

**Morrow County Court**  
**June 17, 2015**  
**Boardman, Oregon**  
**Port of Morrow, Riverfront Center**

**Present**

Judge Terry Tallman  
Commissioner Leann Rea  
Commissioner Don Russell  
Karen Wolff, Personnel Director  
Roberta Lutcher, Court Executive Assistant

Judge Tallman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**City and Citizen Comments – Boardman**

**Open Agenda**

Added to the agenda will be a report on the status of the Oregon Trail Library District Board.

**Department Report**

Road Report

Matt Scrivner, Assistant Road Master

Mr. Scrivner's Road Report consisted of the following:

- One road grader has been working on Shaw Grade and a few other high mountain roads, and another has been out on Board Creek Road and Road Canyon Road.
- A cattle guard and new approaches were completed on Board Creek Road and a 16' cattle guard on Deadman Hill Loop Road was replaced with a 20' guard with new wings and concrete Geo blocks.
- Ione-Gooseberry Road – bank sloping and ditch work was completed. A blade made another pass to smooth out loose rock areas and soft spots. A mini excavator cleaned culvert inlets and outlets. The crew is removing all signs, barrels and debris on this project. “Safe-Hit” road delineators will be installed on the grade above Rick Peterson's and on the new Bergstrom Lane intersection to mark the new traffic patterns.
- Dry Fork Road – a blade is making another pass to fine grade, remove loose rock and fix soft spots.
- Liberty School Road – the crew finished installing rock and a blade finish graded and rolled to complete this project.
- Lower Rhea Creek Road – the crew worked on about a five mile stretch near Ruggs cleaning culverts and ditches and fixing drainage issues from the last thunderstorm.
- Big Butter Creek Lane – the crew is mobilizing here to finish shoulder work between Highway 207 and Pine City. They will be spending a day or more to improve a road approach to a new pit site which will be used for chip seal and road rock for next year's project.
- Oregon Association of County Engineers & Surveyors Spring Conference – Public Works Director, Burke O'Brien, Management Assistant, Sandi Putman and Mr. Scrivner

attended the conference in Redmond. Some of the topics included funding, bridge programs, “scrub” seals and Forestry Plans.

#### Ditch Agreement with Tom Price, Sr.

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Agreement between Morrow County and Tom Price, Sr., dated June 17, 2015, regarding filling in a ditch parallel to Butter Creek Road, thus allowing widening of the road to take place; and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### Safety Committee Member Appointment

Mr. Scrivner said he learned at yesterday’s Safety Committee Meeting that they need a new member to represent the General Employees Unit. Judge Tallman said he asked Assessor Mike Gorman to authorize one of his employees to serve on that Committee. Ms. Wolff advised the Court she contacted AFSCME last month and asked them for a recommendation of a member to appoint to this position.

#### Oregon Trail Library District (OTLD) Board Discussion

Barb Huwe, Irrigon, OTLD Board Member  
Bart Prouty, Irrigon, OTLD Board Member-Elect  
Sue Oliver, Irrigon area resident

After some discussion as to whether or not the OTLD Board currently has enough members to constitute a quorum, it was determined the Board does not, due to three recent resignations. In this situation, the County Court has the ability to make an appointment, said Commissioner Russell. Mr. Prouty was elected to the OTLD Board, effective July 1, 2015, so the Court decided to appoint Mr. Prouty, effective immediately, with the understanding he will need to be sworn in again on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Commissioner Russell moved to appoint Bart Prouty to the Oregon Trail Library District Board, Position 2, effective immediately, a position to which he was elected starting July 1, 2015, noting the position was previously held by Blaine Ganvoa. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Judge Tallman then administered the oath of office to Mr. Prouty.

Discussion took place on the number of board members needed by a special district to formally act on district matters. It was suggested the OTLD Board members, present today, contact the Special Districts Association of Oregon for clarification.

#### **Correspondence Reviewed:**

- The Commissioners signed a letter to Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Council notifying them the County opted not to make the \$225 annual contribution until such time that the Council becomes active.

## **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Rea said she attended the Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County Board meeting yesterday, and they are doing a much better job now. She said representatives of the United Way were on-site and complimented the staff and volunteers on the turn-around which has taken place. They noted more food baskets are being distributed, and the Center is serving the community better than before.

Commissioner Russell said he attended the Local Community Advisory Committee meeting last week and the members were very excited that Advantage Dental received a grant from the University of Washington for dental work for participants in the study from birth to age 21.

Commissioner Russell said once he has finished speaking to people involved in the County's Juvenile Justice System in various capacities, he will present a summary to the Court.

Judge Tallman discussed the weekly report from Wenaha Group on the status of the construction for the Bartholomew Building. He said it was decided to use a key switch system in the Bartholomew Building, which is the same as what is currently in place in the Courthouse. This will save \$15,000 over the electronic option, which can be done at a future date, if needed.

## **Claims**

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve Payroll Payables, Immediate & Electronic, dated June 10, 2015; June 2015 Retirement Taxes, dated June 11, 2015; HRA Veba Payroll Payables, Immediate & Electronic, dated June 10, 2015; and Accounts Payable, dated June 18, 2015, in the amount of \$93,293.81. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

## **Minutes**

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve the minutes of June 10<sup>th</sup>, with corrections. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of June 10<sup>th</sup>, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

## **New Business**

### Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget Adoption

Rick Worden, Finance Director

Mr. Worden said there have been a few changes and they are as follows:

- General Fund, County Court, increased to add the County Administrator position and the Human Resources Director.
- Finance Department budget was adjusted for a new hire (existing position) at a new pay range, including health insurance.
- Special Transportation Fund changed to allow for the Coordinator's wage, however, health insurance benefits were not needed, resulting in Personnel Services lower than estimated and some items re-categorized to Materials & Services.

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve In the Matter of Adopting the Budget, Making Appropriations, Imposing and Categorizing the Taxes, Grant Total: \$28,601,643.00, Resolution Number R-2015-7. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

10:42 a.m. – Mike Gorman, Assessor, arrived.

Purchasing Pre-Authorization Request – Health Department

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Purchasing Pre-Authorization Request from the Health Department for a laptop in the amount of \$1,497.17, and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Department Report**

Personnel Update – Manager’s Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Discussion

Ms. Wolff

Ms. Wolff reminded the Court of recent discussions on this subject – there is no written policy and past practice has been to determine the COLA for Managers by averaging the COLAs from the three Union agreements.

Ms. Wolff presented information from Mr. Worden on the monetary impact of a 3% COLA for Managers, rather than the current 2.88%. The total difference for this fiscal year, including taxes and benefits, would be \$3,246.56. The Commissioners decided the current practice led to problems and they would rather see a 3% increase.

*Based on the research provided by the Finance Director, Commissioner Rea moved to approve a three percent Cost of Living Adjustment for all Managers for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Ms. Wolff stated the discussion to determine COLAs for Managers should take place each year during Budget Hearings.

Veterans’ Representative Update

Linda Skendzel, Veterans’ Representative

- Open house and ribbon cutting ceremony July 1<sup>st</sup> for the Walla Walla State Veterans Home. She said she is trying to determine if it is only open to Washington residents.
- A Veteran Benefit Expo will take place June 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Salem Convention Center. This is intended to be a “one stop shop” for veterans’ services, she said.
- Ms. Skendzel discussed a few items from her Quarterly Report, which was reviewed by the Court several weeks ago in her absence.

Personnel Update, County Administrator Discussion

Ms. Wolff said last week the Court asked for research on a possible residency requirement in the advertisement for a County Administrator. She said the staff attorney for the Local Government Personnel Institute (LGPI) indicated he was unaware of any Statute or Rule of Law prohibiting it, and there are several cities that have made it a requirement.

Regarding the advertising process, Commissioner Rea said she would prefer to utilize the resources of the Association of Oregon Counties or the League of Oregon Cities before paying a professional firm to conduct a search.

*Commissioner Rea moved to proceed with advertising for the County Administrator position. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### **Commissioner Reports, continued**

Judge Tallman said he contacted Dave Sykes, webmaster for the County website, and asked him to add a section for STF and remove some outdated items. Judge Tallman also said the remaining funds from the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Grant for Veterans Transportation will be expended by the deadline.

### Miscellaneous Update – Assessment & Taxation

Mr. Gorman reported he participated by phone in a Magistrate Hearing on an appeal by Hab-Doc Apartments, which has a complex in Boardman. He said the Department of Revenue has stepped in as the main defendant in this case which involves 22 counties and 47 properties. A decision is anticipated in 60 days, he said.

An appeal heard by the Board of Property Tax Appeals in Morrow County has been appealed to the Magistrate and that trial is scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup>, said Mr. Gorman.

**Recessed: 11:44 a.m.**

**Resumed 12:58 p.m.**

### **New Business**

#### Irrigon Building Discussion with the Planning Department and Justice Court

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Ann Spicer, Justice of the Peace

Stephanie Loving, Associate Planner

Ms. McLane and Judge Spicer discussed the inadequacies of the current building in Irrigon which houses the Planning Department, Justice Court, Juvenile Court and Parole & Probation. They also presented different options and ideas for a new facility in Irrigon. The Commissioners were open to their ideas and said it should be discussed at the next Long Range Planning Session when representatives from each affected department could be present. The next LRP session was scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup> in Boardman.

#### Miscellaneous Planning Update

Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Transmission Line Project - Ms. McLane said she and Commissioner Russell met with landowners, and others, in the continuing effort to reach a local compromise for the route. She said next week she will present the Court with a Cooperative Solution Support Letter for their review and possible signature. She also said she is looking at the last week of July or the beginning of August to hold a meeting with landowners hosted in cooperation with the Governor's Office.

**Comments Prior to Executive Session:**

Ms. Wolff stated we will not be making a decision in Open Session.

**1:43 p.m. - Executive Session**

*ORS 192.660(2)(h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.*

*ORS 192.660(2)(d) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.*

**1:56 p.m. – Closed Executive Session – No decisions**

**New Business**

Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) Update & Contract

Kimberly Lindsay, CCS Executive Director

The lease agreement for CCS’ space in the Gilliam-Bisbee Building was discussed. Ms. Lindsay said CCS would like to take over the space now occupied by the County’s Health Department when they move to the Bartholomew Building this fall. She asked if the rate they currently pay per square foot could be applied to the new space. The Commissioners were agreeable, but noted the current lease is not up for renewal yet and suggested an additional lease agreement be drawn up for the new space, when it becomes available.

Ms. Lindsay said CCS’ long term plans have included a new building in Heppner, and to that end, they are in the process of signing an earnest money agreement. The property is in the City of Heppner (adjacent to the Christian Life Center) and has some zoning issues, which can be worked through with the City. She said CCS has engaged the services of Wenaha Group and if everything stays on track, construction will begin in the summer of 2016.

Ms. Lindsay’s Update covered the following items:

- The CCS 2015-2017 Strategic Plan pamphlet was discussed, including the five Strategic Objectives.
- A fact sheet prepared by GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc.) titled “CMHP Mental Health Revenue, Encounter, and Penetration Rate Tracker” was reviewed.
- The status of the Morrow County School District’s School Based Counseling Program, which will see a clinician in every school, was mentioned.
- The Warmline (crisis line) is now fully funded by the State at \$550,000
- Lakeview Heights Secure Residential Treatment Facility has a long waiting list of clients, many of whom are drawn to the Equine Assisted Therapy Program.

Safety Committee Appointment, continued

Ms. Wolff said she just received an e-mail from Kandy Boyd, President of the General Employees Union, that Torri Lovgren, Assessment Clerk, has been appointed to the Safety Committee. Ms. Wolff said she will send a formal appointment letter to the Safety Committee.

**Adjourned: 3:20 p.m.**