

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Jim Doherty, Commissioner Don Russell, Darrell J. Green, Sarah Baker, Greg Close, Katie Imes, Roberta Lutchter, Aaron Moss; Non-Staff: Mark Rietmann

Present Via Zoom

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Erin Anderson, Kirsti Cason, SaBrina Bailey Cave, Mike Gorman, Paul Gray, George Nairns, Justin Nelson, Jaylene Papineau, Sandi Pointer, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell; Non-Staff: Torrie Griggs, David Sykes, Jonathan (last name not provided)

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 9:04 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items

Legislative Updates: Veterans Services Officer, Linda Skendzel, submitted a memo from the Association of Oregon Counties to the AOC Veterans Steering Committee – 2022 Session Overview.

Consent Calendar:

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

- 1. Accounts Payable & Payroll Payables*
- 2. Amendment 1 to Department of Revenue Intergovernmental Agreement #305-21; map maintenance and related cartographic activities to be performed by DOR; increase Estimated Staff Hours from 366.67 to 466.67 and Total Cost from \$22,000 to \$28,000; and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County*
- 3. Software License and Professional Services Agreement with Wolpert, Inc./Data Cloud Solutions for Mobile Assessor Field Appraisal Software and Hardware; effective March 17, 2022 to June 30, 2028; and authorize Administrator, Darrell Green, to sign on behalf of the County*
- 4. Text to 911 Program Implementation Master Sales Agreement with TeleCommunication Systems, Inc.; shall expire one year after the Initial Term and shall automatically renew for successive one-month periods; all costs paid by Oregon Emergency Management; and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Public Hearing: Land Use Legislative Hearing to Amend the Transportation System Plan; Ordinance No. ORD-2022-1

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Chair Doherty opened the Public Hearing and hearing no conflicts of interest or reasons to abstain from the Commissioners, he called for the Staff Report.

The County's transit planning efforts in recent years resulted in the need to update sections of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, explained Ms. Mabbott. A consulting firm was hired to update the Transportation System Plan (TSP), and Ms. Mabbott then proceeded to provide an overview of the substantive changes.

Chair Doherty called for proponents to speak.

Katie Imes, Coordinator of The Loop – Morrow County Public Transit, said the updated TSP was pivotal to the work of her office, such as the fixed routes, and when applying for grants. It's a great stepping stone to the future public service, she said.

When there was no response to Chair Doherty's call for opponents to speak, he closed the Public Hearing at 9:20 a.m. He noted this was the first of two Public Hearings for the proposed amendments.

Commissioner Russell said when he talked to those in administration at the City of Boardman, and the elected officials, they were supportive of the Plan and the connections with Kayak and bringing in workers to the Port of Morrow area, but not with the interstate bus stop in the middle of the City of Boardman. Years ago, there used to be a Greyhound bus stop and there was a disproportionate amount of law enforcement action there. At this point in time, they're not supportive of that, but they would be if it was located at Love's Travel Stop or somewhere besides downtown Boardman. He said there was some speculation they weren't supportive of the Plan, but that is not the case, they are, just not for interstate carriers. Stanfield would tell you they have a disproportionate amount of law enforcement actions at theirs too, he said.

Ms. Mabbott said she would reach out to the Boardman Chamber of Commerce and the City to see if there was any specific language they might want. She said she didn't see anything in the document that was site specific relative to Greyhound, other than it advocates for greater service options. She then asked if anyone attending virtually from the City or Chamber could speak on this but there was no reply.

Commissioner Russell said the previous Greyhound bus stop was at the Nomad Restaurant but it burned down 23 years ago and this was just what they told him in conversation.

Commissioner Lindsay asked about the notice that took place on this.

Ms. Mabbott said public notice was mailed prior to the January 25th Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Department doesn't typically provide public notice for a second public hearing because it's announced at the first one, but Planning staff could do that.

Commissioner Lindsay requested that every member of the Boardman City Council receive a complete copy of this document via email so they have an opportunity to provide input. It's a living document for guidance and doesn't create or do anything other than that, she said. Based on the comments she heard, it would let them have the exact detail instead of hearsay. Also, please make sure it gets to every council within the County, she added.

Ms. Mabbott said page six listed the agencies notified and it included the City of Boardman. Whether it made it to the council members, she didn't know but would request it.

Chair Doherty said the original document suggested there was an opportunity for Greyhound to stop in Morrow County. He said he didn't want to impose anything on the County's partners but it's a service and one he's used several times. I'm probably relegated to the other riff-raff, he added.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Findings and schedule a second hearing for April 13, 2022. Discussion: Ms. Mabbott said it should be April 20th; Chair Doherty and Commissioner Russell noted the information in the Agenda Packet listed April 13th. Commissioner Russell amended his motion to replace April 13th with April 20th. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Grazing and Fire Fuels Management Agreement

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Mr. Close said the agreement was similar to prior grazing agreements but it included increased fees to the County and an explanation of the fuel management purposes of the grazing at the OHV Park. Discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the 2022-2027 Grazing and Fire Fuels Management Agreement, Morrow County OHV Park, between the County and Horseshoe Hereford Ranch, Inc., and Triangle Ranches; term to be April 6, 2022 to November 1, 2027; Permittees shall pay \$11,680 annually. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Broadband Funding Request

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

Mr. Moss presented his request and responded to questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the \$150,000 in American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Funds for Broadband Action Team (BAT) activities, and authorize Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative to act as the fiscal agent for BAT. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Professional Services Agreement with Kittelson & Associates to Update the Morrow County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP)

Katie Imes, Coordinator, The Loop – Morrow County Public Transit

Ms. Imes said the County's CHSTP requires an update every five years so that work was put out as a request for proposals. There were four respondents and she recommended contracting with Kittelson & Associates. Discussion.

9:55 a.m.: Commissioner Lindsay no longer participating via Zoom.

Commissioner Russell moved to award the contract to update the CHSTP to Kittelson & Associates; March 9, 2022 through September 30, 2022; \$30,176. Chair Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Budget Transfer Resolution No. R-2022-7: Appropriating \$100,000 to OSU Extension Service for Funding Mormon Cricket Control

Darrell Green, Administrator

9:59 a.m.: Commissioner Lindsay resumed her Zoom participation.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve Resolution No. R-2022-7: Transferring Appropriations from Operating Contingency to OSU Extension Service for funding Mormon cricket control. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Letter of Support – U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant Resolution No. R-2022-6: In support of Heppner Mill Site EDA Grant

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve signing the Resolution and letter of support for the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group’s application for an EDA Grant. Commissioner Russell seconded and read the complete title of the Resolution: Resolution No. R-2022-6: A Resolution in Support of a Grant Application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration for Floodplain Mitigation Work at the Heppner Mill Site. Discussion: Commissioner Russell said when he read the letter, he thought it was odd that the property owner was not mentioned. He said he asked them and they were in support of the letter. There is a match and they need to figure out how much of a match. Because they’re in support of it, he was in support of it, he stated. Commissioner Lindsay said the Port of Morrow was very closely involved in this process and we centered around the actual applicant to keep it clear. Additionally, it’s been a matter of getting back on track after the passing of Ryan Neal, who was a supporter of the project. She said they’ve been working with Lisa Mittelsdorf, Mark Patton and Jacob Cain. Unanimous approval.

Designate Interim Public Health Director

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said the current Public Health Director and Public Health Administrator, Nazario Rivera, resigned effective March 9th. The current Nurse Supervisor, Robin Canaday, was willing to assume the role of Public Health Director and Public Health Administrator on an interim basis for 90 days while the County worked to fill the position permanently, he explained. In addition, Mr. Green said the policy regarding Working Out-of-Class was provided in the Agenda Cover Sheet because Ms. Canaday will need to be compensated an additional five percent, or around \$397 per month.

Commissioner Russell moved to designate Robin Canaday as the Interim Public Health Director and Public Health Administrator, and approve the Working Out-of-Class request to compensate for these additional duties. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Chair Doherty thanked Mr. Rivera for the work he did, especially during COVID. He said he wouldn’t wish that on anyone in public health, from the nurses to those directing traffic at events. It’s been a tough two to three years and Chair Doherty again thanked Mr. Rivera for what he’s done. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Break: 10:06-10:13 a.m.

Unanticipated Revenue Discussion

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

Mr. Gorman detailed the chain of events between his office, the Department of Revenue and Amazon that led to an \$11 million miscalculation on Amazon's property taxes. Amazon was not required to pay the \$11 million but has chosen to do so. He stressed this was not tax money and can be distributed as the Board sees fit. Discussion ensued. The item will be brought back to a future agenda.

Department Reports

- The Treasurer's Monthly Report was presented by Jaylene Papineau.
- The Planning Department Monthly Report was presented by Tamra Mabbott.

Correspondence

- Sixth Judicial District's Order No. 22-001 (Amended) – Face coverings and social distancing no longer required but encouraged.

The Board opted to have the Chair work with the Administrator on a similar notice to staff.

Commissioner Reports

Reports of activity were provided.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:20 a.m.