

Morrow County Court
August 12, 2015
Boardman, Oregon
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center

Present

Judge Terry Tallman
Commissioner Leann Rea
Commissioner Don Russell
Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director
Richard Tovey, County Counsel/Deputy District Attorney
Roberta Lutcher, Court Executive Assistant

Judge Tallman called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments - Irrigon

No comments

Open Agenda

Items will be discussed during Commissioner Reports. Ms. Wolff said the Planning Update on the agenda will not take place today.

Contracts

Morrow County Fair Contracts

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the following Morrow County Fair contracts and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County:

Exhibit Space:

- 1. Oregon Wheat Grower's League*
- 2. Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District*
- 3. Heppner Seventh Day Adventist Church*
- 4. Port of Morrow*

Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Correspondence Reviewed:

- Morrow County Weed Control Notes for July 2015.
- Email from Mary Corp, Regional Administrator, Oregon State University, requesting the County's General Maintenance Supervisor perform work on several items needing attention at the building leased to OSU by the Port of Morrow (former Kinzua Office in Heppner). The Commissioners agreed this is not a County responsibility; Judge Tallman said he will contact Ms. Corp. Several points lead to their decision, such as the Port leases the building to OSU for \$1 per year, and OSU generates income from renting office space to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

- Triennial Review Exit Interview for Morrow County Court for the Morrow County Public Health Department prepared by the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Rea said she attended last night's Fair Board meeting and everything appears to be ready for next week's Morrow County Fair and Rodeo. She said a great deal of discussion centered on holding the "Ruckus in the Boonies" music festival at the Fairgrounds next year since it's outgrown the location in downtown Heppner.

Department Report

Sheriff's Office Update & Executive Assistant Discussion

Ken Matlack, Sheriff

Steve Myren, Undersheriff

Regarding the discussion above, Sheriff Matlack noted the 2016 dates for the music festival are the same weekend as Irrigon's Watermelon Festival. There was discussion about the role of the County Court in approving large events at the Fairgrounds. It was decided the County/Fair Office should encourage the music festival to be on a different weekend, if possible, and additional credentialed security will be a contract requirement for the music festival.

Sheriff's Office Purchasing Pre-Authorization Request

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Purchasing Pre-Authorization Request in the amount of \$3,400 for a ruggedized Panasonic Toughbook for the Emergency Manager, and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Undersheriff Myren excused himself from the meeting and Sheriff Matlack then provided the update of significant activity in the Sheriff's Office for July 2015. Following this, Sheriff Matlack reviewed the packet of information he provided in support of a Management Assistant position. The Commissioners determined several questions need to be resolved/researched, and decided to continue the discussion over the course of the next few weeks. Sheriff Matlack requested an answer as soon as possible, as the outcome may impact other decisions.

Commissioner Reports, continued

The Court discussed Commissioner Russell's report - *Analysis of Morrow County Juvenile Court 2015*. During the discussion, Commissioner Russell suggested Roy Blaine, Trial Court Administrator, attend a County Court meeting to answer questions, particularly the amount of judge time Morrow County might expect if it transfers Juvenile Court matters to the Circuit Court. Commissioner Russell said Morrow County comprises a certain percentage of the Judicial District and time here should be allocated on that percentage, which would be about three days per week. He added he's not afraid to ask for our percentage. Various discussions ensued.

In their efforts to gather more information before reaching a decision, the Commissioners asked County Counsel to research the procedure to switch to Circuit Court and report back. Ms. Wolff said she would contact Mr. Blaine about meeting with the Court.

County Administrator Search

Ms. Wolff asked the Court for comment on the essay questions she would like to send to the top eight candidates. They offered a few suggestions and discussed a “meet and greet” for the top two or three candidates. It was said this would be an opportunity for employees, Department Heads and Elected Officials to assess the candidates.

Minutes

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the minutes of August 5th, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of August 5th, as presented. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Ms. Lutchter said a correction needed to be issued to the approved minutes of July 22nd. She said she mistakenly referred to the Health Department during a discussion of a purchasing request when it should have been the Health District. Ms. Wolff said a corrected or amended version should be sent to the appropriate email distribution list and a corrected copy turned into the Clerk’s Office.

Claims

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Void AP Checks, dated August 6th; August 2015 Retirement Taxes, Bank Drafts, dated August 6th; Payroll Payables, Immediate & Electronic, HRA/VEBA, dated August 5th; Payroll Payables, Immediate & Electronic, dated August 5th; and Accounts Payable, dated August 12th in the amount of \$349,241.54. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Reports, continued

- Commissioner Russell said he attended an information meeting last night pertaining to the Wheatridge Wind Energy project.
- Judge Tallman discussed the Eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA) meeting in John Day. He said it was reported at the meeting that the Secure Rural School program will be eliminated in two years. This means the County’s support of the EOCA is very important in order to maintain a share of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding.

Adjourned: 1:05 p.m.