

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Vice Chair Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Darrell J. Green, Lindsay Grogan, Kate Knop, Roberta Lucher, Justin Nelson, Tamra Mabbott

Excused

Chair Don Russell

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Erin Anderson, SaBrina Bailey Cave, Ronda Fox, Deb Green, Mike Gorman, Katie Imes, Deanne Irving, Aaron Moss, Ian Murray, Jaylene Papineau, Nazario Rivera, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: Greg Sweek, Karen Pettigrew, Jenn Rollins, David Sykes

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 9:01 a.m.

Vice Chair Doherty assumed the duties of Chair in Chair Russell's absence.

Honoring the Twentieth Anniversary of 9/11

Vice Chair Doherty said as everyone was aware, the 20th anniversary of 9/11 was coming up in a few days, and the world has brought it back to bear, once again, with things currently taking place in Afghanistan. The Commissioners wanted to bring something to today's meeting, so Veterans Services Officer, Linda Skendzel, was asked to put together a presentation, he said.

Ms. Skendzel said she hoped a few Afghanistan veterans would speak today but they declined. As back-up, she had a short video and asked for a moment of silence. The video was shown commemorating the events and timeline of 9/11.

Vice Chair Doherty spoke about his experiences on 9/11 and the ensuing days which brought about patriotic gestures from many Americans. He said it was important to celebrate the past and current accomplishments of our veterans and active duty service members and he empathized with them for what they've been through and are going through.

Ms. Skendzel agreed, adding veterans were experiencing a lot of strong emotional feelings right now about the United States leaving Afghanistan. A number of things changed with 9/11 and this has been a really tough time for some veterans. She then took a moment to explain an insignia representing military-trained dogs and their handlers, adding she wanted to honor the handlers behind every one of those dogs.

City & Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

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

1. *Accounts Payable & Payroll Payables*
2. *Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) #171436 Tort Liability Coverage as a Provider for Psychiatric Security Review Board; and Third-Party Agreement for IGA #171436; effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023; and authorize the Administrator to sign both documents on behalf of the County*
3. *OHA IGA #170703 for Environmental Health Services; effective June 30, 2021 to June 30, 2023; and authorize the Vice Chair to sign on behalf of the County (these services are contracted through the Umatilla County Public Health Department)*
4. *Letter of intent signed by Commissioner Lindsay on September 3rd – Request for Grant Proposals to OHA for Planning Work to Support the Elimination of Behavioral Health Inequities; Grant Proposal No. OregonBuys No. S-44300-00000496 OHA-RFA-5250*
5. *Request to amend the September 2nd motion approving Accounts Payable in the amount of \$216,301.01 to the corrected total of \$228,619.26*

Vice Chair Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval

Business Items

County Application for Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Funds

Linda Skendzel, Veterans Services Officer

Commissioner Lindsay expressed concern that the County had decreased its appropriations to the Veterans Office in the last few years, which she didn't think was the intent of the Commissioners or the Budget Committee. Finance Director Kate Knop reviewed the budget history and said Ms. Skendzel's revised budget request would require a budget resolution for the additional funds of just under \$8,000, for an actual budget of \$119,954. Commissioner Lindsay said this was slightly below the 2019/2020 budget, but it was getting closer. The revisions were to come forward for Vice Chair Doherty to sign.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the ODVA Funds as follows:

1. *County Funds: \$30,126*
2. *Carry Forward: \$4,092*
3. *ODVA Funds: \$81,736*
4. *Other Funds: \$4,000 (Suicide Prevention Grant)*

For a total of \$119,154.

Vice Chair Doherty seconded. Discussion: Vice Chair Doherty said he didn't know when the Veterans budget comes together relative to the County's budget process but today's conversation needed to come back at Budget time so we know what we're trying to achieve. Unanimous approval.

Building Inspection Program Discussion

Darrell Green, Administrator

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Mr. Green said the County started reviewing the Building Permit Program over a year ago, including the 20-year-old IGA with the City of Boardman to provide those services on behalf of the County. He said he met on several occasions recently with Ms. Mabbott, Ms. Knop and Assessor/Tax Collector Mike Gorman to determine a few options, as requested by the Board. Human Resources Director, Lindsay Grogan, was also asked to ascertain personnel expenses associated with bringing the program in-house. Ms. Mabbott proceeded to present three different program options to the Board:

1. Continue the IGA with the City of Boardman – Boardman previously voted against certain changes to the 2000 IGA requested by the County.
2. Create and recruit a new FTE (full-time equivalent) Building Official position.
3. Contract with a third-party for inspection services. (This option would require a contract to be in-place prior to December 31, 2021 to meet the intent of Senate Bill 866, or to be “grandfathered in.”)

Ms. Knop reviewed her presentation on budget impacts and projections. After a lengthy discussion of the options, Vice Chair Doherty said he and Commissioner Lindsay were roughly on the same page. He asked Commissioner Lindsay to work with staff and return with a draft request for proposals (RFP) to contract with a third-party, and with information if the program was entirely in-house.

Break: 10:21-10:30 a.m.

Community Development Director Position Discussion

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director

Ms. Grogan reviewed her minor revisions to the job description and asked the Board for input. After discussion, Vice Chair Doherty and Commissioner Lindsay agreed he would work with staff on the job description and bring it back for discussion in a few weeks.

New Federally Recognized Holiday for 2020 – Juneteenth

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director

Ms. Grogan explained the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2168, making June 19th an official State holiday, known as “Juneteenth.” She offered the following as background: On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and issued General Order Number 3, which required the immediate freedom of more than 250,000 enslaved African Americans. Union troops marched throughout Galveston to spread the word that all slaves were free. Juneteenth is also known as Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day, and Freedom Day.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the recognition of a new paid holiday, Juneteenth, effective 2022. Vice Chair Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Building Project Updates

- Morrow County Government Center – interior work such as painting, flooring, and window blinds is taking place; exterior work such as trenching for utilities is also being done.

- Courthouse – next Tuesday is the kickoff meeting for the Courthouse Feasibility Study.

Department Reports

- The Treasurer’s Monthly report was provided by Jaylene Papineau.
- The Planning Department Monthly Report was provided by Ms. Mabbott.

Correspondence

- Public comment letters: Amendment #1 to the Programmatic Agreement, an agreement executed in December 2013 between the Department of the Army, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Columbia Development Authority, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation regarding a transfer of a portion of the former Umatilla Chemical Depot.

Commissioner Reports

Activity reports were provided by the Commissioners.

Vice Chair Doherty read the Executive Session citation and said no decisions were anticipated following the session.

11:59 a.m. Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) – To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions

12:34 p.m. Closed Executive Session

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:45 p.m.