

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person:

Chair Jim Doherty
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Melissa Lindsay
Karen Wolff, Board Staff
Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance 9:00 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments

Ken Brown, Boardman Rural Fire District (BRFD)

Mr. Brown asked when they will get on the agenda to move forward with licensing ambulances. Mr. Brown said mediation is about the ASA (Ambulance Service Area), not licensing. Commissioner Lindsay said mediation is about everything.

Justin Nelson, County Counsel explained that there is a Letter of Need that goes to OHA for licensing. The discussion on this letter was tabled waiting for documents supporting the need. Mr. Nelson said he can forward the last communications from BRFD counsel, saying to wait.

Mr. Brown said he is just asking to get on the agenda. Mr. Nelson clarified that we need the documents before going on the agenda.

Chair Doherty explained that Chief Hughes said BRFD wants the transport license for the revenue and to contract with the military. We are looking for supporting documents for the need for revenue.

Mr. Nelson said June 1, 2022 he received an email from BRFD counsel. He read the email asking to wait for further direction before proceeding.

Commissioner Lindsay said she asked that day if this was the documented need. BRFD Counsel said that day that their presentation was not their documented need. That is why it was tabled.

Todd Lindsay

After hearing about what happened in the Board of Commissioners meeting last week, he believes Commissioner Russell owes some apologies.

Open agenda

Commissioner Russell – nothing.

Commissioner Lindsay – Add Rock Crushing contract.

Chair Doherty – Chief of Staff discussion is being removed this week.

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the minutes of September 28, 2022 and October 5, 2022 and to remove the Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables for further discussion.

Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables

Commissioner Lindsay asked Kevin Ince, Finance Director to comment on a couple of payments that have exceeded GSA policy. Mr. Ince said that we have approved people to be issued credit cards and provided the policy. It is not VISAs fault that they exceeded.

Chair Doherty said travel and credit card discussions are work sessions to be scheduled in the near future. Commissioner Russell said we need to bring this to the attention of the Department Director and let them talk to their employees.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve all Accounts Payables and Payroll Payables.

Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Price Increase on Public Transit Buses

Katie Imes, Public Transit Manager

Ms. Imes reviewed the submitted documents. The buses were ordered in 2021. Since then the price has gone up significantly. Ms. Imes said she has been in contact with ODOT. They said there is no way to get around these increases. This is a 60% increase.

Commissioner Lindsay asked where these buses would be used. Ms. Imes said the Boardman loop. Commissioner Lindsay asked if Boardman still supports this project. Ms. Imes said yes.

Don said if we go out for a new one, we will be starting over.

By consensus, asked to bring this back next week for County Counsel to review previous ordering documents.

Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Purchased Services Agreement with Good Shepherd

Katie Imes, Transit Manager

Ms. Imes reviewed the submitted documents.

Chair Doherty moved to approve Good Shepherd CareVan Purchase Service Agreement between Morrow County and Good Shepherd Health Care System (CareVan) from July 1, 2022 through

June 30, 2023 in the amount of up to \$10,000. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Supplemental Budget - Road Fund

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

Mr. Ince explained that a Road Use Agreement with Amazon Data Services was approved last week. As a result of that agreement, we need to make sure appropriations are correct. Net impact is zero.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve Resolution No. R-2022-19 In the Matter of Increasing Appropriations for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022 for the Road Fund. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Wagon Trail Solar Comment Letter

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott reviewed the draft Comment Letter to the Oregon Department of Energy regarding the Wagon Trail Solar Project Preliminary Application for Site Certificate.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Comment Letter as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Sheriff Appointment Preliminary Discussion

Chair Doherty said before we get into the discussion, we need to plan a send off for the Sheriff following his many years of service.

Chair Doherty explained this was crafted as a preliminary discussion. Nothing precludes the Board from going a little further down the path.

Chair Doherty asked Mr. Nelson to explain the process. Mr. Nelson said this does not happen often. Explained the board shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy. Shall qualify by law for qualifications. Mr. Nelson reviewed, including a form from DPSST approving the background/qualification of the appointee. DPSST said they can turn it around pretty quickly. It is especially quick when the applicant is already working in Oregon. Bobbi Childers, Clerk said she still needs a certain election form completed.

Justin said he does not believe there is time for a panel to interview and make recommendations. This needs to be filled by November 1, 2022.

Commissioner Russell asked if this is for the remainder of the term, or until the next election can be held. Sheriff Matlack stated it would be for the remainder of the term. Ms. Childers said until 2024.

Chair Doherty asked if there were a motion, would it need to be upon the approval of the various documents. Mr. Nelson said yes, that could be part of a motion.

Commissioner Lindsay said she appreciates the time constraint we are under. She sees two very qualified individuals have submitted letters of interest, but she is defaulting to our very popular Sheriff who has been elected numerous times and to his recommendation.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to appoint Undersheriff John Bowles as the Sheriff for the remaining term of our current Sheriff Ken Matlack effective upon the resignation of Sheriff, pending the successful completion of the DPSST F25 form and County Clerk SEL 101 form. Chair Doherty seconded.

Chair Doherty said the constituency sees both the Sheriff and Undersheriff on the ballot, even if the Undersheriff is not named.

Unanimous approval.

Break 10:01 am

10:09 a.m. Reconvene

Rock Crushing Contract Amendment

Eric Imes, Public Works Director

Mr. Imes updated: This is in regard to the Rock Crushing Contract for this year. On Sept. 21 Mr. Imes brought a request to increase the fee for crushing for this year. Mr. Imes reviewed the provided documents, including an updated bid sheet. Justin explained his review.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Morrow County Personal/Professional Services Contract Amendment of Contract Agreement with 4R Equipment L.L.C. and the updated Exhibit A. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Old Business

AOC Product Tasting

Karie Walchli, Contracted Destination and Tourism Development

Ms. Walchli reviewed ongoing plans for Association of Oregon Counties Annual Conference Product Tasting. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Walchli for her efforts and plans.

Department Report

Tourism Report

Karie Walchli, Contracted Destination and Tourism Development

Ms. Walchli explained they have wrapped up the survey for the Destination Development process. Has been a great experience to meet with the communities. Reviewed some of the comments and visions from the process. Final report will explain further.

Question for Commissioners, for the presentation on this report, which will take 20 minutes or so, would the Board prefer a work session? Commissioners think a work session is best.

Planning Monthly Update

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott reviewed her written report.

Treasurer Monthly Report

Jaylene Papineau, Treasurer

Ms. Papineau reviewed the written report.

Is moving forward with the Investment Advisory Committee. Continuing to work with Finance on combining processes and transparency. Chair Doherty said he appreciates the effort in working with Finance.

Veterans Quarterly Report

Commissioner Lindsay said Linda Skendzel, Veteran's Service Office is not able to attend today. Commissioners accepted the written report

Justice Court Quarterly Report

Glen Diehl, Justice of the Peace

Judge Diehl is happy with the cooperation between departments to get people into diversion. He said the Mental Health court is proceeding and should be ready to go very soon. His office is seeing more business.

Chair Doherty asked if Judge Diehl is involved with Juvenile cases. He said yes, and has a great team approach with our Juvenile Department.

Liaison reports

Chair Doherty - Nothing

Commissioner Russell – Noting

Commissioner Lindsay - Nothing

Correspondence

Reviewed the final Request For Proposals for Water Coordinator position document

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Russell – attended AOC Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee meeting recently.

Chair Doherty – Thinks we may get some reimbursement from the State for water expenses.

Commissioner Lindsay – There are some Broadband Action Team meetings coming up.

The cistern is still being billed to Morrow County. It is dangerous. Would like to bring this back for further action.

Ione gas station underground tanks have not been cleared. Believes we have a responsibility to do this. Wants to bring this to an agenda. Commissioner Russell said that is different information than what he received from the person who runs the Underground Tank Program. Commissioners will compare notes.

Adjourn 10:59 a.m.