

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Roberta Lutchter, Kevin Ince, Jaylene Papineau, Mike Haugen, Greg Close, Tamra Mabbott, Ramzi Sulieman

Present Via Zoom

David Sykes, Emily Roberts, Eric Imes, Greg Sweek, Heidi Turrell, Katie Imes, Jeff Wenholz, Joe Taylor, Kirsti Cason, Linda Skendzel, Robin Canaday, Todd Lindsay, Torrie Griggs, Sandi Pointer, Aaron Moss, Rick Stokoe, Ronda Fox, Christy Kenny, SaBrina Bailey-Cave, Greg Smith, Kelsey Crocker, Mike Johnson, Mark Pratt, Wendy Neal, Ana Laura, Marie (last name not provided), Patrick Collins, Willow Creek (no additional information)

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

City & Citizen Comments:

Ramzi Sulieman, Chief Operating Officer, True Organic Products, Inc., asked the Board for a letter of support for a federal grant application. True Organics produces organic fertilizer and employs 170 people at its facilities in Boardman and California. Chair Doherty asked Planning Director, Tamra Mabbott, if signing a letter could create issues if True Organic's conditional land use permit were to come before the Board on appeal. Ms. Mabbott explained the Commissioners would not have to recuse themselves as a tribunal on an appeal. The letter of support could be contingent upon compliance with the necessary land use permits, she said. Commissioner Russell suggested the letter be added to next week's agenda for consideration, and Commissioner Lindsay requested more details be provided on the federal grant. Ms. Mabbott said she would look into the correct verbiage for the letter.

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar:

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

1. *Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
2. *Minutes: October 12th*
3. *Service Agreement with Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI). GOBHI will pay Morrow County \$70 per one-way trip used with The Loop for GOBHI's Medicaid - authorized passengers; effective October 19, 2022 and shall expire June 30, 2023.*
4. *Eagle Crest Estates Subdivision Plat; owners Double T Farming (Rod Taylor and Joe & Cheryl Taylor, and Craig Coleman, Stiffler LLC)*

Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Review Permit Application #OTN – To Build in County Right-of-Way, Windwave Communications

Mike Haugen, Assistant Roadmaster

Commissioner Russell stated he had an actual conflict of interest due to his financial interest in Windwave Communications and would not participate.

Mr. Haugen reviewed the application and since it was over 250', it needed to be brought before the Board. He said application #OTN was tied to #OTL and this new application made sense. Commissioner Lindsay said it appeared, primarily, to be a relocation of vaults, to which Mr. Haugen agreed.

Chair Doherty moved to approve Permit Application #OTN from Windwave Communications for work on Bombing Range Road at the intersection with Wilson Lane; and authorize the Public Works Director to sign. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval (Commissioner Russell recused).

Resolution No. R-2022-20 – Authorizing Public Works to Apply for an All-Terrain Vehicle Grant from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Mr. Close said the Parks Department applies for this grant every two years. The funds go toward operation and maintenance of the Morrow-Grant County Off-Highway Vehicle Park. The grant request of \$1,133,763 requires a County match of \$226,763. The match comes from the revenue from grazing leases and camping fees, as well as in-kind volunteer labor at the Park from several volunteer organizations.

Commissioner Russell moved to apply for the ATV Grant in the amount of \$1,133,763 and to approve Resolution No. R-2022-20: In the Matter of Authorizing Morrow County Public Works Department to Apply for an All-Terrain Vehicle Grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for Operations and Maintenance at the Morrow-Grant County Off-Highway Vehicle Park. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

OHV Park Youth Elk Hunt

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Mr. Close said six applications were received and he recommended accepting all of them. Brief discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve all six applications for the Youth Hunt:

1. *Riley Gregg, John Day*
2. *Darby Spivey, Ione*
3. *Kassadie Griffin, Irrigon*
4. *Katie Spivey, Ione*
5. *Memphis Jones, Irrigon*
6. *Preslie Bowes, Irrigon*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Appointments to the Review Committee for the Water Coordinator Request for Proposals

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott said the proposals were due November 7th and she planned to present the intent to award on November 23rd. She suggested several people for the review committee: Jacob Cain, Port of Morrow; J.R. Cook, Northeast Oregon Water Association; Randy Jones, Department of Environmental Quality; and a farmer from the Willow Creek drainage and the Buttercreek drainage. Commissioner Russell suggested Commissioner Lindsay be on the team and she

agreed to take this on with the committee filling in any missing slots. The Board agreed by consensus and that agencies be called out, such as DEQ or the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Adopt Two Findings of Fact: Amending the Subdivision Ordinance & Updating the Port of Morrow Interchange Area Management Plan

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott said the Board approved Ordinance No. ORD-2022-3 and Ordinance No. ORD-2022-4 on August 24th but the Findings had not yet been signed.

Chair Doherty moved to adopt and sign the following Findings:

- 1. Amending and updating the Morrow County Subdivision Ordinance and relevant sections of Articles 1 and 9 of the Morrow County Zoning Ordinance (ORD-2022-3)*
- 2. Amending the 2012 Port of Morrow Interchange Area Management Plan, focusing on the interchange north of Interstate 84 to allow a roundabout (ORD-2022-4)*

Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Resolution No. R-2022-21 – Approving the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

Katie Imes, Transit Manager

Ms. Imes said the update to the Plan included extensive stakeholder involvement. She then requested formal adoption of the Plan.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve Resolution No. R-2022-21: A Resolution Approving the Morrow County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: The process for public input was reviewed, as referenced on page two of the Plan. Unanimous approval.

Old Business

Interim Chief of Staff Discussion

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Director

Ms. Grogan informed the Board no applications were received for the interim position, however, several applications were submitted for the permanent position. The permanent position's closing date is October 28th and she planned to be back before the Board in the near future regarding appointing members for the interview panel.

Department Reports

- The quarterly report for The Loop – Morrow County Public Transit was provided by Ms. Imes
- The quarterly report for the Juvenile Department was provided by Director Christy Kenny
- The quarterly report for Emergency Management was provided by Paul Gray, Emergency Manager

Commissioner Liaison Reports

- The Commissioners had no reports this week.

Correspondence

- Letter from Matthew D. Chase, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director of the National Association of Counties asking state associations to contribute to the new National Center for Public Lands Counties

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Russell said he and Commissioner Lindsay had conflicting information regarding the County-owned service station in Ione. He said he was unaware there were two service stations on Main Street in Ione and he had obtained information on the incorrect one. The one that is owned by the County does have underground storage tanks but there are grants available for local governments in these situations. He said it might be a slow process but perhaps some initial work could be done to pursue them. Commissioner Russell also provided updates on meetings he attended and then asked that the County follow-through with the mediator the County hired to mediate the disagreements between Boardman Fire Rescue District and the Morrow County Health District. He said he didn't think a Commissioner needed to attend the meetings because there was adequate representation through the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Russell and Commissioner Lindsay agreed that requesting a written plan from the mediator would be a good idea. Chair Doherty said he would take it into consideration.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 10:20 a.m.