

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2020
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty; Staff: Darrell J. Green, Kate Knop, Roberta Lutchter, Ken Matlack, Justin Nelson, Gregg Zody

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Stephanie Case, Gayle Gutierrez, Diane Kilkenny, Matt Scrivner, Linda Skendzel; Non-Staff: Sheryll Bates, Becky Blankenship, Jacob Cain, Robert Echenrode, Torrie Griggs, Josh Lankford, Erica Lasater, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Karen Pettigrew, Lori Roach, Greg Sweek, David Sykes, Unknown caller

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

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: None

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Doherty requested to remove the Accounts Payable (APs) for discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the following items in the Consent Calendar, removing the Accounts Payable:

1. *Minutes: August 6th Joint Meeting with the Port of Morrow*
2. *Resolution No. R-2020-21: A Resolution to Jointly Sponsor Between the Port of Morrow and Morrow County an Application for Designation of an Enterprise Zone*
3. *COVID-19 Emergency Business Assistance Program Forgivable Loan Contract, OBDD #C2020392; effective when fully signed and shall expire 45 days after the Program Completion Deadline; not-to-exceed amount \$150,000; recipient has available or obtained binding commitments for all funds, including matching funds in at least a 1:1 ratio (\$100,000 from Tillamook County Creamery Association and \$50,000 from Morrow County); and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Accounts Payable

Commissioner Doherty asked about the sizeable payment to Umatilla County for jail beds, which was explained to his satisfaction by Finance Director Kate Knop and County Counsel Justin Nelson.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the Accounts Payable dated August 20th in the amount of \$210,001.10. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

Becky Blankenship, Hill International – County’s Owner’s Representative

Mr. Green said Ms. Blankenship was asked to present information regarding the budget and the next steps in the process as the County prepares to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) in the near future.

During her presentation, Ms. Blankenship answered various questions as she reviewed the processes to-date and the next steps. She said the budget was trending toward the targeted \$6.8 million but was over by \$100,000.

Mr. Green said the majority of that \$100,000 was an unexpected sidewalk improvement projected being required by the City of Irrigon. The GMP will be ready for review by the Board on August 26th or September 2nd, said Mr. Green.

Easement Request from Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC)

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Robert Echenrode, UEC Executive Director

Mr. Nelson said an Executive Session was scheduled on this topic at the end of the agenda. Mr. Scrivner then provided the history of the easement request and Mr. Echenrode responded to questions. The Board announced the possibility of a decision following the Executive Session, but either way, they would reconvene in regular session.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Appointment Request

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Mr. Scrivner recommended reappointing Blain Middleton to Position Two: Residing Near or Adjacent to Finley Buttes Landfill. He explained staff in Public Works advertised but continue to struggle to fill vacancies on this committee, including alternate positions.

Chair Lindsay pointed out Mr. Middleton was a business owner (Finley BioEnergy LLC), not a resident. Discussion continued on the lack of a quorum at SWAC meetings and the need to continue recruitment efforts.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the appointment of Blain Middleton to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Position Two, term to be September 1, 2020 – September 1, 2024.

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Commissioner Russell amended the motion to include “or his designee.” Commissioner Doherty seconded the amendment. Vote on amendment: Unanimous approval. Vote on original motion: Unanimous approval.

Morrow County Government Command Center Update

- Mr. Green said the Command Team developed an informational sheet for employees, as well as the general public, that explained the investigation procedure the Public Health Department follows after notification of a positive COVID-19 test. He also said a great deal of conversation took place this week on employees and distance learning in schools.
- Mr. Nelson discussed potential impacts to employee schedules when school begins through distance learning. To understand the situation better, the Command Team scheduled a “Listening Session” on Thursday, August 20th at 12:30 p.m. to hear employee concerns (anonymous submissions were also an available option).

Intent to File Application for Oregon Coronavirus Relief Funding for Cultural Support

Gregg Zody, Community Development Director

Mr. Zody said although he was still reviewing the application process which was just released, he asked permission to move forward with an application. He said the request would be for help with expenses incurred after the County Fair was severely scaled back. Mr. Zody noted the short window of opportunity to apply and said he had never seen such a tight turnaround time.

Commissioner Russell moved to allow Mr. Zody to submit an application from Morrow County to the Cultural Trust, and authorize him to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Correspondence

- Morrow County Planning Department Notice to Adjoining Landowners and Interested Parties: Special Meeting, Friday, September 4th 9:00 a.m.; Land Use Decision LUD-N-26-20, UEC, applicant, and UEC, Sage Hollow Ranch, LLC & Stiffler, LLC, owners
- City of Irrigon Planning Commission Notice of Public Hearing, September 1st 6:00 p.m. – to consider Morrow County’s Conditional Use Permit Application for a new administrative building in Irrigon

Commissioner Reports

- The Commissioners provided reports of activity.
- At Chair Lindsay’s invitation, Marc Czornij, Partnership Team Lead for 2020 Census Operations in Oregon, provided an update and responded to questions from the Board. Ideas to increase the response rate in the County were discussed and an event was tentatively scheduled with the details to be finalized soon.

Break: 11:11-11:18 a.m.

11:19 a.m. Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) – To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions

12:37 p.m. Closed Executive Session – No decisions

12:40 p.m. Returned to Regular Session

Commissioner Russell stated there was no action from the Executive Session but the County would follow-up and gather additional information. He added County Counsel would reach out to UEC to ask a few questions and clarify a few items.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:41 p.m.