

Morrow County Court
September 23, 2015
Heppner, Oregon
Finance Office Conference Room

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

Audience

Greg Sweek, Heppner

Judge Tallman called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments – Ione/Lexington

No comments

Open Agenda

No items

Department Report

Public Works Permit

Sandi Putman, Public Works Management Assistant

On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Rea moved to approve Application #OJM, from Al Osmin, to replace existing water line along the right of way on County Road 785 (Balm Fork Road), and under the road. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Russell commented to Ms. Putman that he and Commissioner Rea attended a WCVEDG (Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group) meeting this morning where Heppner City Manager, Kim Cutsforth, expressed her appreciation for the paving of Gilmore Street in Heppner. She said the Road Department crew went above and beyond on the project.

Ms. Putman informed the Commissioners there will be a retirement gathering for Jay Papineau at about 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 1st at the Lexington Shop.

Special Transportation Fund (STF) Update

Anita Pranger, STF Coordinator

- The name of the Special Transportation system in the County will be “The Loop – Morrow County Transportation.” Students in grades K-12 will be asked to participate in a logo contest, with the winner awarded \$100. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to the new name and to the logo contest.
- Dave Cooley, Program Analyst, Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs, conducted a review of the grant funds received by the County for the Highly Rural Veterans

Transportation Grant. Ms. Pranger said the review went well and the County is positioned to receive another \$45,000 grant by mid-October.

- Calls for rides are steadily increasing.
- Ms. Pranger plans to make presentations on the program to the Senior Centers in the County during the month of November.

Minutes

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the minutes of September 9th, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of September 9th, as presented. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the minutes of September 16th, with corrections. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of September 16th, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

New arrival: Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

Claims

The Commissioners reviewed a Purchasing Pre-Authorization Request from the Health Department for a new vehicle. They delayed consideration until someone from that department is able to view the vehicle and establish a firm price.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Payroll Payables, Immediate & Electronic, dated September 16th; September 2015 Retirement Taxes, Bank Drafts, dated September 17th; and the Accounts Payable, dated September 24th, in the amount of \$313,047.41. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Report

Planning Department Update

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Hank Pieper, GIS Technician

Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director

Matt Scrivner, Assistant Road Master

Ms. McLane introduced Hank Pieper, the newly hired GIS Technician in the Planning Department. Ms. McLane then reviewed the following:

- A map showing the boundaries of the Wind Erosion District(s) in the County.
Discussion. Ms. Wolff will contact Loren Heideman to ask him, or other members of the District, to provide an informational update.

Marijuana Opt Out Ordinance Second - Reading and Adoption

Ms. McLane provided the second reading, by title. Discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve “An Ordinance to Opt Out of Marijuana Activities, Including Both Medical and Recreational Operations, as Allowed under Section 133(2), Chapter 614, Oregon Laws 2015 (Enrolled House Bill 3400),” County Ordinance No. ORD-2015-4; and direct the Planning Director to notify the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and the Oregon Health Authority of this action. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Planning Update, continued

- The Commissioners agreed by consensus to sign a letter to the Department of Land Conservation and Development in support of the County Farm and Forest Use Code Update Project.
- Discussion ensued when Ms. McLane asked how the County can best use the Bombing Range corridor for utilities and transportation uses in light of what is happening with the Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) process. She said Idaho Power submitted an easement request to the Navy, and it is over a portion of an easement held by the County. She said she suspected the County will get a request from the Navy and Idaho Power to not move our roadway any farther westward. She said Bombing Range Road may not need to be expanded in our lifetime, but to adequately protect the County, we need to make sure our easement is maintained and we can facilitate any future growth for that road.
- Ms. McLane said the Oregon Department of Agriculture is holding a Board of Agriculture meeting this morning in Boardman. On the agenda is a local panel discussion on “Water Quantity and Energy Facility Siting.” Scheduled to participate are JR Cook, Northeast Oregon Water Association (NOWA); Craig Reeder, Chair of NOWA; Don Rice, Greenwood Resources; Jeff Bosma, Sage Hollow Ranch, LLC. She said these people were part of the group that helped determine the “local option compromise” for the proposed B2H Transmission Line route. She said she hopes they are not working counter to that compromise.
- Ms. McLane said an agriculture group from Morrow County is on the agenda for next week’s meeting in Salem of the House Interim Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water. She said her concern is there will not be a balance of interests represented because there won’t be any cooperators present or representatives of the Bureau of Land Management, just the State perspective and agriculture. Ms. McLane asked the Commissioners if she should draft a letter to be read at this meeting which references the local option. They agreed, however, Commissioner Rea stated the letter should not be controversial and only contain facts.
- Love’s Travel Stops/Devin Oil Appeals – there should be a decision in 40 days from the Land Use Board of Appeals. Commissioner Russell said Love’s must have a great deal of confidence because they have started construction.
- Ms. McLane asked the Commissioners to continue to consider a new County facility in the north end. She said to solve the current crowded conditions in the Irrigon building, her department could temporarily relocate. The offices that would remain have an obvious connection to each other, she said. She said she has looked into renting space in the Boardman area and there is one space that is preferable over the others. She said the rent would be about \$2,100 per month; Commissioner Russell said he could negotiate more favorable terms. The Court did not reach a decision and said they would discuss it at this afternoon’s Long Range Planning session.

- Ms. McLane said during the Budget Hearing process, it was agreed the County would contribute \$50,000 toward the process of rewriting the County's Comprehensive Plan. She asked if those funds have been transferred yet; the Commissioners said they would follow-up.

Old Business

Sheriff's Office Executive Assistant Position

Ken Matlack, Sheriff

Discussion continued on the job description and wage for the renamed Management Assistant position.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the creation of, and job description, for Management Assistant in the Sheriff's Office (August 2015 draft). Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Management Assistant in the Sheriff's Office starting at Skill Grade 12 on the Vance Jacobson JobMeas™ Salary Analysis System. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Russell moved to authorize the Sheriff's Office moving forward with advertising and filling the Management Assistant position. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Recessed: 12:40 p.m.

Reconvened: 1:45 p.m.

New Business

Purchasing Pre-Authorization Request – Road Department, De-Icer Storage & Pump

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Purchasing Pre-Authorization Request from the Road Department for two 5,000 gallon vertical storage tanks and one transfer pump; total estimated amount being \$11,000; and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Correspondence Reviewed:

- Letter from Malheur County Court Judge Dan Joyce asking the Morrow County Court to consider supporting their resolution opposing the establishment or designation of any National Monument, National Conservation Area, or Wilderness Area in southern Malheur County. After studying the reasons put forth in the letter, mainly the adverse impact to agriculture in Malheur County, the Commissioners agreed to draft a similar resolution.
- Notice of Public Hearing from the Town of Lexington to affected parties (Morrow County Public Works/Road Department property) on Tuesday, October 13th, 7:00 p.m., Lexington Town Hall, to consider a conditional use permit for a Fire Station and Town Hall.

Old Business

County Administrator

The Commissioners and Ms. Wolff reviewed interview questions for this week's Skype interviews with the four remaining candidates.

Commissioner Reports

Notice Letter to the Sixth Judicial District That the County Will Transfer Juvenile Jurisdiction

After discussion and additional objections from Judge Tallman, a motion was made to sign the letter.

Commissioner Russell moved to sign the letter dated September 23, 2015 notifying the Sixth Judicial District of action taken by the Morrow County Court on September 16, 2015 to transfer juvenile jurisdiction to the Sixth Judicial District. Commissioner Rea seconded. Commissioners Rea and Russell: aye; Judge Tallman: nay. Motion carried.

Judge Tallman's signature was accompanied with a notation that he was opposed to the transfer.

County Counsel Report

County Court's Vote to Change the Composition of the County Court

Mr. Tovey said he and Justin Nelson (County Counsel/District Attorney) continue to research whether or not last week's motion, alone, was adequate to make the change. (In conjunction with the motion to change jurisdiction over juvenile matters, the Court voted to change from two part time Commissioners and a Judge to three part time Commissioners.) The Commissioners asked Mr. Tovey to make this a priority.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Rea said she attended Senator Bill Hansell's Town Hall Meeting on Monday in Heppner. She said he discussed projects in which he's assisted with the acquisition of funding and also said there are still funds available. Commissioner Rea said she took the opportunity to bring up the need for a sewer system in Ione. His response was positive and she said she will follow up with the appropriate parties. Commissioner Rea said Sen. Hansell asked the Commissioners to consider what legislation he might propose during the next legislative session. Each legislator will be given the opportunity to present a maximum of two bills in the short session. She said the Commissioners were invited to attend a meeting on October 26th with Senator Hansell and Senator Chris Edwards, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, details will follow.

Commissioner Russell said he attended the final session of County College in Salem and added each of the sessions contained relevant subject matter and were good opportunities to connect with peers.

Long Range Planning

Rick Worden, Finance Director

Build vs. Lease a North End Building

The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of building a new building or leasing a newly built facility. They decided to take some time to obtain answers to several questions and to see how satisfied they are with the outcome of the Bartholomew Building.

Landscaping Budget for Bartholomew Building

The County opted out of the architect's \$96,000 design and, instead, chose to work with FFA/Agriculture Science students at Heppner Jr./Sr. High School, their teacher, Beth Dickenson, and Jari Boettcher with Westwinds Nursery, on a more economical plan. Ms. Wolff said the question, at this point, is the amount to allocate for landscaping and her rough estimate is \$30,000-40,000. Mr. Worden suggested a possible source of funding as the Courthouse Improvements/Upgrades budget. He said he's reviewed the list of maintenance items due at the Courthouse with Public Works, and it appears this budget line would be sufficient to cover them and the landscaping. The Commissioners decided to put forth a not-to-exceed amount of \$40,000.

Retirement Plan Discussion

The group reviewed information compiled by Milliman (the firm responsible for providing actuarial services to the Morrow County Retirement Plan) titled "*Discussion of Alternative Plan Designs, Defined Benefit vs. Defined Contribution.*" It was noted, once again, that any plan changes would impact future employees only. Excerpts from discussion:

- Judge Tallman asked if the County should seek quotes from a group other than Milliman. He stressed he is not implying Milliman has not done a good job for the County.
- Mr. Worden said if the County doesn't do a plan change now, changing the multiplier could be an option.
- Judge Tallman asked for Mr. Worden's recommendation. Mr. Worden explained many people are attracted to government jobs, not for the pay, but for the benefits and he would encourage the County to continue to offer good benefits. However, the County needs to determine the level of risk it is willing to accept. Currently, the County is "shouldering" the risk when the market is down. There are hybrid plans that offset that risk and are an interesting option, he said.
- The Commissioners removed from consideration any of the "integrated" type plans because they are tied to Social Security changes.
- Mr. Worden said he would rank the remaining plans and report back to the Court on October 7th.

Adjourned: 4:30 p.m.