

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Darrell J. Green, Paul Gray, Roberta Lutchter, Tamra Mabbott

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Stephanie Case, SaBrina Bailey Cave, Lindsay Grogan, Katie Imes, Deanne Irving, Crystal Jaeger, Kate Knop, Aaron Moss, Jaylene Papineau, Matt Scrivner, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: Jared Cooley, JoAnna Lamb, John McVaigh, Julie Pellatier, Karen Pettigrew, Jessica Rose, David Sykes

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

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
- 2. Minutes: November 3rd*
- 3. Contract Extension with Patriot Building & Grounds Maintenance until January 7, 2022*
- 4. Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Boardman for Building Department Services, Plan Review and Building Inspections; effective January 1, 2022 until January 1, 2023, unless extended by joint written agreement of the Parties*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Road Use Agreement with South Hulbert Wind LLC and Horseshoe Bend Wind LLC

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Jared Cooley, John McVaigh & Julie Pellatier with Brookfield Renewable

Mr. Scrivner said he and Morrow County Counsel, Justin Nelson, had been working with Brookfield Renewable on a Road Use Agreement for the repower of an existing wind turbine electric generation facility located in Gilliam and Morrow Counties (formerly Caithness Shepherds Flat Wind Farm). Of the 338 wind turbines in the project, 85 are located in Morrow County and a portion of Gilliam County's turbines are accessed through Morrow County, he said.

Commissioner Lindsay asked about the plan for blades that have been removed.

Mr. Cooley said they will be cut into eight-foot sections, stacked on a truck and shipped to Missouri where they will be utilized in a concrete cement kiln operation. The blades will be ground down to fuel that is essentially an alternative fuel, for an old coal fire power plant to run

the cement kiln and plant operations. The waste that comes out of the furnace would then be incorporated into a portland cement product that comes out of the plant, he stated.

Commissioner Lindsay said she commended them for recycling but there were rumors a property was purchased near Ione to bury these blades.

Mr. Cooley said the method he described was confirmed with General Electric and they've been contracted to properly and responsibly dispose of the blades.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Road Use Agreement with South Hurlburt Wind LLC and Horseshoe Bend Wind LLC. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty asked Mr. Cooley to provide information on the recycling method as Morrow County also had a coal fire plant that closed. Unanimous approval.

Employee Appreciation Day for Non-Union Employees

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director

Ms. Grogan said an Employee Appreciation Holiday was approved for the two collective bargaining groups earlier this year and she was now proposing the Board consider the same for non-union employees. Discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the recognition of Employee Appreciation Day as a paid holiday to the non-represented staff, effective 2021. Discussion: Administrator, Darrell Green, asked if the intent was to make this an ongoing practice; Ms. Grogan replied, it was. Chair Russell seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay said if future negotiations were different from the current agreement but non-represented employees retained the appreciation day, it would become "lopsided." Ms. Grogan said it could be reevaluated for the non-represented employees at that time. Chair Russell said if it was taken out of the agreements, a future Board would look at it for the other employees also. Commissioner Lindsay asked that it be connected to union contracts as opposed to being set in stone. Commissioner Doherty asked the HR Director to set it up in such a way that it's perpetual but it comes before the Board at the end of every fiscal year. Unanimous approval.

Command Team Update – Order No. OR-2021-15: Declaring a Local State of Emergency

Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

- Percent of intensive care unit (ICU) beds occupied by COVID patients: Slight rise in state totals but the numbers remain low in the region at 3-11%, which translates to 1-3 patients.
- Sixty-five of the County's 135 employees have turned in proof of vaccination.
- The County offers shot clinics at the SAGE Center in Boardman in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Oregon Health Authority. They offer the COVID vaccine and booster, and any others a person might need. When asked if they have been well-attended, Mr. Gray said in the last few days, they were not running very many people through.

Order No. OR-2021-15: Declaring a Local State of Emergency
Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve Order No. OR-2021-15: Declaring a Local State of Emergency in Morrow County and extend it for another 90 days until February 28, 2022. Chair Russell seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty suggested the Order be made perpetual. He said he voted in opposition last time it was extended. These things have to mean something and he failed to see the necessity so he would be a “no” vote, he stated. Vote: Aye: Chair Russell, Commissioner Lindsay. Nay: Commissioner Doherty. Motion carried.

Building Project Updates

- The final report from DLR Group (Courthouse Feasibility Study) was received yesterday. Mr. Green said he would bring it to the Board for a decision in December or January.
- Morrow County Government Center: a water leak occurred on Thanksgiving Day. There was damage to drywall, furniture and flooring. The source was determined and the defective plumbing replaced.

Department Reports

- The Local Public Safety Coordinating Council Quarterly Report was provided by Jessica Rose, LPSCC Coordinator.
- The Administrator’s Monthly Report was provided by Mr. Green.

Break: 9:45-9:53 a.m.

- The Sheriff’s Office Monthly Report was provided by Administrative Lieutenant Melissa Ross.

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports were provided.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 10:15 a.m.