

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Eric Imes, Kate Knop, Roberta Lutchter, Dave Pranger

Excused

Commissioner Don Russell, Darrell J. Green

Present Via Zoom

SaBrina Bailey Cave, Deanne Irving, Tamra Mabbott, Aaron Moss, Justin Nelson, Jaylene Papineau, Sandi Pointer, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: Karen Pettigrew, David Sykes

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

City & Citizen Comments: Veteran Services Officer, Linda Skendzel, talked about House Bill 4082, which relates to burial benefits for veterans.

Open Agenda: Commissioner Lindsay added an item to Correspondence. Finance Director, Kate Knop, said she combined the two resolutions listed on the agenda into one. This resulted in the removal of Business Item 6d – Resolution No. R-2022-3.

Consent Calendar

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

1. *Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
2. *Minutes: January 5th*
3. *Appointment of the County Administrator, Darrell Green, as the Budget Officer for Fiscal Year 2022-23*

Chair Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Legislative Updates: None

Business Items

Order No. OR-2022-4: Distributing Foreclosure Sale Proceeds

Jaylene Papineau, Treasurer

After discussion, there was some confusion on the part of the Commissioners as to whether the final price was accurate, when closing costs were taken into consideration.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve Order No. OR-2022-4: In the Matter of Distributing Proceeds Held by the County Treasurer from Sales of Tax Foreclosed Lands. Chair Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Lindsay asked Ms. Papineau to hold-off processing it for a few days while they looked into some of their concerns.

Weed Grant Proposal

Dave Pranger

Mr. Pranger said there was a Department of Agriculture grant he could apply for but he first wanted to obtain feedback from the Board. The grant allows for the purchase of a boat and

accessories for noxious weed work along the Columbia River. The Commissioners expressed concern about the need for a boat, and insurance and storage costs, and concluded it was not worth pursuing. They thanked Mr. Pranger for “thinking outside the box.”

Resolution No. R-2022-2: Morrow County Reserve Funds

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop summarized what the Resolution would accomplish:

1. Rename the Video Lottery Fund to the Economic Development Fund
2. Create the Succession Planning Fund
3. Create the Orchard Winds Fund

The Commissioners relayed some concerns and agreed by consensus to reschedule the item.

Review Order No. OR-2021-15: Declaring a Local State of Emergency in Morrow County (COVID-19)

The Commissioners briefly discussed the Order, which will expire February 28, 2022.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to move away from the Emergency Order and allow folks to move on with their lives and do their best to stay healthy and happy and put this behind us, hopefully. Chair Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Water Testing Information

Chair Doherty reported on his efforts to make testing for nitrate levels in private drinking wells more accessible:

- Contacted the Department of Environmental Quality and was told they would assign someone to the impacted area of the County.
- Working with Finance on funding ideas and with County Counsel on possible privacy concerns.
- Will have the testing information available at the local Public Health Department Offices because staff there will be “the boots on the ground and know the folks who have private wells.”

Letter Regarding Oregon Transportation Commission’s Allocation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Funding

Commissioner Lindsay explained the request for a letter of support came from the Eastern Oregon Counties Association and she was bringing it forward for consideration. Brief Discussion.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to sign the letter to the Oregon Transportation Commission as presented. Chair Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Break: 9:54-10:04 a.m.

Department Reports

- The Road Department Monthly Report was reviewed by Eric Imes, Public Works Director
- The Finance Department Quarterly Report was not submitted

Correspondence

- Commissioner Lindsay discussed the email in the Agenda Packet from Nick Ducote, consultant hired to assist with obtaining grants for the mitigation of the flood plain issues at the former Kinzua Mill site in Heppner. He is requesting a letter of support and a resolution from the Commissioners for the U.S. Economic Development Administration grant application. Chair Doherty said to present both at an upcoming BOC meeting for consideration.

Commissioner Reports

Chair Doherty and Commissioner Lindsay provided reports of activity.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:00 a.m.