

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2017
Irrigon Branch of the Oregon Trail Library District
Irrigon, Oregon**

Present

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer
Kate Knop, Finance Director
Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director
Richard Tovey, County Counsel

Audience

Justin Nelson, County Counsel
Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector
Carla McLane, Planning Director
Barb Huwe, Irrigon
Sam Health, Mayor, City of Irrigon
Aaron Palmquist, Manager, City of Irrigon
John Wenholz, Irrigon

Call to Order: 9:03 a.m., followed by pledge of allegiance.

City and Citizen Comments: Irrigon resident, Barb Huwe, urged the Board to retain all existing County services in Irrigon, with the exception of the Public Works maintenance yard. She said it makes sense to consider relocating it to the Boardman area.

Open Agenda Requests: Postpone the Update on the Boardman Solar Project and Heppner Wind Project by Laura Minor, Invenergy.

Consent Calendar

Chair Lindsay asked if there were any items to be removed for additional consideration. Hearing none, the following items in the Consent Calendar were adopted:

1. Claims (Accounts Payable dated February 9, 2017; Payroll Payables dated February 1, 2017 and February 3, 2017)
2. Minutes (January 25, 2017)
3. Intergovernmental Agreement, Agent Agreement No. 90G000278, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, Building Codes Division – Manufactured Structures.

Business Items

Report from Ferguson Surveying & Engineering – North County Facility Planning

Doug Ferguson, President, Ferguson Surveying & Engineering (FS&E)

Werner Arntz, Staff Engineer, FS&E

Mr. Ferguson said his firm was tasked with coming up with a draft floor plan and approximate costs for a new building in Irrigon. He and Mr. Arntz reviewed the plan and emphasized it was very preliminary in nature.

The Commissioners requested the following information and analyses associated with other ideas (not necessarily from FS&E):

- A multi-story structure in Irrigon
- Campus style, or several buildings clustered together
- Cost of moving out of Irrigon vs. remaining there

- Cost to purchase and remodel the vacant Blue Mountain Community College building in Boardman
- Consider the future of the Justice Courts in the State of Oregon since those offices would encompass a good portion of a new facility
- Consider the cost to remodel the Gilliam-Bisbee Building, since all options should be considered

Administrative Officer, Jerry Sorte, asked the Board for direction and to prioritize projects, given the somewhat limited amount of staff time that can be devoted to new projects. He said additional funds may be requested in the event a project manager is needed. In the meantime, he said he would bring together an internal staff team to produce a proposal for the Board.

Letters of Support for Lost Valley Farm - Confined Animal Feeding Operation Permit

Travis Love, General Manager, Lost Valley Farm

Jeddie Aylett, Lost Valley Farm, Farm Manager

Mr. Love explained the CAFO permit application has not advanced beyond the comment phase since he last appeared before the Morrow County Court on August 10, 2016. Soon after that, the Court signed a letter of support to Governor Kate Brown and the Oregon Department of Agriculture dated August 24, 2016. He noted the original application for the CAFO permit was turned in 17 months ago and now appears to be stalled. He requested a follow-up correspondence be sent by the current Board of Commissioners (BOC) to the same recipients. A draft version was reviewed by the Board. Minor changes were requested and a final document was asked to be produced for signature later in the day.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve signing the letters in support of the Lost Valley Farm CAFO Permit Application, with the changes requested. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Time Commitment

Commissioner Doherty said it's become clear to him that to effectively fulfill the responsibilities as a Morrow County Commissioner, the position needs to be recognized as a full-time commitment, not part-time, as it is currently listed. He said he would like the record to reflect such and made the following motion:

Henceforth, anything that references a Morrow County Commissioner or the Morrow County Board of Commissioners, will recognize that a Commissioner position is a full-time commitment and will remove the distinction of a half-time or part-time commitment. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion and asked for discussion.

Commissioner Russell stated it has been his experience that the Commissioner position is much more than a part-time job. Commissioner Doherty said he did not come to this decision lightly but it's important that Commissioners attend numerous meeting all over the State in order to be involved with decisions that impact the County financially and otherwise. Chair Lindsay said

she agreed the hours are not part-time and that the County has experienced growth in many areas but she would prefer to take a slower approach. Doing so, she said, would allow time to educate the public on the realities of the position and obtain feedback. Commissioner Russell said he's not seeking additional compensation but instead, wants anyone who might contemplate becoming a Commissioner understand it's not a part-time commitment.

Vote: Aye: Commissioners Doherty and Russell. Nay: Chair Lindsay. Motion carries.

Capital Asset Threshold Increase

Kate Knop, Finance Department Director

Ms. Knop requested the Board adopt new policy defining the capitalization of assets with a threshold limit of \$5,000, rather than the existing \$1,000, effective July 1, 2017. She said if the Board is in favor, she will return with a resolution next week.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the change in policy to capitalize assets with a threshold of \$5,000, effective July 1, 2017. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Break: 10:30 a.m., resumed 10:45 a.m.

Justice of the Peace Succession Planning

Judge Ann Spicer

Judge Spicer said she would like the Board to begin considering options for her placement upon her retirement in 2023, at the latest. She outlined several options and discussed her concerns with each one. Commissioner Doherty asked where the County should focus its efforts. Judge Spicer recommended recruiting someone to live in Morrow County due to the one-year residency requirement prior to running for the Justice of the Peace position. Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director discussed how recruiting has had to become more creative lately and she suggested several recruitment incentives, such as helping with student loans, offer temporary housing, job options for a spouse, etc. The matter will be discussed at a future date.

Compensation Board Appointments

Ms. Wolff

Ms. Wolff reported the three current members of the Compensation Board expressed interest in continuing to serve. In addition, two new potential members suggested by the Board last week are willing to be considered for appointment, she said.

Commissioner Russell moved to establish the Compensation Board terms as four-year terms, staggering the terms as follows: current three positions expire December 31, 2019 and the two new members' terms expire December 31, 2021. He further moved to appoint Eileen Hendricks and Jill Martin, with their terms effective January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2021.

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Commissioner Russell clarified the terms for the current

members (Lisanne Currin, Rob Brown, Andy Fletcher) will be January 14, 2015 through December 31, 2019. Commissioner Doherty seconded the correction. Unanimous approval.

Review of Information to be Forwarded to the Compensation Board

Ms. Wolff

Ms. Wolff provided an overview of her preparations in advance of the Compensation Board meeting, which is required annually to review compensation rates for Elected Officials. The recommendations of the Compensation Board are then forwarded to the BOC. She asked the Commissioners if the Compensation Board should also review the salary of the Justice of the Peace, as has been past practice; they agreed to continue that practice. The Board directed Ms. Wolff to conduct comparisons using the following counties: Crook, Hood River, Jefferson, Umatilla, Union and Wasco. Ms. Wolff said she will determine a March meeting date for the full Compensation Board, compile books containing the requested information by February 22nd, publicly notice the meeting, and post all documents to the internal shared drive and the County website (www.co.morrow.or.us). The Board agreed to allow public comments at the beginning of the Compensation Board meeting and again briefly near the end of the meeting. They also agreed by consensus that Ms. Currin be designated as Chair of the Compensation Board.

Department Reports

Juvenile Department Quarterly Update

Tom Meier, Juvenile Department Director

Mr. Meier reviewed his report to the Board for the second quarter 2016-2017 (October 1 – December 31, 2016).

Business Items, continued

Personnel Policy Amendment for Vehicles Assigned to County Commissioners

Mr. Sorte

Mr. Sorte said the amendment concerns changes discussed by the Board on January 25th and if agreeable, the Board can pass a motion to adopt the amendment. The resolution will be added to next week's Consent Calendar, he added.

Commissioner Doherty moved to adopt the changes to the Personnel Policies included on Attachment A of the memo from Mr. Sorte dated February 6th, regarding Vehicle Use Policy Amendments. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Lunch Break: 12:10 p.m.

Resumed: 1:30 p.m.

Public Works Business Items and Discussions

Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director

Matt Scrivner, Assistant Road Master

Sandi Putman, Public Works Management Assistant

Road System Update & Planning

Mr. Scrivner provided a PowerPoint presentation on a variety of road related topics.

Road Committee Appointments and Bylaws Discussion

Mr. O'Brien

Ms. Putman

Commissioner Russell moved to appoint Gregory Barron to a three-year term on the Road Committee representing Irrigon; term to be January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019.

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Doherty moved to appoint Cameron Sweeney to a three-year term on the Road Committee representing Heppner; term to be January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019.

Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Russell moved to appoint Joe McElligott to the Road Committee representing South County, At-Large; term dates yet to be determined. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Regarding the bylaws, Commissioner Russell said the Road Committee members should have input on the bylaws, including discussions surrounding terms (limits, how to stagger appointments, etc.).

Permits

Ms. Scrivner

On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Russell moved to approve Application for Approach Site Approval #211 from Jerod Bingaman, Boardman, on County Road D, a public access road also known as Downey Lane. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Russell moved to approve Application for Necessity to Build on Right-of-Way #OLN from the Port of Morrow, for a wastewater line on Homestead Lane near Poleline Road. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports, continued

Planning Department Update

Carla McLane, Planning Department Director

Ms. McLane's update encompassed the following items:

- Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) – comments pending for Carty Generating Station Amendment Request #1 and Boardman Solar.
- Geographic Information System capital improvements and annual expenditures.
- Current status of documents related to the Comprehensive Plan, Transportation System Plan, Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance.

Upon review of Ms. McLane draft comment letter to ODOE regarding the Carty Generating Station Amendment Request #1, the Board requested that revisions be provided at next week's BOC meeting.

Other Reports

Brief reports were provided by County Counsel, Richard Tovey; and Administrative Officer, Jerry Sorte.

Correspondence Reviewed:

- Sheriff's Office Report of activity for January 2017
- Notice from Sanitary Disposal, Inc., Hermiston, of a discount offered to cash customers using the Sanitary Disposal Transfer Station in Hermiston during the first week of April.
- Notice of the annual meeting of the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group, February 17th in Heppner.
- Agenda for the February 8th meeting of the Port of Morrow Commission.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Russell discussed a call he received from a citizen concerned about dogs killing livestock but the caller had already been in contact with the Sheriff's Office. He suggested she be persistent. Ms. McLane said from a code enforcement perspective, she was not sure if there was a single point-of-contact within the Sheriff's Office any longer. Commissioner Russell also reported he will be attending the Road Committee meeting; Representative Greg Walden's Town Hall meeting at the Port of Morrow; and an Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) meeting.
- Commissioner Doherty said the coming week will include a Road Committee meeting; Community Renewable Energy Association meeting in The Dalles; the Town Hall meeting with Rep. Walden; and an AOC committee meeting on Public Lands. He reported that he, as well as the other Commissioners, attended the Morrow County Economic Development Task Force meeting.

Adjourned: 4:42 p.m.