

Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Darrell J. Green, Deanne Irving, Roberta Lutchter, Justin Nelson

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Kirsti Cason, Glen Diehl, Ronda Fox, Mike Gorman, Lindsay Grogan, Matt Kenny, Kate Knop, Jaylene Papineau, Matt Scrivner, Linda Skendzel, Richard Tovey; Non-Staff: Torrie Griggs, Lori Roach, Greg Sweek, David Sykes

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 9:00 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Commissioner Lindsay requested to add a resolution recognizing the late Steve Myren, former Undersheriff for Morrow County.

Consent Calendar

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

1. *Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
2. *Minutes: November 18 & 25, 2020*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Resolution No. R-2021-1: In the Matter of Declaring February 4, 2021 as Steve Myren Day for All of Morrow County

Commissioner Lindsay said the “Last Call” observance at the Sheriff’s Office for Steve Myren will take place tomorrow and she would like to have the Resolution read at that time. Current Undersheriff/Emergency Manager, John A. Bowles, who assumed Mr. Myren’s duties upon his retirement, spoke about his years of service to Morrow County and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), where he was an Emergency Operations Section Chief for the Incident Response Coordination Team for more than 20 years. The FEMA duties were in conjunction with his duties for Morrow County. Undersheriff Bowles said Mr. Myren responded following the September 11th Terrorist Attacks, as well as numerous natural disasters. The Commissioners also spoke about their interactions with Mr. Myren over the years, both personal and professional. The Board requested County Counsel, Justin Nelson, draft the Resolution for consideration at the end of the meeting.

Discussion on Topics Involving the City of Irrigon

Sheriff Ken Matlack

Sheriff Matlack, who also serves on the Irrigon City Council, said he had concerns about the City of Irrigon’s plans to form its own municipal court and the impact that could have on the County’s budget and Law Enforcement Services Contract with the City. (When fines are issued by, and paid to, the Justice Court, a certain percentage goes to the State of Oregon and to Morrow County.) In Irrigon’s new proposal, citations issued by the Sheriff’s Office would now

be split between the municipal court and the State, cutting off a source of revenue for the County.

A discussion ensued about several aspects of the Morrow County budget. The Commissioners requested more analysis in order to have a better-informed discussion, preferably before the expiration of the current Law Enforcement Services Agreement with the City.

Morrow County Justice of the Peace, Judge Glen Diehl, said his staff informed him they don't have a way to break out fees generated from citations within the City of Irrigon, but they estimated the total to be minimal. He said if the City wanted to form its own municipal court, he would support them and be there if they decide it doesn't work.

Review Reclassification Request

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Manager

Ms. Grogan informed the Board that one reclassification request was received this fiscal year. She reviewed the process for reclassification, according to County policy. She then detailed the request to reclassify the Staff Accountant position to a Financial Analyst position and why her analysis supported the request. She added the reclassification would increase the position from Pay Range 13 to 14 and move it from the General Employee Wage Scale to the Non-Union Management Scale. Brief discussion.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Reclassification request as suggested by the Human Resources Manager. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Request for Proposals, Building Loan Services Recommendation

Darrell Green, Administrator

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Chair Russell declared a conflict of interest because of his financial interest with one of the proposers. He handed the gavel to Commissioner Doherty and removed himself to the audience.

Commissioner Lindsay said she served on the committee that reviewed the proposals, adding she owned a small amount of stock in the Bank of Eastern Oregon. However, after contacting the Oregon Government Ethics Commission, she learned she did not have a direct conflict. She went on to list her previous employment history with the Bank of Eastern Oregon. She said she would step aside if anyone objected.

Commissioner Doherty said he was comfortable carrying on, given they both reached out to the Commission.

Ms. Knop summarized the two proposals received – Bank of Eastern Oregon and Commerce/Zions Bank.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Commerce/Zions Bank, credit bond issuance, under the 15-year option and have the County manage its own disbursement and investment of those funds, not using their agent. Commissioner Doherty suggested Chair Russell participate in the discussion since the Bank of Eastern Oregon wasn't being considered. Commissioner

Lindsay agreed and withdrew her motion and approve the Commerce/Zions Bank credit issuance with terms to be considered with the third Commissioner at the table. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Vote: Aye: Commissioner Lindsay and Commissioner Doherty. Motion carried.

Chair Russell returned to his seat at the dais with the other Commissioners.

Discussion continued on the options and terms in the Commerce/Zions Bank proposal.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to have staff process with the 15-year term and Morrow County will handle its own disbursement of funds, not using a disbursement agent. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty asked the next steps in the process. Mr. Green said a notice to award would be issued tomorrow afternoon, at the latest, and then the necessary documents would be prepared. Vote: Unanimous approval by all three Commissioners.

Commissioner Lindsay thanked the Bank of Eastern Oregon for its proposal. She said it was aggressive and she was sorry the County couldn't work locally, but the terms from Commerce/Zions Bank were too attractive to overlook.

Break: 10:38-10:52 a.m.

Draft Memorandum of Understanding with Morrow County School Districts – Wheatridge Project Strategic Investment Program Agreement

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

The Commissioners reviewed the draft and asked Mr. Tovey to add several items: a clause or term stating if the SIP funds are not paid to the County, then the school districts will not receive the funds; and that school districts provide an annual report to the Board of Commissioners. In addition, Commissioner Lindsay requested clarity on the elementary position – that it remain a County-wide opportunity and not become a position at one of the schools, for example.

Emergency Operations Center Update

- Mr. Green said the County reached 1,000 positive cases since the beginning of the pandemic. He said the EOC Team discussed vaccinations for essential workers and the side effects after the second dose. The County contracted with Katie Murray to disseminate information to the public and media to alleviate that duty from Public Health Department staff.
- Commissioner Lindsay talked about the recent testing event held in Boardman with the assistance of the Oregon Health Authority. There were 33 people tested and she said it was an opportunity to see a “well put together event take place at the SAGE Center.” She noted the assistance of Ryan Neal, Port of Morrow Executive Director, in allowing the use of the SAGE Center for this event and for future events. A similar event will take place in south County, she added. The number of positive cases was trending down and the County might move to the Moderate level soon, she said.
- Chair Russell asked how many vaccines the County would receive next week since OHA said they would provide a two-week “look ahead.” Mr. Green said he wouldn't know how many until Thursday or Friday of this week, like normal. He added he asked about

the “look ahead” during this week’s call with OHA but they didn’t answer and moved on to the next question.

Building Projects Updates

- Mr. Green showed photos of the construction site in Irrigon from Fortis Construction.
- Commissioner Lindsay said the survey was completed for the Sheriff’s Station 2 preliminary partition plat and was being routed for signatures before coming to the Board of Commissioners.

Department Reports

- The Administrator’s Monthly Report was provided by Mr. Green.
- The written Sheriff’s Office Monthly Report was reviewed.
- The Assessment & Tax Quarterly Report was provided by Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector.
- The Surveyor’s Quarterly Report was provided by Matt Kenny, Surveyor.
- The Public Health Department Quarterly Report was provided by Director Nazario Rivera.

Correspondence

- News release from Governor Kate Brown’s Office – Updates to County Risk Levels.

Business Items, continued

Resolution No. R-2021-1: In the Matter of Declaring February 4, 2021 as Steve Myren Day for All of Morrow County

Mr. Nelson distributed copies of the Resolution for review.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve Resolution No. R-2021-1: In the Matter of Declaring February 4, 2021 as Steve Myren Day for All of Morrow County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Reports

Reports of activity were provided by the Commissioners.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:00 p.m.