

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Mike Gorman, Darrell J. Green, Kate Knop, Roberta Lutchter, Tamra Mabbott, Justin Nelson; Non-Staff: Rusty Estes, Ryan Fowler, Michael Hughes, John Murray

Present Via Zoom

Staff: SaBrina Bailey Cave, Lindsay Grogan, Eric Imes, Katie Imes, Deanne Irving, Jaylene Papineau, Sandi Pointer, Matt Scrivner, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell, Gregg Zody; Non Staff: Ryan DeGrofft, Torrie Griggs, Erika Lasater, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Ed Orloski, Lisa P. (unidentified) Debbie Pedro, Kim Rill, James Shannon, Greg Smith, Loren Snow, Rick Stokoe, David Sykes

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

City & Citizen Comments: John Murray, Morrow County Health District Board Member, requested to have a discussion in the future about improvements at the Lexington Airport. In particular, an update to the weather monitoring system for pilots, he said.

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. Order No. ORD-2021-5: In the Matter of Cancellation of Personal Property Taxes (for accounts listed in Exhibit A); and the accompanying Petition*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Legislative Updates

Commissioner Lindsay said she was notified of House Bill 2253 and asked to monitor its progress. She asked Representative Greg Smith for comment as he was already attending via Zoom for a different agenda item. [Oregon Legislative Information System website: Bill Title: Relating to a surcharge on Paycheck Protection Program loan proceeds; prescribing an effective date; providing for revenue raising that requires approval by a three-fifths majority. Summary: Imposes surcharge based on amounts of forgiven loans received by corporate excise or personal income taxpayer through Paycheck Protection Program of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020 and before January 1, 2021.]

Rep. Smith explained the State of Oregon is connected to Federal tax law in order to help streamline processes. He said part of the conversation has been whether or not to disconnect parts of the Oregon tax law that are currently connected to Federal tax law. He also said when he looks at it from the point of view as Co-Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, he questions how the State can maintain services, especially after the fires last summer. In the end, the right thing to do is not tax those dollars, he said.

Business Items

2021 Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Plan from the Morrow County Health District

Rusty Estes, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator

Mr. Estes said MCHD's Plan was up for renewal with the State in a few months. He asked if the Board had any questions about the Plan he submitted for their review.

Chair Russell turned the floor over to Michael Hughes, Chief of the Boardman Fire Rescue District, whom he said was here for a specific reason.

Chief Hughes said he would propose a different ASA model and offered to return at a later date for a more in-depth discussion or he could provide the information today. The Commissioners asked him to provide an overview. Chief Hughes' proposal was to split the County into two different ASAs, with Boardman Fire taking the Boardman-Irrigon area. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to discuss this again during a Work Session on March 17th.

Commissioner Doherty made a point of asking MCHD and BFRD to return on the 17th "as a united front."

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

CDA: Greg Smith, Ed Orloski, Debbie Pedro, Loren Snow (Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt)

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

As background, the CDA presented similar resolutions to both Morrow and Umatilla Counties for the protection of a section of the Oregon Trail and a munitions igloo that was the site of a deadly explosion in 1944.

Mr. Nelson presented two draft resolutions for review. One with "County protects or preserves" verbiage and another with "County owns" verbiage. He said a third option could be one that brings in a third party.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Snow to review a version he modified, which he proceeded to do.

After discussion, Commissioner Doherty said he was comfortable with moving forward with the County owning it but wanted it clear if the County takes over and preserves the area, it would be after CDA transfers it out of their ownership and they'd fulfill the requirements of Programmatic Agreement. The County would take it in a preserved state and continue to preserve it. Mr. Smith replied, "Yes."

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the version of Resolution No. R-2021-2 that has the County taking ownership. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

New Federal Funding for Public Transportation

Katie Imes, Coordinator, The Loop

The Oregon Department of Transportation receives Federal Transit Authority funds specifically for rural areas with a population of 50,000, or less. Morrow County receives the so-called

Section 5311 funds. Ms. Imes presented the Morrow County draft 5311 Start-Up Proposal compiled by ODOT's Region 5 Regional Transit Coordinator, Frank Thomas, that will be presented to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee. The Commissioners agreed with the proposal moving forward through the process.

Award Bid & Contract for Diesel, Gasoline, Lubricants and Aviation Fuels

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Mr. Scrivner said after reviewing the bids, Public Works recommended Devin Oil to be the supplier for all four products.

Commissioner Doherty moved to award Devin Oil Co., Inc., three-year contracts, beginning February 17, 2021 and ending February 17, 2024, for the following: Gasoline; Diesel; Aviation Fuel; and Lubricants. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Irrigon Building Loan Documents

Kate Knop, Finance Director

James Shannon, Counsel for the County overseeing the Credit Bond

Ms. Knop briefly reviewed the document package and Mr. Shannon responded to several questions from the Commissioners. Ms. Knop noted a motion was not needed today because the Board approved Resolution No. R-2021-3 last week which authorized the financing agreement and designated the Chair or the Administrator as the Authorized Representative. The documents were prepared with signature by the Administrator, she added.

Break: 10:10-10:22 a.m.

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

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

Mr. Tovey said both school districts signed the document and it was now ready for action by the Board.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and STEAM (Art and Music) Education with Morrow County School District #1 and Ione School District; duration of the agreement will be July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2035; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Draft Grant Application Form

Gregg Zody, Community Development Director

Several modifications were made to Mr. Zody's draft application form, and a discussion took place about which type of 501(c) organizations should be eligible to receive funds. The Commissioners agreed to limit it to 501(c)(3): Charitable Organizations; and 501(c)(8): Fraternal Beneficiary Societies and Associations.

Ms. Knop reported the total funds available to grant: \$201,538. Chair Lindsay clarified the Tillamook County Creamery Association portion, \$135,000, needed to be granted within TCCA's parameters when they gave the funds to the County (hospitality and restaurant focused). The Commissioners designated Chair Russell to serve on the application review committee with Mr. Zody, Ms. Knop and Mr. Green.

State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds

The Commissioners decided a letter should be sent to the Federal congressional delegation stating funding should come directly to counties. It was agreed the letter might have more impact coming from the Executive Committee of the Emergency Operations Center Team.

Emergency Operations Center Update

- Mr. Green said the recent winter storms impacted the delivery of vaccines. The County has been exploring the use of volunteers at vaccine point-of-distribution (POD) events to help with monitoring patients, data entry, etc.

COVID Pay Extensions

The Commissioners agreed to have a discussion in the fall about whether to pay employees in quarantine who choose not to be vaccinated. Mr. Green said the EOC Team would be obtaining outside guidance on what can and can't be done.

*Commissioner Lindsay moved to extend COVID Paid Leave through March 31, 2021.
Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Building Projects Updates

- Commissioner Lindsay said the easement for the Sheriff Station 2 Building to allow access to the property was recorded. The plat was currently in the Assessor's Office and then should go to the Clerk's Office to be recorded. County Counsel will draft the title transfer document next. The Commissioners agreed not to obtain title insurance, when Commissioner Lindsay asked.
- Mr. Green said the snow caused some delays in Irrigon, which now means the concrete should be poured within the week. The steel building structure should arrive in a few weeks.

Administrator's Evaluation

Chair Russell said this was listed on the agenda in case it was needed following the Executive Session.

Department Reports

- The Road Department Monthly Report was reviewed by Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master.
- The Finance Department Quarterly Report was reviewed by Kate Knop, Director.

Correspondence

- Department of Revenue, Notice to Taxing Districts: Approval of the Description and Map for Annexation to the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District; and name change to Boardman Fire Rescue District.

Commissioner Reports

Provided by the Commissioners.

Adjourned Regular Meeting: 12:05 p.m.

Comments Prior to Executive Session

Chair Russell said no decisions were anticipated following either Executive Session.

Break: 12:05-12:10 p.m.

12:11 p.m. Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) – To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations

12:41 p.m. Closed Executive Session

12:45 p.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

1:15 p.m. Closed Executive Session