

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, OR 97836

Present In-Person

Chair Jim Doherty
Commissioner Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Karen Wolff, Staff
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

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

Terry Tallman Day

Chair Doherty called Cheryl Tallman, wife of former Judge Terry Tallman, forward. Chair Doherty read the full text of Resolution NO. R-2022-15.

Commissioner Russell moved to accept Resolution NO. R-2022-15 IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING AUGUST 17, 2022 AS TERRY TALLMAN DAY FOR ALL OF MORROW COUNTY. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Russell presented the certificate of the Resolution to Cheryl Tallman.

Ms. Tallman told the group that Terry enjoyed working with everyone.

Chair Doherty shared a fishing story. Commissioner Russell shared a story. Commissioner Lindsay shared a story.

Ms. Tallman said that she brought melons to share, just as Terry did while he was Judge. These are melons that Terry started from seed and oversaw the planting and growing throughout the year.

City and Citizen Comments:

Mike Hughes, Fire Chief Boardman Fire and Rescue District

Chief Hughes said that Chair Doherty suggested a couple of times that the Health District and the Fire District get together to update the ASA (Ambulance Service Area) plan together. Chief Hughes would like to take advantage of that offer. He asked that Deputy District Attorney Zach Williams be appointed to oversee the committee. He suggested that there be two representatives from the Health District, two representatives from the Fire District, no attorneys others than DDA Williams. He also suggested leadership from the Sheriff's Office, Boardman PD, and representatives from the City of Heppner, Lexington, Irrigon and Boardman. This committee would put together an ASA plan that DDA Williams can bring back to the Commission.

Chair Doherty said the Board has been supportive of coming forward with a unified front. He said we would consider that option.

No one online on Zoom with hands up to speak.

Lisa Pratt, Morrow County Resident, lives in the Boardman area

Ms. Pratt read a prepared statement regarding: questioning Chair Doherty's interactions with Chief Hughes at a previous meeting and Chair Doherty's alleged bias against Boardman; the need for a stronger ASA plan; and the need to increase (health care) services in the county.

Chair Doherty said he did visit with Chief Hughes after the meeting and suggested that if Chief Hughes was going to come into a Commission meeting and suggest that Chair Doherty does not have the best health care in mind for his home town and then expect to get on a future agenda. Chair Doherty said that Chief Hughes then said "Are you telling me I will not be on a future agenda?", to which Chair Doherty did not respond.

Open Agenda:

None

Consent Calendar:

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items:

Lexington Airport Taxiway D Reconstruction Grant

Sandra Pointer, Public Works Management Assistant by Zoom

Ms. Pointer explained that she previously brought the design project grant forward, and was approved. This is a grant for the matching funds for the project.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the agreement with COAR (Critical Oregon Airport Relief)/ODA (Oregon Department of Aviation) and Morrow County in the amount of \$137,347.47 for the Design phase of the Taxiway D & Apron Reconstruction and authorize Commissioner Russell sign on behalf of Morrow County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Upon learning the document was prepared with a signature line for the Chair to sign, she made the following amendment: *Commissioner Lindsay moved to amend the previous motion to have Chair Doherty sign. Commissioner Russell said he approved of and seconded the friendly amendment. Unanimous approval.*

County Application for ODVA Funds

Linda Skendzel, Veterans Service Officer

Ms. Skendzel explained that this grant is needed to update some Personal Services expenses in the budget. She has been working with Kevin Ince, Finance Director and he has approved this grant.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Oregon Department of Veteran's Affairs County Application for ODVA Fuds FY2022: July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$81, 736 and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of Morrow County. Commissioner Russell second. Unanimous approval.

Morrow County Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plan Update (CTP)

Katie Imes, Transportation Manager

Ms. Imes introduced Krista Purser, Kittelson a& Associates, who prepared the update. Ms. Purser presented a Powerpoint presentation of the update and reviewed bullet points. Ms. Purser explained that this is a guiding, living document and should be updated as needed.

Ms. Imes explained that this update will come back to the Commissioners to be adopted. The presentation today was condensed. Commissioner Lindsay asked for the final document to be sent to the Commissioners for review well in advance, to allow time to thoroughly review.

Lead Person for Water Related Issues

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Chair Doherty said he is glad we are having this conversation. Commissioner Lindsay agreed. She has been watching Harney County on their water issues.

Ms. Mabbott said she had prepared a document that could be used in preparing a potential position description. Ms. Mabbott reviewed the Water Coordination document. She explained that GIS has been engaged to assist in developing data in relation to the nitrate issues. She said people are 'thirsty' for data. GIS will help with where domestic wells located, and located in relation to septic systems, fields and other factors. This could generate the data that people/agencies need. The State's role has been to regulate water, not plan for future water. Harney County is looking at water holistically.

Commissioner Lindsay said watching what is happening nationally and in the Klamath Basin, we need to start looking locally.

Chair Doherty said when we had the workshop, he pulled info from a Colorado county. They had a whole department on this subject.

Commissioner Russell said well drillers have a log with data about soils, whether cased etc. He assumes this data has not been mined. It would be good information to have. The long-term solution is not a filter on a faucet. He suggested a water district would be something to consider. One well has high nitrates and another does not. Why is that? That needs to be investigated with data.

Commissioner Lindsay agreed. Harney County has done something like this. Leadership, collaboration, and stakeholders.

Commissioner Russell said since 1989, wells have to be tested when property is sold. Not sure if it is public information, but it could be useful.

Ms. Mabbott agreed. She mentioned we might want to look at some land use amendments related to water.

Commissioner Lindsay asked if we are ready to do an RFP (Request For Proposals) for a contract? Do we split it with Umatilla County? Do we just have our own? She thinks a one year or two year contract would be good. Commissioner Russell does not think one year is long enough. He prefers two years, whatever we do.

Ms. Mabbott said an RFQ (Request For Qualifications) would be a good start. Pull together a position description as well to consider an in-house person

Chair Doherty said water security is important. We have a code book. We need a regulatory piece too. If we find out that Joe Industry or Commissioner Doherty are doing something, we need to address that.

Commissioner Lindsay said a two year RFP or RFQ would be good. A contract has worked well on the Broadband Initiative. Commissioner Russell agreed. Commissioner Russell said he is ok with a bi-county agreement as long as it is a true bi-county situation, with equal work for each county. Commissioner Lindsay agreed. Chair Doherty prefers to write our own future and keep it in-house. Look at both options.

Ms. Mabbott with work up options for review.

Budget Committee Appointment

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

Mr. Ince explained that there was one response to the public advertisement for appointment to the Budget Committee. Kim Cutsforth has been on the committee previously. Mr. Ince recommends moving forward with the appointment.

Commissioner Russell moved to appoint Kim Cutsforth to the Budget Committee for a three year term, effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025. Chair Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Permit Application #OTL

Mike Haugen, Assistant Roadmaster

Mr. Haugen explained the permit application and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Chair Doherty moved to authorize the Assistant Roadmaster to approve Permit #OTL for Windwave Communications. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Commissioner Russell recused himself because he has a financial interest in Windwave Communications. Chair Doherty yes. Commissioner Lindsay yes. Commissioner Russell abstain.

Department Report

None

Commissioner Liaison Reports

Chair Doherty none.

Commissioner Lindsay said Public Works may be coming forward with a discussion around funding for maintenance of the 21 Road.

Commissioner Russell said he recently reviewed the Job Description for the Community Development Director position. We are having trouble filling the position with the current Job Description. He would like a Work Session to review.

In the Finance Department, Sabrina has been promoted to Financial Analyst. The Finance Director has asked about allowing her to work remotely so she can complete work outside of regular hours. Chair Doherty said it is up to Commissioner Russell. Commissioner Lindsay said we have policy regarding remote work. As long as we follow policy, it is fine. We do not want to set a precedence for other departments. All agreed it is up to Commissioner Russell. Commissioner Russell said he will approve it.

Correspondence

Commissioners reviewed. Much discussion regarding the EPA letter.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Russell

Nothing to report.

Commissioner Lindsay

Nothing to report.

Chair Doherty

Nothing to report.

Executive Session

Chair Doherty explained that the Executive Session is not needed today.

Chair Doherty responded to the request from the Boardman Fire Chief to form a committee. Chair Doherty said he would consider the request, but that he does not respond well to threats, lies or homophobic recalls and he is not going to begin now.

Adjourn 10:30 a.m.