

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Darrell J. Green, Sarah Baker, John Bowles, Kristen Bowles, Roberta Lutcher, Dan Robbins; Non-Staff: Julie Baker, Anna Browne, Grace Ogden

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Kirsti Cason, SaBrina Bailey Cave, Ronda Fox, Mike Gorman, Deanne Irving, Katie Imes, Kate Knop, Tamra Mabbott, Ken Matlack, Aaron Moss, Ian Murray, George Nairns, Jaylene Papineau, Sandi Pointer, Nazario Rivera, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell, Gina Wilson; Non-Staff: JoAnna Lamb, Glenn McIntire, Karen Pettigrew, Nicole Strong, David Sykes

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 9:02 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar:

Commissioner Lindsay removed the Special Transportation Fund (STF) Advisory Committee appointment request to Business Items.

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

1. *Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Appointment Request to the STF Committee

Commissioner Lindsay commented on the number of committee vacancies (four out of 11), and said Public Transit will be growing by “leaps and bounds” so having a full committee was important. “How do we work toward getting these filled,” she asked. In addition, she asked, “How do we get the businesses calling out the need for the circular (Port of Morrow-Boardman Circular) at the table?”

Katie Imes, Coordinator, Public Transit – The Loop, listed the examples of outreach undertaken in Boardman to solicit interest. She also said Debbie Radie, Vice President Operations, Boardman Foods, Inc., as a member of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Advisory Committee, “passed along multiple leads but nothing has come from it.”

After a question from Administrator Darrell Green as to when the STF and STIF Advisory Committees will be consolidated into one committee, Ms. Imes replied, July 23rd.

Commissioner Russell moved to appoint Debra Khaljani to the Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee; Transit User Representative; term to be January 26, 2022 through January 26, 2026. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Oregon State University/Morrow County Extension Update

Anna Browne, 4-H/Juntos Latino Outreach
Julie Baker, Administrative Office Manager
Nicole Strong, Regional Director

Updates were provided by each Extension representative. Some of the topics discussed were:

- Despite COVID, Ms. Browne was still able to organize “some cool events in the summer and spring at Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs Camps.”
- Ms. Brown accepted the 4-H Youth Development Specialist position in Umatilla County. This position will still have partnership work in Morrow County so she will be somewhat active in Morrow County.
- Ms. Baker said the 4-H Program Coordinator position formerly held by Erin Heidemann will be advertised shortly and the expectation is to fill it by late April or early May.
- Ms. Strong said the Open Campus/Juntos position should be advertised soon, as well. OSU named Dr. Ivory Lyles as the Director of Extension and Ms. Strong will be helping to coordinate his visit to the area in the near future.
- When asked, Commissioner Lindsay was assured by Ms. Strong that Morrow County’s funding for the vacant positions will carryover. She said if OSU needed to reduce that amount, she’d be happy to have that conversation.

Building Codes Program Operating Plan Update & Renewal of County Building Program with the State of Oregon

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director
Glenn McIntire, Building Official

Ms. Mabbott briefly reviewed the documents and Mr. McIntire explained the next renewal with the state will be due in 2026.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Operating Plan – Morrow County Building Department, and authorize Chair Doherty to sign the Department of Consumer & Business Services, Building Codes Division, Program Administration Form (Renewal). Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Wheatridge Strategic Investment Program Agreement (SIP) – Funding to Morrow County School Districts

Chair Doherty and Finance Director, Kate Knop, discussed their efforts to coordinate with the superintendents of both school districts in order to distribute the SIP funds to the districts that were to be used for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEM/STEAM). Chair Doherty then outlined a new vision for the funds, given the fact that funding for STEM/STEAM programs has been coming to the school districts from other sources, namely AWS (Amazon Web Services). He said he wanted to pursue some new ideas without changing the current model or agreement. “I wouldn’t consider this but for the fact those other things are being funded now...which allows an outlet on the backend...” he concluded. In the meantime, he said he would continue to work with Ms. Knop on getting the funds disbursed.

Update on Letter to Wheatridge Wind Energy, LLC, Regarding Non-Functioning Aircraft Detecting Lighting Systems (ADLS) on Wind Turbines

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director
Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

Duane Kilsdonk, Energy Siting Compliance Officer, Oregon Department of Energy
Mr. Kilsdonk said during a site visit last week to the Wheatridge project, he discussed the lighting issue with a Mr. Rosenbalm, who said he wanted to meet with the County on the matter. Mr. Kilsdonk told the Board that lighting is part of a condition to a site certification so ODOE was looking into it. They would start by gathering information to understand the situation and then see how it related to the site certificate.

Ms. Mabbott said when it comes to enforcement or compliance with a condition of a site certificate, the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) would be in first position as the lead and the County would be in the second position.

Mr. Kilsdonk said that was his understanding but this situation involved third-party permits through the Federal Aviation Administration so he would look into how they are made to comply with a site certificate. He asked to be invited to the meeting Mr. Rosenbalm mentioned to him but no one involved in today's meeting had been contacted about such a meeting, to date.

Mr. Gorman stressed there were two separate issues at play – the EFSC compliance issue and the SIP agreement. He suggested the County give NextEra a timeline of up to 45 days to respond and then possibly send a second letter. He explained that July 1st was the deadline for granting or not granting NextEra's SIP exemption.

Mr. Kilsdonk suggested the next letter ask NextEra to meet with the Board in-person in the next few weeks, since Mr. Rosenbalm said that's what they planned to do.

By consensus, the Board requested Mr. Kilsdonk, Ms. Mabbott and Mr. Gorman continue on their parallel paths toward either an in-person meeting or sending another letter.

Break: 10:15-10:21 a.m.

New Employee Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Requests

Darrell Green, Administrator

Nazario Rivera, Public Health Director

John Bowles, Sarah Baker, Dan Robbins, Kristen Bowles – Sheriff's Office

Katie Imes, Public Transit, The Loop

The following requests were presented by the department representatives:

1. Health Promoter – Public Health Department
2. Communications Deputy – Sheriff's Office
3. Community Corrections Assistant – Probation & Parole
4. Transit Operations Supervisor – Public Transit, The Loop
5. Two Transit Dispatchers – Public Transit, The Loop
6. Two Transit Driver I Positions – Public Transit, The Loop
7. Two Transit Driver II Positions – Public Transit, The Loop

Commissioner Russell moved to forward all the FTE requests to the Budget Committee for consideration and possible approval. Commissioner Lindsay asked that they be dealt with separately. Commissioner Russell stated none of the positions were funded by the General Fund

but instead were funded by resources outside Morrow County. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay said her “no” would not be because she didn’t believe in some of the requests but because she didn’t believe in all of them. She added she was concerned about the reliability of state funding and the seven new positions in one department that she wasn’t clear enough on. She said she wondered how the Budget Committee could understand the requests when they won’t have sifted through the same information as the Board. Chair Doherty said those were valid concerns and there would be a push for those departments to further clarify things. Vote: Aye: Chair Doherty, Commissioner Russell. Nay: Commissioner Lindsay. Motion carried.

Request to Reopen Employee FTE/Large Budget Item Requests

Justin Nelson, District Attorney

Mr. Nelson said he presented a request to the Columbia River Enterprise Zone II Board for funds for a detective position in his office, but it was declined and it’s now past the deadline to make a request to the County. He asked that the ability to make requests to the County be reopened.

Discussion.

Chair Doherty moved to make an exception and allow the D.A. to make the request and forward it to the Budget Committee. Motion died for lack of a second.

Chair Doherty said he apologized for leading Mr. Nelson “astray” when he suggested he make the request to the CREZ II Board. Commissioners Russell and Lindsay noted the Board turned down late requests from other departments in the past.

Order No. OR-2022-1: Adopting a Fee Schedule

Darrell Green, Administrator

After Mr. Green provided an overview, Commissioner Russell said the fees for recreational vehicle (RV) hookups should be consistent between departments, specifically the hookups at the Fairgrounds. He said they should be increased a few dollars to match the fees at County Parks. Brief discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the update to the Fee Schedule, effective January 26, 2022 and accompanying Order No. OR-2022-1: Adopting a Fee Schedule, noting the RV hookup fees at the Fairgrounds will be increased to match what is charged at the Parks, which means an increase of \$3.00/day for full hookups and \$2.00/day for dry hookups. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Command Team Update

Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

- The Biden Administration dropped the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) rule pertaining to employers with 100 or more employees. They are also making the healthcare mandate a permanent rule.
- Numbers for COVID patients in intensive care unit (ICU) beds: statewide 171 out of 668 beds; regionally eight out of 26 beds.
- Positive cases: first week of January – 136; second week – 202; third week – 226; this week – 123 so far.

Department Reports

The following reports were provided:

- Road Department Monthly Report by Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master
- Written Human Resources Quarterly Report submitted by Lindsay Grogan, Director
- Public Health Department Quarterly Report by Nazario Rivera, Director
- Written Weed Department Quarterly Report submitted by Dave Pranger, Weed Inspector

Correspondence

- Notice from the Community Renewable Energy Association on how to become a Licensed Renewable Energy Technician

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports were provided. The Commissioners discussed the list showing the nearly \$11 million in disbursements by the CREZ II Board and asked that it be added to the online Agenda Packet.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:30 p.m.