

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Darrell J. Green, Roberta Lutcher, Richard Tovey

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Stephanie Case, Glen Diehl, Lindsay Grogan, Eric Imes, Katie Imes, Kate Knop, Tamra Mabbott, Jaylene Papineau, Sandi Pointer, Dan Robbins, Matt Scrivner, Heidi Turrell, Gregg Zody; Non-Staff: Torrie Griggs, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Karen Pettigrew, David Sykes

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

City & Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
- 2. Amendment 17 to Oregon Health Authority Intergovernmental Agreement #159824 for the Financing of Public Health Services; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Acknowledge Retirement of Charlie “Buz” Wainwright

Even though Mr. Wainwright was not in attendance, people took the opportunity to speak to his work ethic and dedication to the job he held for more than 20 years as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic/Senior Mechanic in the Road Department. Among the speakers were Commissioner Russell, Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master, and Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director.

Appoint County Surveyor

Darrell Green, Administrator

Commissioner Russell said this would be the first-ever appointed Surveyor in Morrow County. Mr. Green agreed and provided additional background on the change from elected to appointed and referenced the applicable Oregon Revised Statute.

Commissioner Doherty moved to appoint Matt Kenny as the County Surveyor for Morrow County, Oregon. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: The Commissioners decided Chair Russell would continue to be a resource or liaison between the Surveyor and the BOC. Unanimous approval.

First Reading: Ordinance No. ORD-2021-1: Article 9 Code Amendments

Stephanie Case, Planner II

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Case provided the first reading: “An Ordinance Amending the Morrow County Zoning Ordinance, Article 9, Administrative Provisions.” She said the final reading will take place January 27th.

Ms. Mabbott said the Ordinance would become effective May 1, 2021, unless the Board wanted an emergency implementation. After discussion, the Commissioners decided not to declare an emergency and adhere to past practice, which has been not to declare an emergency unless a clear case was presented for the need.

Airport Advisory Committee Appointment Requests

Sandi Pointer, Public Works

Ms. Pointer said Public Works solicited for the vacancy. She then discussed the application received and the current vacancy on the committee.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to appoint Russ Ellsworth to the Airport Advisory Committee as an Alternate to the Economic Development position; term to be January 13, 2021 to December 31, 2023. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Road Committee Appointment Requests

Sandi Pointer, Public Works

Ms. Pointer said the requests were for reappointment from current members.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the following appointments to the Road Committee, all terms to expire January 13, 2024:

- 1. Cameron Sweeney representing Heppner*
- 2. Greg Barron representing Irrigon*
- 3. Aaron Palmquist representing North County At Large*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Review Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) III Draft Intergovernmental Agreements

Chair Russell said the revisions from last week’s discussion were sent to the Port of Morrow for review. He spoke to Port staff about the changes but said it would be better for the Port Commissioners themselves to weigh in on it, to which Commissioner Doherty agreed. The item was carried over until next week.

BOC 2021 Committee & Board Assignments

The Commissioners made some changes to assignments, among them to have Commissioner Lindsay remain as the representative on the Emergency Operations Center Team for the duration of COVID-19, instead of rotating it to the new Chair. They also changed the CREZ II Board appointments –

Commissioner Doherty moved to appoint himself to the CREZ II Board for a two-year term. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion about the document that references two-year terms. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Doherty moved to appoint Commissioner Lindsay as the alternate on the CREZ II Board. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

(The list can be found on the Morrow County website, Board of Commissioners page: <https://www.co.morrow.or.us/boc.>)

Due to the short timeframe of availability for Judge Glen Diehl, the Board opted to move his report up on the agenda.

Department Reports

Justice Court Quarterly Report

Judge Diehl reviewed the report for his department. A discussion took place on tracking and reporting of uncollected fines. Judge Diehl said he would contact the collection agency about providing a report for the Board.

Business Items, continued

Building Projects Updates

- Mr. Green said the building permit for the Irrigon building should be granted any day now.
- Commissioner Lindsay said she was working with County Counsel, Richard Tovey, on the easement for access to the Sheriff's Station 2 Building.

Break: 10:25-10:37 a.m.

Emergency Operations Center Update

Mr. Green said the EOC Team created a subcommittee to work on messaging. He discussed the current phase of vaccinations and said educators would be next and 65 and older, per the Governor, effective January 23rd. The second doses for those vaccinated earlier should start next week. Discussion continued on the State's vaccination distribution to counties.

COVID-Related Policies

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Manager

Ms. Grogan requested a two-week extension of the Telecommuting Policy and a one-month extension of COVID Pay. Discussion.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to extend the COVID Policy for two weeks (end of January). Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to extend paid leave for people in quarantine exposed or exposed dependent until the end of February. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to extend paid leave, or what is called B, School Closure and Child Care, until the end of January and revisit more often. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports, continued

- Community Development Department Monthly report by Gregg Zody, Director
- Planning Department Monthly Report by Tamra Mabbott, Director
- Treasurer's Monthly Report by Jaylene Papineau, Treasurer
- Written Veterans Services Office Quarterly Report submitted by Linda Skendzel, Veterans Services Officer
- Probation & Parole Semi-Annual Report by Dan Robbins, Corrections Lieutenant

Correspondence

- Oregon Department of Revenue Notice to Taxing Districts: Description and map for the Annexation to the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District and name change were not approved because the "Map must show all Townships, Sections, Ranges, Irrigation Ditch and Railroads" and the "Description line 5 is wrong, can't go from NE cor West to the NE same NE cor."
- List of recipients of CARES Funds from Morrow County/DAS Grant #2529.

Commissioner Reports

Reports of activity provided by the Commissioners.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:00 p.m.