

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2020
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Darrell J. Green, Alan Gregory, Lindsay Grogan, Eric Imes, Diane Kilkenny, Roberta Lutcher, Richard Tovey

Present Via Zoom

Commissioner Jim Doherty, Stephanie Case, Gayle Gutierrez, Katie Imes, Kate Knop, Tamra Mabbott, Ian Murray, Sandi Pointer, Matt Scrivner, Linda Skendzel, Vickie Turrell, Gregg Zody;
Non-Staff: Torrie Griggs, Erika Lasater, Ryan Neal, Karen Pettigrew, David Sykes

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 9:02 a.m.

City & Citizen Comment: None

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

Chair Lindsay removed the Accounts Payable (APs) to Business Items.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the remaining item in the Consent Calendar: September 16th minutes. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Accounts Payable

Chair Lindsay had questions about the invoice for the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada for Justice of the Peace, Glen Diehl. She said her recollection from Budget Committee Hearings in April was if he opted to attend prior to the November election, it would be at his expense. She asked the other Commissioners if that was correct.

Commissioner Russell agreed and asked for additional information as to why he chose to attend this close to the election. He said COVID might have impacted how often the judicial college would be offered.

Commissioner Doherty estimated it could be the registration fee for a session in the spring.

Via the chat option in Zoom, Stephanie Case from the Planning Department, wrote that Judge Diehl was currently attending the judicial college.

Chair Lindsay moved to approve the Accounts Payable, minus the National Judicial College invoice until additional research and discussion occur. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Acknowledge Upcoming Retirements

Chair Lindsay said the Board planned to acknowledge retirements of County employees on a regular basis. On the schedule today were Alan Gregory and Diane Kilkenny.

- Mr. Gregory will officially retire October 29th after having been with Public Works/Road Department since 1990. Chair Lindsay read a brief summary of his career with the County and others spoke about him, including Public Works staff, Matt Scrivner, Eric Imes and Sandi Pointer. Mr. Gregory's wife, Sheri, talked about his career progression and Planning Director Tamra Mabbott commented on her interactions with Mr. Gregory over the years in various capacities.
- Ms. Kilkenny's retirement date will be November 2nd, however, she will stay on as Interim Public Health Director until mid-December to help with the transition to a new director. Ms. Kilkenny began working for the County as a nurse in 1987 and was tapped as Interim Director last spring when now-retired Director, Sheree Smith, was no longer able to stay in that position. Each Commissioner thanked Ms. Kilkenny for stepping in during such a critical time in the history of the Public Health Department. Multiple staff members in the department thanked Ms. Kilkenny, as well, and presented her with a retirement gift.

Comment Letters to the Energy Facility Siting Council Regarding the Carty Generating Station Request for Amendment 2 & Draft Proposed Order; and Wheatridge II Request to Amend Site Certificate

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott briefly reviewed the letters. She said once EFSC authorizes the amendments, they need to come back to the County for a Conditional Use Permit, which was the main point of both letters. She said a new recommendation was added so that energy facilities are treated the same as any other development, in that the landowner then has to obtain a zoning permit, for consistency. Another change from past practice, will be for the Board to sign the letters, rather than Planning staff. She said the Board is the highest body in the County, which carries more weight, and the Board is also designated as part of the special advisory group.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the two letters dated October 28th, drafted by the Planning Department. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Public Health Department Memorandums of Understanding with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) – Doulas Latinas International and Euvalcree

Diane Kilkenny, Interim Public Health Director

Ms. Kilkenny explained Governor Brown wanted better health equity, especially during COVID when the majority of those affected are in communities of color. The Oregon Health Authority provided grants to CBOs to provide contact tracing, wrap around services, education and outreach. Two CBOs have received OHA grants to serve Morrow County and they now require MOUs to provide those services.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the MOU with Euvalcree and the MOU with Doulas International Regarding Community Engagement, Education, Support and Outreach for Active Surveillance of COVID-19 Case Contact; both effective when fully executed and both shall expire October 28, 2023, unless by mutual or single party termination; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

9:41 a.m. Commissioner Doherty left to attend another meeting.

Review Registered Nurse Supervisor Job Description

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Manager

Ms. Grogan outlined some of the responsibilities within the new position and said funds were available in that department's personnel budget due to professional nursing positions that have not been filled. In the subsequent discussion, it was decided the word "may" will be placed before "serves as back-up to Public Health Director," and Chair Lindsay asked that to make sure the word "supervisor" in the job title was being used accurately and wouldn't create any issues with the union.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Public Health Clinic Nurse Supervisor job description with no additional budget appropriations, and with the minor changes and requests incorporated. Chair Lindsay seconded. Vote: Aye: Chair Lindsay and Commissioner Russell. Excused: Commissioner Doherty. Motion carried.

Wheatridge Project – Agreement on Procedural Issues for Partial Assignments

Darrell Green, Administrator

Chair Lindsay said she recused herself from decisions with Wheatridge, with the exception of the Road Use Agreement, because there were no monetary changes to the County. She said she didn't think it necessary to recuse herself today but was happy to do so, however, there were currently just two Commissioners present.

County Counsel, Richard Tovey, said he thought it would be fine as this just changes what's distributed.

Regarding today's agreement, Mr. Green explained Wheatridge Wind Energy, LLC and Wheatridge Solar Energy Center, LLC, proposed to partially assign the 450 megawatts (MW) as follows: 200 MW to Wheatridge Wind II; 150 MW to Wheatridge Wind East; and 100 MW to PGE. The request to do so was allowed within the original Strategic Investment Program Agreement signed in March 2019. Mr. Green said there was concern in the future about the Assessor's Office potentially managing up to 25 different 10 MW partial assignments, which could place a huge workload on them.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the partial assignments of the Wheatridge Wind Project as follows: 200 MW to Wheatridge Wind II, LLC; 150 MW to Wheatridge Wind East, LLC; and 100 MW to PGE. Chair Lindsay seconded. Vote: Aye: Chair Lindsay and Commissioner Russell. Excused: Commissioner Doherty. Motion carried.

Cattle Guard Procurement

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Mr. Scrivner said the County/Public Works buys cattle guards that meet Road Department specifications and then sells them to landowners. He provided an overview of the bid process and recommended the award for cattle guards go to Doherty Welding, LLC. (It was noted Doherty Welding was owned by Commissioner Doherty's brother.)

Commissioner Russell moved to accept the low bid for cattle guards and award the bid to Doherty Welding, LLC. Chair Lindsay seconded. Vote: Aye: Chair Lindsay and Commissioner Russell. Excused: Commissioner Doherty. Motion carried.

Notice of Grant Opportunity for Off-System Paths

Gregg Zody, Community Development Director

Mr. Zody said staff recently received notice from Oregon Community Paths program that it is accepting letters of intent for off-system path grants (bike/pedestrian paths not primarily on or along a roadway). Some examples being path or path segments that traverse a park; go between housing developments; go along greenways or old rail lines; are located within areas not otherwise within the public right-of-way. Mr. Zody talked about two possible projects in Morrow County – further development of the Heritage Trail, and developing a pathway between Heppner and Ione.

Commissioner Russell moved to authorize Mr. Zody to submit a letter of intent by the October 31st deadline and to further investigate the viability of trails in Morrow County. Chair Lindsay seconded. Vote: Aye: Chair Lindsay and Commissioner Russell. Excused: Commissioner Doherty. Motion carried.

Break: 10:02-10:10 a.m.

Morrow County Emergency Operations Center Update

Chair Lindsay said the schools were in session, with a reduced schedule, thanks to a lot of work from staff in Public Health and the schools, as well as the citizens of the County. She said there was a lot of turmoil because of the quick response without a lot of notice but there was a fear that the new metrics for schools might remove rural schools to a different criteria. The goal was “to shoot the gap” of the current metrics and not suffer under the next metrics. She said the hope was the County will be allowed to have local control under the EOC, the school districts, and the local public health authority (Morrow County Board of Commissioners/Public Health Department).

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said meetings continue with the Board on interior finish options and with stakeholders on furniture options. He said the team continued to look to avoid additional expenses or find cost-saving opportunities in the water/sewer area. This could free up money for other items or reduce the overall budget. He also said the building permit process with the City of Irrigon was still in-process and he hoped to get it cleaned up soon.

Association of Oregon Counties Virtual Annual Conference & November 18th BOC Meeting

The Commissioners had not had an opportunity to view the AOC agenda and opted to bring this back for discussion next week.

Department Reports

Road Department Monthly Report

Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master, reviewed his written report.

Human Resources Quarterly Report

Ms. Grogan reviewed her written report.

Public Health Department Quarterly Report

Ms. Kilkenny's written report was reviewed by the Board.

Weed Department Quarterly Report

Dave Pranger's written report was reviewed by the Board.

Correspondence

- Oregon Farm Bureau News Release: "Governor subverts public process with last-minute Executive Order"
- Orchard Wind Project Update
- PGE News Release: "PGE announces end to coal-fired power generation in Oregon"
- Oregon Water Resources Department Notice of Petition for Rule Amendment or Rulemaking and Invitation for Public Comment from Stand Up to Factory Farms

Commissioner Reports

Reports were provided by Commissioner Russell and Chair Lindsay.

Cancelled:

Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) – To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed

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

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:20 a.m.