September 8th. One of the "hardships" that allowed this was poor internet access but the logistics of such a schedule have not been worked out. He explained the COVID rate that must be achieved for this to happen – less than 30 with COVID over a three-week period, or 10 per week, but in the third week, the number has to be less than five. He said this was achievable but would require work. He went on to review the district's "Operational Blueprint for School Reentry 2020-21." Mr. Dirksen requested a letter acknowledging the plan was presented to the Board as the Local Public Health Authority. He said the deadline was Saturday, August 15th.

Rollie Marshall, Ione School District Superintendent, discussed his district's intention to approach the Oregon Department of Education with a request to be considered on an individual basis. He too requested a letter from the Board. Chair Lindsay asked if the district's plans changed since they were presented to the Board. Mr. Marshall reviewed the changes and said he would forward the latest version.

Chair Lindsay said a Special Meeting would be needed to approve the letters before the deadline and asked if the other Commissioners were available on Friday, August 14th at 9:00 a.m. Both Commissioners replied in the affirmative.

Break: 10:22-10:29 a.m.

Morrow County Government Command Center Update

- Efforts continue on getting the message out as to how to slow the spread of the virus. Health Department staff met with representatives of community-based organizations and the Latinx community to exchange information and ideas.
- Chair Lindsay continues to ask the State about resources for counties on the watch list since she hasn't seen resources being provided to Morrow County, the #1 county on that list. She mentioned the State provided an epidemiologist for Umatilla County.
- During the BOC meeting, Mr. Green showed a short video produced by the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce, North Dakota, in an effort to inspire and motivate people to work together to overcome COVID-19 and its impacts. The Boardman Chamber of Commerce planned to do something similar and asked the County to participate; the Commissioners supported the idea.

Local Government Reimbursable Expenses from Coronavirus Relief Fund – Summaries by County, City and Special Districts

Commissioner Doherty reviewed the amount received by the State in Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (\$600 million) intended to be passed on to cities and counties, but only a portion made its way to the local level (\$200 million). Of the \$200 million distributed to cities, counties and special districts, those entities in Morrow County have spent just under \$700,000 of the almost \$2,000,000 received. He explained that the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) was working on an intergovernmental agreement that entities could use to consolidate funds for agreed upon uses. In the meantime, he said he would put together a list detailing how the entities have used the funds and would reach out to special district representatives about a possible joint work session. Commissioner Doherty explained funding requests are approved at the county level, by county counsels, who are to determine if Federal guidelines have been met.

Census 2020 Update

Chair Lindsay reviewed the current response rates for cities and towns in the County and noted they were all lower than the overall State response rate. She said it's been difficult to figure out how to go door-to-door during the pandemic. Various ideas were discussed.

Video Recording of BOC Meeting Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said the main hold-up continues to be the process to upload to YouTube and making sure recordings are branded as the County's.

Eastern Oregon Counties Association Intergovernmental Agreement

Commissioner Doherty provided an overview of the revisions in the updated IGA, including its expanded membership list. He then recommended the County adopt the IGA.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Eastern Oregon Counties Association Intergovernmental Agreement, effective July 1, 2020 and shall terminate on June 30, 2022 unless extended by amendment; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Sheriff's Station 2 Replacement

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said Engineering Northwest, LLC was engaged to determine an estimated construction cost for a similar structure being vacated by the Sheriff's Office due to the sale of the leased space. The letter from ENW's Pat Woodcock, Professional Engineer, had the estimated cost at \$549,000. Mr. Green asked to move forward with a Request for Proposals.

Commissioner Russell asked Sheriff Ken Matlack if the placement of the storage structure in south County was still the proper location for that facility.

Sheriff Matlack replied south County has been a logical place and has worked well for the department.

Discussion ensued, including ideas on how to fund the building.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve a Request for Proposals to select a contractor to build Station 2 on the proposed site. Chair Lindsay said and to bring back the RFP and budget solution. Commissioner Russell seconded. Discussion continued and various directions were given to staff. Commissioner Doherty said he was no longer clear on the motion and asked that it be read back. Following the read-back, he said to note he agreed with his original motion and it should not be a mixed motion. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green provided a budget update and said there will be some unanticipated additional expenses, such as the City of Irrigon requirement to replace more sidewalks than expected. He also said the team hoped to select subcontractors within the week.

Department Reports

The following written reports were reviewed:

- Administrator's Monthly Report submitted by Mr. Green
- Community Development Department Monthly Report submitted by Gregg Zody, Director
- Planning Department Monthly Report submitted by Stephanie Case, Interim Director

Correspondence

- Oregon Veterans News Magazine, Summer 2020 – Article about former Morrow County Sheriff Roy Drago

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports of activity were provided.

Signing of Documents

Adjourned: 12:05 p.m.