

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
April 14, 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, Jeff Wenholz

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Lindsay Grogan, Tamra Mabbott; Non-Staff: Debbie Pedro, David Sykes

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 8:03 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Commissioner Lindsay said she would like to discuss the Governor's Ten-Point Plan, which is under Correspondence in the Agenda Packet.

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
- 2. Minutes: December 23, 2020*
- 3. Proposal from Safety Vision for the purchase of video surveillance systems for The Loop vehicle fleet, and authorize the Administrator to sign on behalf of the County*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Legislative Updates – No items

Business Items

Emergency Operations Center Update

At this week's Monday EOC Meeting, the group discussed:

- Developing a plan with the school districts for vaccination of people in the 16-17 age group.
- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was pulled from distribution to further evaluate blood clot issues.
- The County is working on a contract through the Oregon Health Authority to receive reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the FEMA events held in-County.
- Working with clinic and pharmacy partners throughout the County to be the back-up to the Public Health Department for vaccine distribution so staff can resume normal schedules and duties.
- EOC Meetings will be held once a month or as-needed instead of weekly.

Building Project Updates

- Commissioner Lindsay thanked those who attended last week's groundbreaking ceremony for the Sheriff Station 2 Building. Work on the footings has started, she added.
- Chair Russell said the new building in Irrigon will have the ability to add electric vehicle charging stations if the conduit is added now. He said the County will likely opt for this approach, at a minimum. There was discussion about the electric charging stations in Heppner and Ione and how little they are used. This is probably due to the length of time

it takes to charge a vehicle and how far they are from “the beaten path.” Chair Russell said the charging station in Fossil has seen the most use in the area.

Department Reports – Written Only

- The Planning Department Monthly Report was reviewed by Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director.
- The Treasurer’s Monthly Report, submitted by Treasurer Jaylene Papineau.
- Justice Court Quarterly Report, submitted by Judge Glen Diehl.
- Veterans Services Quarterly Report, submitted by Linda Skendzel, Veterans Services Officer

Correspondence

- Email from Nadine McCrindle, Central & Eastern Oregon Chapter of the American Red Cross, regarding the annual Home Fire Safety Campaign: Sound the Alarm.
- Two items from the Office of Governor Kate Brown: Investment Criteria for American Rescue Plan Funds, and the 10-Point Economic Recovery Plan. Commissioner Lindsay said legislators were seeking input from counties and she thought it appropriate to hold a Work Session to discuss the County’s vision and ideas for the funds. After discussion, it was agreed to hold the Work Session next week.

Miscellaneous

- Commissioner Doherty noted Debbie Pedro with the Columbia Development Authority was in today’s meeting via Zoom. He asked if she wanted to provide an update. Ms. Pedro said the Programmatic Agreement Amendment was in the Army’s “ballpark now” and all the signatories had an opportunity to make suggestions or changes. She said it had to be submitted by April 8th and they hoped to hear back from BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) by the 24th that the document was signature ready.
- Chair Russell said Avangrid Renewables, LLC contacted him a few weeks ago and he has a teleconference set up for next week. They want to talk about enterprise zones for renewable energy, as they put it, but it’s probably more about what programs are available for renewable energy. He said he wasn’t sure if they contacted him because he’s Chair of the BOC or Chair of the Columbia River Enterprise Zone III Board, but he’d ask Assessor/Tax Collector Mike Gorman to join the meeting. He said he didn’t think an enterprise zone agreement fits for solar because it’s limited on how many acres of ground it can have and solar takes up a large amount of ground for a project. He said he’d tell them what’s available and let them decide for themselves what the pros and cons would be and they’d have to come back to the appropriate committee, which is probably the BOC, to make their case for the program they want to fit under. Commissioner Doherty asked which projects they’re heading up. Chair Russell said he thought they were the Boardman solar people and they’re active in the area. He listed some of the options - the solar pilot program that will expire at the end of this year unless the legislature does something on it, and it is well defined. There are also rural renewable energy development zones with three-year exemptions, with the possibility of up to five years. If the project is big enough, he said it could qualify for a SIP (Strategic Investment Program) agreement.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 8:46 a.m.