

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person:

Darrell Green, Paul Gray, Roberta Lutchter

Present Via Zoom:

Chair Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Karen Pettigrew, Ana Pineyro, Aaron Moss, Sandi Pointer

Excused:

Commissioner Don Russell

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 8:34 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Commissioner Lindsay said she wanted to add an Emergency Operations Center Update and a brief conversation about how this can work in the future. Chair Doherty said her request would be the first Business Item.

For the record, Chair Doherty noted Commissioner Russell was absent.

Consent Calendar:

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

1. *Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*

Chair Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Emergency Operations Center Update

Chair Doherty said the County was looking at a water quality emergency in some areas – private wells, households in the County. Also, it probably was a public health emergency and he suggested an information emergency and a declaration speaks to those three things. The command center group has been meeting with Mr. Gray and his folks from around the state.

There were robust meetings the last few days with Public Health and Emergency Management and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) and a lot of those folks leaned in to assist the County in this endeavor. He said he thought one of the first things to do was get a message crafted and out to the folks telling them where the County is at on step one. There's lots of steps and things that need to be done as we move forward so they know – is there water coming, are there places they can get water and filters, where are the challenges, and these kinds of things. He continued by saying it seemed like an easy effort to get a public information officer to keep on these things so everyone threw into that effort. The group had OHA craft the first message on it and they all spent the last 24-hours communicating back and forth until 4:00 this morning trying to get this buttoned up. Then, ultimately the state said this was the county's message and they'd amplify it once the County approved it. Mr. Gray has it geared up and ready to go out, he said, but he told him the last firewall between the County and the public was the Board of Commissioners so he held to update the Board. It will be put out in Spanish and English. He said these updates need to be put on the agenda going forward.

Commissioner Lindsay said all things were as she anticipated. It's how things started moving through the COVID pandemic and exactly the team dynamic needed, there were multi people and she liked hearing the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) was at the table. It will be helpful to get lots of different input as how to make sure we're working through all the pieces of this.

Commissioner Lindsay moved that Chair Doherty become the formalized BOC EOC representative as the current Chair. Chair Doherty said as an addendum, ultimately the public information officer, as well. Commissioner Lindsay replied, definitely. Chair Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Mutual Aid Agreement with Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network

Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

Mr. Gray said the agreement will give the County access to multiple avenues of aid from local, city and county water agencies throughout Oregon.

Chair Doherty moved to approve the Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement for the Provision of Emergency Services related to Water and Wastewater Utilities through the Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (ORWARN); and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Reports

None provided

Adjourned: 9:49 a.m.