

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Commissioner Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Darrell J. Green, John A. Bowles, Paul Gray, Roberta Lutcher, Aaron Moss, Dan Robbins; Non-Staff: John Murray

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Chair Don Russell, Anthony Clement, Glen Diehl, Mike Gorman, Lindsay Grogan, Ann Jones, Christy Kenny, Kate Knop, Ian Murray, Nazario Rivera, Matt Scrivner, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: Torrie Griggs, JoAnna Lamb, Wendy Neal, David Sykes

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 9:04 a.m. Vice Chair Doherty said Chair Russell was attending virtually today so he was asked to assume the duties of the Chair.

City & Citizen Comments: Heppner resident, John Murray, said he wanted to develop a pasture on Rhea Creek Road by bringing water from the other side using an existing culvert he termed as “dysfunctional.” He asked if there was a way to reimburse the County for a new culvert so he could run a four-inch water line through it, rather than pay \$20,000 to bore through the existing culvert. After discussion, Public Works Director Matt Scrivner said water pipes weren’t allowed through culverts and Mr. Murray would have to go through the permit process, but he would meet with him at the site to assess the situation.

Open Agenda: Chair Russell said a funding request would be added under the Building Project Update from General Maintenance Supervisor, Tony Clement, for heated sidewalks at the Morrow County Government Center Building in Irrigon.

Consent Calendar

Chair Russell stated he had a financial interest in the company presenting Permit Application #OSG (Windwave Communications), so he would abstain from voting.

Vice Chair Doherty removed the permit from the Consent Calendar so Chair Russell could vote on the balance of the Consent Calendar.

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

- 1. Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
- 2. Minutes: August 11th, 18th, 25th*
- 3. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Oregon Water Resources Department for Watermaster Services; effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022; \$12,220; and authorize Vice Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County*
- 4. IGA with Harney County to Provide Soils Land Class Digitizing for Morrow County; effective July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022; not-to-exceed amount \$45,000*
- 5. IGA #6173 with the Oregon Department of Corrections for Correctional Services; effective July 1, 2021 until June 30, 2023; \$1,507,111; and authorize Vice Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County*

6. *Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Grant Agreement No. 1, 2021-22 Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas, Grant Agreement – Morrow County; effective September 15, 2021 through September 14, 2022; not-to-exceed amount \$45,000; and authorize Vice Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County*
Chair Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Community Counseling Solutions Quarterly Report

- Kimberly Lindsay, Executive Director, provided her quarterly report to the Board.

Short-Term County Counsel Contract

Justin Nelson, District Attorney/County Counsel

Mr. Nelson said at the September 22nd Board meeting he was asked to submit two County Counsel Contract options for consideration. He then reviewed the options and a lengthy discussion ensued.

Chair Russell moved to accept Option 2 at \$2,400 per month, with a review to take place in 30 days: County Counsel duties reduced by half (Richard Tovey's workload). Reduced obligations may include not attending Board of Commissioners Meetings, Planning Commission Meetings, and review of certain types of contracts and agreements. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Vice Chair Doherty said he didn't know who would say whether or not this was working but he preferred Option 1 (County Counsel duties staying the same and being handled by Mr. Nelson). Commissioner Lindsay said she would look to the Chair, Mr. Nelson and the Administrator to determine whether it's not quite enough time. Vote: Aye: Chair Russell, Commissioner Lindsay. Nay: Vice Chair Doherty. Motion carried.

Morrow County Government Center Courtroom Schedule

Justice Court uses the room on Wednesdays and Thursdays and Judge Glen Diehl asked the Board to consider using it on the other days. After discussion, one option was mutually agreeable – Board meetings could be held in the room one Wednesday a month, as long as the meeting concluded by 12:00 noon. Judge Diehl had to leave the meeting and Vice Chair Doherty said there was more to do on this topic at a later date.

Break: 10:31-10:38 a.m.

Broadband Action Team Update

Aaron Moss, Broadband Fellow

Mr. Moss reported on the first meeting of the Broadband Action Team (BAT), which will focus on expanding broadband infrastructure to those in the County who lack connection or have inadequate connection to the internet. He also outlined the Team's next steps, followed by questions and discussion.

Command Team Update

- Emergency Manager, Paul Gray, talked about table-top exercises for emergency events and mentioned an IGA will be forthcoming with Umatilla County to store COVID supplies in an igloo at the Umatilla Army Depot. He also said the percentage of intensive care unit (ICU) beds in hospitals being used for COVID patients dropped from 36% to 27% statewide, whereas, regionally the number increased from 32% to 48%. He said he believed this area was lagging behind the statewide statistics.
- Human Resources Director, Lindsay Grogan, summarized the COVID vaccine survey sent to staff: 120 surveys sent, 80 responded; 60% are vaccinated and 40% are not; 27% stated they were prepared to leave employment if the vaccine was mandated; 25% of employees stated they'd file a medical or religious exemption if the vaccine was mandated. Regarding who determines an exemption request, Ms. Grogan said the County will wait to decide pending the release of the rules. A panel might be created, she said, and CIS (CityCounty Insurance) pre-loss would review any controversial requests. Chair Russell said he wanted a defined set of rules and guidelines on what constitutes an exemption. Public Health Director, Nazario Rivera, said another option could be the test-out option but there weren't resources in the County to do that.
- A discussion took place on what the Board previously approved regarding the number of days to quarantine. Mr. Rivera asked the Commissioners if they were still comfortable with the messaging going back to a 10-day quarantine. He said on December 16, 2020 the Board approved allowing the Local Public Health Authority the ability to grant a 10-day quarantine under certain conditions, rather than 14 days. Discussion continued on whether that was policy or a motion made at the meeting. (Note: The Agenda Packet for that meeting contains the document from HR titled, "Recommendations for COVID-19 Quarantine Guidelines" and the minutes reflect the following: "Commissioner Russell moved to approve the COVID-19 Quarantine Guidelines Policy. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Chair Lindsay offered a friendly amendment to remove the word "policy" from the motion. Commissioner Russell accepted the friendly amendment. Unanimous approval.") The Commissioners said they were comfortable giving the 10-day latitude but asked that the motion from Dec. 16, 2020 be looked into to see if anything needed to be "undone" by a new motion.

Building Project Updates

- Courthouse Feasibility Study – DLR Group representatives conducted interviews and inspected the Courthouse. Next week they will do a scan of the Courthouse to obtain the exact layouts and dimensions and compare them to the original architectural drawings.
- Morrow County Government Center Building – Still on budget; the long-delayed masonry arrived. General Maintenance Supervisor, Tony Clement, requested the County add heated sidewalks around some areas of the building. Discussion.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the heated sidewalks cost overrun. Chair Russell seconded. Discussion: Vice Chair Doherty said it was still unknown where the funds would come from because the actual cost was not known at this time. Vote: Aye: Chair Russell, Commissioner Lindsay. Nay: Vice Chair Doherty. Motion carried.

Permit Application #OSG from Windwave Communications to Build in County Right-of-Way
Vice Chair Doherty voiced several concerns: 1.) The Agenda Cover Sheet indicated the work would be from Kunze Lane travelling south, but the maps indicated north; 2.) Previous work by the applicant caused road damage and the County had to step in. He said he suspected road damage was now occurring on Homestead Lane by the applicant; 3.) This permit did not include a narrative from the applicant, as did previous applications; 4.) Public Works signed-off on the application when it should have come to the Board for approval, per Ordinance No. Ord-2019-3, as the length of the work exceeded 200’.

Public Works Director, Matt Scrivner, apologized for signing the application before it came to the Board. He said he had a meeting today with the applicant and contractor but he didn’t think there had been more damage.

Vice Chair Doherty moved to table the application and review it next week. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Vice Chair Doherty noted Chair Russell was “sitting this application out.” Vote: Aye: Vice Chair Doherty, Commissioner Lindsay. Motion carried.

Department Reports

- Administrator’s Monthly Report was reviewed by Darrell Green.
- Sheriff’s Office Monthly Report was reviewed by Undersheriff John Bowles.
- District Attorney’s Office Quarterly Report was verbally provided by Mr. Nelson.
- Fair Office Quarterly Report was reviewed by Ann Jones, Fair Secretary.

Correspondence

- Information on Senate Bill 817 – Toolkit for Ending Juvenile Fees & Fines, submitted by Juvenile Department Director, Christy Kenny.

Commissioner Reports

- Due to time, brief reports were provided by the Commissioners.

12:08 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

12:41 p.m. Closed Executive Session: No decisions

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:55 p.m.