

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, John A. Bowles, Darrell J. Green, Matt Kenny, Kate Knop, Roberta Lutcher, Kenneth Matlack

Excused

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Ronda Fox, Tamra Mabbott, Sandi Pointer, Matt Scrivner, Linda Skendzel, Richard Tovey, Gregg Zody; Non-Staff: Sheryll Bates, Torrie Griggs, Erika Lasater, Ryan Neal, Leslie Pierson, Brenda Profitt

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

City & Citizen Comments: Gregg Zody, Community Development Director, said the application for the current round of COVID-related grants was on the County website. Anyone with questions was encouraged to email him (addressed listed on the website).

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Notice from the Sheriff's Office of the Award of a Rescue Water Boat from the Oregon Military Department, Office of Emergency Management, State Preparedness Incident Response Equipment, Grant No. 19-265*
- 2. 2021 Oregon Department of Agriculture, Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Application in the amount of \$46,260; and authorize Commissioner Doherty to sign on behalf of the County.*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Legislative Updates

- Juvenile Department Director, Christy Kenny, submitted an informational form on Senate Bill 422. In it, she recommended not supporting the Bill which seeks to eliminate fees and court costs associated with juvenile delinquency matters, among other things. If youth engage in services and complete conditions of probation, the fees and fines currently can be suspended as a reward. That incentive would no longer be an option.

Business Items

Review and Approve Boardman Subdivision Plat – River Ridge Estates, Phase 3

Matt Kenny, Surveyor

Mr. Kenny explained the subdivision was located between Wilson Lane and Kunze Lane, east of Paul Smith Road, and even though it was within the city limits, per Oregon Revised Statute, it must be approved by the governing body of the county before recording.

Commissioner Doherty moved to sign and date all copies of the River Ridge Estates Phase 3 Subdivision Plat, as provided. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Landowner Dedication Deed for Improvements to Kilkenny Road; and Order No. OR-2021-6
Matt Kenny, Surveyor

Mr. Kenny said Public Works planned to improve the 90-degree corner along Kilkenny Road, approximately one-half mile east of the Highway 207-Bombing Range Road intersection. The landowner, North Lex Power and Land, offered to dedicate the 0.48 acres of land for the improvement project. Chris Rauch, representing North Lex Power and Land, signed the dedication deed prepared by County Counsel Richard Tovey, he said.

Commissioner Doherty moved to notarize and sign the Dedication Deed, as provided, and enact Order No. OR-2021-6: In the Matter of Accepting a Dedication Deed Dedicating Property as Public Right-of-Way. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Compensation Board Recommendations

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Manager

Ms. Grogan summarized the recent Compensation Board meeting by saying there wasn't much movement regarding salaries for elected officials, but the Board members would like job descriptions for all the elected officials to help them better evaluate the positions. Discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to sanction the recommendations of the Compensation Board:

- 1. A three percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all elected officials, except the Treasurer and Sheriff, and*
- 2. Human Resources to work with the elected officials to create job descriptions for each position.*

Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Ms. Grogan brought up the COLA for non-union members.

Chair Russell moved to forward a recommendation to the Budget Committee of a 2.5% COLA for non-union members, like the Teamsters. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Review Request to Increase Airport Hangar Fees; and Order No. OR-2021-7

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Sandi Pointer, Public Works Management Assistant

Mr. Scrivner reminded the Board the Airport Fees were pulled from the Morrow County Fee Schedule adopted on January 27th, to allow time for a review. The Airport Advisory Committee recommended a phased-in increase with the first being effective March 1st to \$175 for standard hangars, and an increase to all other hangars using a standardized square foot calculation (\$0.155142/sf). In addition, rates would increase February 2022 to \$200 for standard hangars, and as before, an increase to all other hangars using a standardized square foot calculation (\$0.177305/sf). Mr. Scrivner said rates can't be changed while under contract, so some rents will remain at the \$120 rate until the contract is due for renewal.

Commissioner Doherty moved to make the hangar rate increase effective today at \$0.155142 per square foot and move to \$0.177305 per square foot effective February 2022. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Resolution N. R-2021-5: Renaming Heppner Admin Fund to Capital Improvement Project Fund
Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop said the Heppner Admin Fund was created by the County Court at the time to set aside reserve dollars for the Bartholomew Building. The County's auditors recently recommended renaming the fund to encompass both the Bartholomew Building loan payment and the Irrigon Building credit bond dollars into the same fund.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve Resolution No. R-2021-5: In the Matter of Renaming the Heppner Administration Building Fund. Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Emergency Operations Center Update

- Administrator Darrell Green said the County's positive cases remained low, which was great news. The Public Health Department was currently vaccinating people 65 years of age and up. He reviewed the process for scheduling an appointment and encouraged those interested to sign-up so the County can move to the next eligible group. He said Commissioners, administration and Public Health staff continued to meet with representatives from the Oregon Health Authority and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to obtain more resources to vaccinate County residents as quickly as possible. Undersheriff John Bowles talked about the efforts behind-the-scenes that people aren't aware of, for instance, the numerous meetings taking place with OHA and FEMA.
- The draft letter regarding funds directly to counties was postponed.

Building Projects Updates

- The concrete for the Irrigon building will be poured this week. The metal building is due to arrive March 29th. This will definitely be a benchmark, said Mr. Green.
- The Sheriff's Station 2 Building will be completed in three to four months, if all goes according to plan.

Department Reports

- Administrator's Monthly Report was provided by Mr. Green. Commissioner Doherty said in the last 18 months, the County has hired seven new positions and Mr. Green was sent in as the interim during the transitions. He said it was really appreciated and he wanted to thank him publicly.
- The Sheriff's Office Monthly Report was provided by Sheriff Matlack.

Correspondence

- Recognition certificate from the U.S. Census Bureau to the Morrow County Board of Commissioners as an invaluable member of the 2020 Census Community Partnership and Engagement Program

Commissioner Reports

Provided by the Commissioners

Signing of documents, followed by Adjournment: 11:00 a.m.