

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
September 22, 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, Tamra Mabbott, Justin Nelson, Richard Tovey, Vickie Turrell

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Stephanie Case, Kirsti Cason, SaBrina Bailey Cave, Ronda Fox, Mike Gorman, Lindsay Grogan, Deanne Irving, Christy Kenny, Kate Knop, Glenn McIntire, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Aaron Moss, Jaylene Papineau, Sandi Pointer, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: Mark Bailey, Torrie Griggs, Randy Jones, JoAnna Lamb, Wendy McKay, Karen Pettigrew, 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. *Classification Appeal Committee Appointments:*
 - a. *Mike Gorman as Elected Representative; term to be December 1, 2021-November 30, 2024*
 - b. *Bobbi Childers, Alternate to Elected Representative*
 - c. *Christy Kenny as Management Representative; term to be December 1, 2021-November 30, 2024*
 - d. *John Bowles, Alternate to Management Representative*
 - e. *Corey Sweeney as Union Employee Representative; term to be December 1, 2021-November 30, 2024*
 - f. *Aaron Haak, First Alternate to Union Employee Representative*
 - g. *Kirsti Cason, Second Alternate to Union Employee Representative*
3. *Extension of Contract with Patriot Building & Grounds Maintenance; effective September 9, 2021 to October 31, 2021*
4. *Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Heppner for Shared Sewer Connection between Heppner Fire Station and Sheriff Station 2 Building*
5. *Health Office Agreement with Dr. Edward Barretta; effective July 1, 2021 and will automatically renew for successive one-year periods (Note: Dr. Barretta did not sign this agreement but did sign a revised agreement presented at the October 13th BOC Meeting.)*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Update from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) on PGE's Prevention of Significant Deterioration Air Contaminant Discharge Permit Modification Request

Mark Bailey, ODEQ

Randy Jones, ODEQ

Mr. Jones explained PGE closed the coal fire unit but they now plan to use it for natural gas. These operational changes resulted in a need to modify the existing permit for the facility, he said. Mr. Jones and Mr. Bailey outlined the public hearing process taking place and responded to questions from the Board.

Request to Change “Morrow County Special Transportation” to “Morrow County Public Transit”

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said Katie Imes, Coordinator of The Loop, was unavailable today. He relayed the request in her absence.

Commissioner Doherty moved to change Morrow County Special Transportation to Morrow County Public Transit. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Oregon Military Department, Environmental Assessment Comment Letter

Stephanie Case, Planner II

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the comment letter to James G. Arnold, Oregon Military Department, regarding the Camp Umatilla Oregon Environmental Assessment for Military Operations on Urban Terrain Training Site Improvements and Construction of Firebreaks. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Presentation from Community ROCKit (Resource Organizer for Communities Kit): Helping Communities Chart a Path to Recovery in a time of COVID

Christine Bechtel, X4 Health

Ms. Bechtel said X4 Health is a mission-driven organization striving to make the world a better place and a big part of what they do is design social impact campaigns. They’ve recently partnered with Umatilla County on its chosen topic, which she said, is to generate mental health solutions for individuals in crisis. Ms. Bechtel added X4 Health has funding support from the Andrew and Corey Morris-Singer Foundation. She then reviewed her PowerPoint presentation and the Commissioners discussed several issues affecting the County that could benefit from Community ROCKit’s focused, targeted approach on a topic. The Commissioners agreed by consensus that Chair Russell and Commissioner Lindsay would work with Community ROCKit on the subject of workforce housing.

Break: 9:50-10:00 a.m.

Building Codes Program Options

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Ms. Mabbott summarized recent activity regarding the Building Codes Program: It’s been on the agenda three times, as well as a Work Session. In 2016, the County Court asked staff to look into the IGA with the City of Boardman that was signed in 2000. Ms. Mabbott said she didn’t

know the results of that endeavor but it was taken up again by staff last winter but the changes requested by the County were not approved by the City. Two weeks ago, she said, three recommendations were presented to the Board: 1.) Continue to negotiate an updated IGA with the City of Boardman for the provision of these services; 2.) The County could hire its own employee to provide these services; 3.) Have a third-party provide these services, again through an IGA. At the meeting two weeks ago, the Board was interested in pursuing the third option but Commissioner Russell was absent. County Counsel then reviewed it more closely and learned that option was off the table, except in a temporary manner, she said. Extensive discussion. The Commissioners opted to review proposals from other entities to provide building inspection services, hold another Work Session to gather more information, and then bring the topic back to a regular meeting.

Job Descriptions for Elected Officials

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director

Ms. Grogan explained the Compensation Board members recommended job descriptions be created for all elected officials when they met last February. The next month, the Board of Commissioners agreed with that recommendation and she was now back to present the job descriptions.

During the discussion, Commissioner Lindsay said when a person runs for elected office, there are only the state requirements, period. She said it is not “our right to define this... We don’t have the ability to adopt this” because the job descriptions developed are not their duties by statute. Additional discussion.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to table the job descriptions for elected officials. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous

Flexible Work Schedule Policy

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director

Ms. Grogan said the Board previously asked her to assess the need for flexible work arrangements by asking Department Directors and Elected Officials what some of those scenarios might look like. She said 10 surveys were returned; she then reviewed the responses. The Commissioners expressed concern that flexible schedules were already in place in multiple departments and the requests didn’t come to the Board, with the exception of Public Works. The lack of consistency was a concern voiced by Commissioner Doherty. Ms. Grogan said this would put an official policy in place so people would know the options available to them and the conditions they need to follow. Discussion.

Chair Russell moved to approve the 2021 Flexible Work Schedule Policy. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty said he’s heard concerns from constituents who can’t get in touch with the Road Department on Fridays, and he just heard from Judge Diehl that people can’t go to Justice Court on Fridays and one staff member there doesn’t work on Fridays, leaving just one staff member in that office. We’re a service

organization and we're taking services away from the people, he said. Commissioner Lindsay amended the motion to include an eight-month review, which she later withdrew and asked that this be revisited in a year. Vote: Aye: Chair Russell, Commissioner Lindsay. Nay: Commissioner Doherty. Motion carried.

Break: 11:26-11:30 a.m.

County Counsel Discussion – Deputy District Attorney Job Description

Justin Nelson, District Attorney/County Counsel

Deputy District Attorney/County Counsel Richard Tovey is resigning to take a position elsewhere. Recruitment for the DDA position will begin soon and Mr. Nelson asked if the separate County Counsel contract should be an option offered to applicants. In addition, Mr. Nelson asked if, in the interim, he should assume all County Counsel work himself or limit those duties. The Board agreed he should limit his County Counsel duties by not attending Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners meetings, and by having the Chair and/or Administrator vet requests for County Counsel review. By consensus, the Board agreed to have Mr. Nelson return in the near future with two County Counsel contract options for their review.

Morrow County Government Center Building Courtroom Schedule

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said the question is whether the Board will hold meetings one or two days a month in the same room used by the Justice Court in the new Irrigon building. The room was designed to be a multi-purpose room with a raised dais, and it has upgraded audio-visual capabilities, he explained. Commissioner Lindsay requested more time to better understand the situation. The discussion was postponed until October 6th.

Command Team Update

- Ms. Grogan said she will send an information gathering survey to staff to learn how many are vaccinated, and if not, why, and would they consider leaving their employment over the vaccine mandate, or would they file a religious or medical exemption. She asked the Board for its recommendation; Chair Russell and Commissioner Lindsay said it was a good idea, if done anonymously.

Building Project Updates

- DLR Group will schedule in-person meetings with stakeholders in the Courthouse for the feasibility study there.
- There are still delays on receiving some construction materials for the Irrigon building.

Department Reports

- The Road Department Monthly Report was provided by Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master.

Correspondence

- City of Boardman Public Notice – Public Hearing for the Tide Water Master Planned Development on October 5th.
- Listing of job openings throughout the County distributed by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Reports

- Due to time, the Commissioners opted not to provide reports.

12:33 p.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

12:47 p.m. Closed Executive Session: No decisions

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:58 p.m.