

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2020
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Mike Gorman, Kate Knop, Roberta Lutcher, Richard Tovey, Gregg Zody

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Bobbi Childers, Lindsay Grogan, Gayle Gutierrez, Eric Imes, Katie Imes, Tamra Mabbott, LeAnn Wright; Non-Staff: Torrie Griggs, Erika Lasater, Lisa Mittelsdorf, David Sykes

Excused: Darrell J. Green

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

City and Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

Chair Lindsay removed the October 7, 2020 minutes.

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

- 1. Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
- 2. Eleventh Amendment to Oregon Health Authority Intergovernmental Agreement #159175 for the Financing of Mental Health, Addiction Treatment, Recovery & Prevention, and Problem Gambling Services; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*
- 3. Two Applications for Tax Refund from CoreLogic Tax Service (Refunds Department), due to payment by both CoreLogic and Mid-Columbia Title*
- 4. Resolution No. R-2020-26: Authorizing Morrow County Public Works to Apply for an All-Terrain Vehicle Grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for Operations and Maintenance at the Morrow-Grant County Off-Highway Vehicle Park*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Minutes – October 7, 2020

Regarding the agenda item, “Public Hearing Cancellation Discussion – Appeal of Morrow County Planning Commission Decision LUD-N-26-20,” Chair Lindsay said it was important to note the hearing was cancelled based on statute and guidance from County Counsel. She asked to add information to that effect, which was agreeable to the other Commissioners.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the minutes of October 7, 2020, with the addition highlighted. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Grant Funds Update

Gregg Zody, Community Development Director

Mr. Zody said the committee met last night to review the 14 Tillamook County Creamery Association Grant applications and approved 12 of them. The decision to eliminate two

applications was based solely on guidance from the State, he explained. The average award amount was \$2,500, also an amount from the State, based on certain criteria.

Discussion took place with the Commissioners about possible criteria for the next round of grant applications.

CARES Funds Update

Chair Lindsay said this item was listed on the agenda in the event the contract from the State arrived for signature.

Commissioner Doherty explained each County will receive a base amount of \$500,000, then additional funds based on population, which means \$601,787 for Morrow County.

Chair Lindsay discussed the status of the Oregon Business Development Department/Tillamook County Creamery Association Grant. Commissioner Doherty reported that his research about grants funds awarded to special districts, such as library districts, had very strict criteria as to how the funds could be spent. He commented the Oregon Trail Library District received over \$200,000 and could only justify spending \$3,000-4,000, an experience repeated at other library districts. Perhaps some of those unspent funds were returned to the State and became the source of the current CARES funds, he offered.

Columbia River Enterprise Zone III Intergovernmental Agreement

The Commissioners requested changes to the draft agreements before submitting them to the Port of Morrow for review. The item was continued to next week's agenda.

Order No. OR-2020-10: An Order Setting Aside a Reserve Account in Anticipation of Property Tax Appeal

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

Mr. Gorman explained RDO-Calbee Foods, LLC, which owns a food processing plant in Boardman, filed a property tax appeal with the Magistrate Division of Oregon Tax Court over the Department of Revenue's appraisal for the 2019-2020 tax year. He requested the creation of a reserve account in the event RDO-Calbee Foods was successful in the Tax Court.

Commissioner Russell moved to sign Order No. OR-2020-10: In the Matter of Setting Aside from Taxes Collected in the Current Tax Year, an Interest-Bearing Reserve Account in Anticipation of a Property Tax Appeal. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Emergency Operations Center Update

- Chair Lindsay said the messaging to the public continues to be – keep holiday gatherings small, wear a mask, frequent handwashing, and that if cases increase, it will negatively impact the ability of schools and the County to be open. She added, if the new metrics remained in place, schools might not be able to be in-person after the Christmas break if the number of positive cases exceeded 30 in a specified two-week period. She asked that people share the importance of testing because negative tests can help the County's statistical rates. Chair Lindsay met with the Morrow County Health District Administrator, Bob Houser, about COVID testing. He said if someone needed to be

tested, to contact the Health District and arrange a time. She noted this was a change from where things stood earlier with the District.

- Commissioner Doherty commented that anyone who challenges anything about the way testing is done or how data is compiled, gets accused of being a “denier.” Chair Lindsay followed up by saying while the Governor will decide how the vaccines are distributed, she wanted to make sure rural counties receive the same attention as urban counties. She said if Morrow County continued to be the focus for lockdowns, it needed to be the focus for vaccines, as well.

Irrigon Building Update

- Commissioner Russell said the building permit should be submitted on December 1st and equipment mobilized at the site on December 14th. The target move-in date was still October 20, 2021. The bids from subcontractors came in under budget, which was positive news, he said.

Department Reports

Road Department Monthly Report

Assistant Road Master Eric Imes reviewed his report for November. A discussion took place on the County’s cattleguard replacement policy. Public Works Director Matt Scrivner said it was on the agenda for the December 17th Road Committee Meeting, which could result in a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

Correspondence

- Email from Deirdre Dooley, Oregon Water Resources Department, to Planning Director Tamra Mabbott, requesting copies of all public comments submitted regarding the Stand Up to Factory Farms Petition for Rule Amendment or Rulemaking (Public Comment Period Re-Opened).
- Oregon Department of Energy Public Notice, Carty Generation Station, Notice of Proposed Order on Request for Amendment 2.

Commissioner Reports

Reports of activity were provided by each Commissioner.

Signing of documents

11:40 a.m.: As the receipt of the CARES contract from the State was anticipated this morning, Chair Lindsay recessed the meeting until noon.

11:58 a.m.: Chair Lindsay said the contract would be scheduled for next week’s BOC Meeting, unless it needed to be returned to the State sooner. In that case, she said a special meeting would be called on Monday.

Adjourned: 12:00 p.m.