

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2022 Special Meeting
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Darrell Green, Roberta Lutchter, Mike Lees, Eric Imes, George Nairns, Rick Stokoe,

Present Via Zoom

Sandi Pointer, Aaron Moss, Christa Wole, Christy Kenny, Jaylene Papineau, Linda Skendzel, Tamra Mabbott

9:00 AM start with Pledge of Allegiance

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: None.

Consent Calendar:

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Consent Calendar:

- 1. Property Tax Refund – Gas Transmission Northwest*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Chair Doherty commented on the nice press release around Deputy Telly and Deputy Neubert the K9 handler. Commissioner Lindsay agreed and commented on attending a recent training of Telly, they recognized the value of the K9 team.

Business Items

Update – May Budget Committee Meetings (Christa Wolfe, Contractor to Finance Dept

Administrator Green introduced Christa Wolfe and her years of experience in finance with Clackamas County and in County Budget

Christa updated the Commissioners on her prior work with Clackamas County and the Open.Gov system that Morrow County is beginning to use in their budgeting process. She updated the work that had been done thus far toward the budget and her work in getting her arms around and familiarizing herself with Morrow County systems. Christa presented the Open.gov system and shared slides as examples and different categories she had created in different areas and how they could be expanded upon and used.

Discussion of the system, opportunities available in the new software and how the budget could look going into Budget Committee meetings followed. Questions and answer as to how the budget would work this year with short of staff in Finance, with Christa's assistance. Christa shared trends and Budget Laws.

Commissioners were satisfied with the new program and looked forward to the budget process.

Review Permit Application Number 297, 298, and OTD from the City of Boardman
(Eric Imes, Public Works Director)

It was clarified that this was a revisit from the 4/20/22 meeting. Mr Imes had worked with Mike Lees and Rick Stokoe from Boardman whom were available to answer any questions. Mr Imes shared that he had understood and shared previously with the Board of Commissioners that the road wouldn't be closed down but he now understood that a portion would close down but would have detours so that local businesses can be accessed. Mr Imes wanted the public to be informed now that he better understood from additional conversations with the parties.

Chair Doherty recognized that the Public Works Director could have approved this but that he brought it forward due to its challenges and acknowledged that Public Works was working with the contractor to find a route to make it feasible. Discussion took place around the dedication of Yates Lane and the Sewer line being on the County/City line of the shared road easement.

Mike Lees, with Anderson Perry described the influences on the design in this area and the need to thread the needle of existing influences. He explained the contractor wants to minimize impacts and get it done expeditiously with the least amount of impact to everyone. He clarified that at the off ramp interchange the road will be closed but Wilson and Laurel Lane will not have closures of access to businesses and they would be accessible.

Commissioner Russell asked for time frames and getting back to normal. He was advised by Mike Lees that there would be 4 days of road closures as a worst case scenario and 3 as best. Commissioner Russell appreciated the city utilities and improvements being added. He understood improvements have a cost to doing business but needs to be done.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Public Works Director to sign the application of permits 297, 298 and OTD, as amended, with the understanding that the above criteria will be met as is listed. Commissioner Lindsay second. Being a fundamental change from the original discussion and approval the Commissioners agreed it was good it came back. Unanimous approval.

Correspondence None

Commissioner Reports

Commissioners Doherty requested information regarding the blinds in the new Irrigon Govt Center and potential needs and uniformity. Budgeting for these extra items were discussed.

Commissioner Russell discussed the building walk thru.

9:56 a.m. Executive Session: Chair Doherty read the Executive Session; Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(g) – To consider preliminary negotiations involving matters of trade or commerce in which the governing body is in completion with governing bodies in other states or nations.

No decision anticipated

9:57 a.m. Adjourned