

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

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

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Mike Gorman, Kate Knop, Tamra Mabbott, Justin Nelson, Matt Scrivner, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell, Gregg Zody; Non-Staff: Torrie Griggs, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Ed Orloski, Debbie Pedro, Brenda Proffitt, Lori Roach, Greg Smith, David Sykes

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

City & Citizen Comments: None

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. Minutes: December 16, 2020*
- 3. Order No. OR-2021-4: An Order Setting Aside a Reserve Account in Anticipation of a Property Tax Appeal (Pacific Ethanol Columbia, LLC)*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Legislative Updates

Planning Director, Tamra Mabbott, provided an overview of two bills:

1. Senate Bill 391: Relating to accessory dwelling units in rural residential areas; and declaring an emergency. She recommended supporting the bill, with the specific conditions she discussed.
2. Senate Bill 5530: Relating to the financial administration of the Department of Land Conservation and Development; and declaring an emergency. Ms. Mabbott recommended supporting the bill. Ms. Mabbott offered to draft a letter of support for signature by the Chair; which was agreeable to the Board.

Business Items

Review Draft Resolution No. R-2021-2: A Resolution in Support of Columbia Development Authority and Commitment to Preserve and Maintain South Trail (at the Umatilla Army Depot)

CDA: Greg Smith, Ed Orloski, Debbie Pedro

After a one-hour discussion, Mr. Smith proposed the legal counsels for the County and the CDA review the options that were discussed and bring forward a clearer proposal.

Break: 10:16-10:30 a.m.

Resolution No. R-2021-3: Authorizing a Financing Agreement and Note

Darrell Green, Administrator

The Board approved financing the construction of Irrigon building through issuing a full faith and credit bond with Commerce/Zions Bank. Mr. Green said this Resolution was the next step in the process.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve and sign Resolution No. R-2021-3: In the Matter of Authorizing a Financing Agreement and Note in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$6,900,000; Pledging the County's Full Faith and Credit. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Letter of Support for Dedicated Funding for Counties from the COVID-19 Relief Package

Chair Russell said the template for the letter came from the Association of Oregon Counties and will be sent to Oregon's congressional delegation.

Commissioner Doherty moved to sign the American Rescue Plan support letter to be sent to Oregon's congressional delegation. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Draft Intergovernmental Agreement with Morrow County School Districts Regarding the Wheatridge Project Strategic Investment Program Agreement

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

Mr. Tovey reviewed the latest revisions requested by the Board. After another change was requested by the Commissioners, Mr. Tovey said he would forward the revised document to both school districts for review.

Emergency Operations Center Update

- Mr. Green said the testing event in south County was cancelled due to inclement weather. The EOC Team and Public Health staff are trying to schedule the point-of-distribution (POD) events a few weeks in advance. (PODs are considered "closed" at this time because they are only for people within certain groups, as defined by the Oregon Health Authority. When eligibility opens up to everyone, they are considered open PODs.) Appointments are required for vaccinations. The PODs in south County will be held at the Fairgrounds and at the SAGE Center for north County. The use of volunteers to assist at POD events was also discussed by the Team.
- Commissioner Lindsay said the "look ahead" for number of vaccines to be received in the next three weeks stands at 100 per week.
- Chair Russell reviewed a spreadsheet he created using the same percentages and rates as OHA. He said he concluded the State "wasn't doing us any favors" in regards to equitable distribution of the vaccine.

Building Projects Updates

Easement for Sheriff's Station 2 Building from Devin Oil

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

Mr. Tovey said the easement was signed by Devin Oil, and while the property description, Exhibit A, was not in the Agenda Packet, it will be attached to the document before recording.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Easement, as presented, with the attachment of Exhibit A, description of property; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Correspondence

- Letters of support for the snow groomer and search and rescue building at Cutsforth Park from Lake Penland Corporation, Morrow County Grain Growers and the Oregon State Snowmobile Association.
- Email to the Commissioners from Representative Bobby Levy's Office about the formation of a work group to address elk depredation issues in eastern Oregon.

Commissioner Reports

Provided by the Commissioners.

Comments Prior to Executive Session

Chair Russell said no decisions were anticipated following the Executive Session. The Commissioners agreed to provide a more public presentation in the following week or weeks.

Adjourned: 11:21 a.m.

11:23 a.m. Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i) – To review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing.

Signing of documents