

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Darrell J. Green, Paul Gray, Eric Imes, Roberta Lutchter; Non-Staff: Nicole Mahoney, Mike McNamee, Donna Sherman

Present Via Zoom

SaBrina Bailey Cave, Mike Gorman, Kate Knop, Tamra Mabbott, Aaron Moss, Sandi Pointer, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: JoAnna Lamb, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Debbie Pedro, Karen Pettigrew, Kelsey Salata, Greg Smith

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 9:00 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar:

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

1. *Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
2. *Minutes: December 1, 2021*
3. *Application Numbers OSP, OSQ, OSR, OSS & OST for Necessity to Build on Right-of-Way from Zayo Group, LLC*
4. *Quitclaim Deed to Ridgecrest Development III, LLC; property back to prior owner after tax foreclosure of property; true consideration – \$22,341 to Morrow County*

Business Items

Columbia Development Authority Update

CDA Director, Greg Smith, provided his quarterly update to the Board.

Request to Apply for an Ambulance Transport License

Chief Mike Hughes, Boardman Fire Rescue District

After a lengthy discussion, it was determined the request had not been properly vetted and collaboration needed to take place between all affected parties. It was proposed a work session take place in the near future.

Department of Land Conservation and Development Intergovernmental Agreement #21015-2 to Update the Morrow County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve DLCD IGA #21015-2; effective when signed by all parties and terminates on March 30, 2024; and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Broadband Funding Discussion

Aaron Moss, Lead for America & American Connection Project Fellow, Morrow County Broadband Project

Mr. Moss provided an update on the status of broadband infrastructure development and grants he was pursuing.

Break due to lost internet connection: 10:06-10:18 a.m.

Mr. Moss resumed his update.

Discussion – Nitrate Level Water Testing

Chair Doherty said during last week's discussion he suggested people test their wells for nitrate levels. Since then, he contacted a testing lab and brought back vials for water samples and information sheets on how to properly collect the samples. He said he wanted to make them available at the Public Health Department locations and talked to Public Health Director, Nazario Rivera and Ana Pineyro (Communicable Disease Coordinator/Emergency Preparedness) about doing outreach on this matter. Chair Doherty suggested the County set aside funds to help pay for testing (\$35/test) and said he would work with Finance Director, Kate Knop, on some questions he had and report back.

Command Team Update

Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

- Intensive care unit (ICU) beds in use by COVID patients – numbers are up statewide and regionally.
- Positive test rates are trending downward.
- Weekly Command Team meetings will be suspended unless something changes, but Mr. Gray and Mr. Rivera will remain in weekly contact.

Building Project Updates

Darrell Green, Administrator

Morrow County Government Center:

- The concrete for the heated sidewalks will be poured early next week.
- Lumen/CenturyLink is boring for new phone lines today.
- The furniture vendor will be onsite February 15th & 16th to complete the furniture installation and replace the pieces damaged by the water incident on Thanksgiving Day.
- The vendor for audio/visual equipment will have approximate procurement dates next week.

Courthouse:

- Commissioner Lindsay and Mr. Green have been working on the executive summary that will be presented to the Association of Oregon Counties/Oregon Judicial Department Taskforce reviewing funding requests for courthouse renovations/replacements.

Department Reports

- The Administrator's Monthly Report was reviewed by Mr. Green.
- The Sheriff's Office Monthly Report was reviewed by Administrative Lieutenant Melissa Ross.
- The Assessment & Tax Quarterly Report was reviewed by Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector. Mr. Gorman provided an update on the issues with the aircraft detecting lighting system installed on the wind turbines in the Wheatridge/NextEra project. He

said he and County Counsel, Justin Nelson, met with several NextEra representatives who said they've remedied some of the mechanical problems. It was suggested the reps meet with the Board of Commissioners and the public to provide an overview of the system and an update and Mr. Gorman was told they would do so in the next 60 days. Mr. Gorman said NextEra continues to fine-tune the system and he was waiting to hear back from them about the presentation.

Correspondence

- City of Boardman Public Notice for Zoning Permit Public Hearing on February 15th.
- Letter from Idaho Power thanking the Commissioners for the meeting on January 19th. The letter also outlined the company's plans to work with individual landowners, moving forward.

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports of activity were provided.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:50 a.m.