

**Morrow County Court  
December 16, 2015  
Boardman, Oregon  
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center**

**Present**

Judge Terry Tallman  
Commissioner Don Russell  
Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer  
Richard Tovey, County Counsel/Deputy District Attorney  
Roberta Lutcher, Court Executive Assistant  
**Via Telephone Conference from Heppner**  
Commissioner Leann Rea  
Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director  
Rick Worden, Finance Department Director

Judge Tallman called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**City and Citizen Comments – Boardman**

No comments

**Open Agenda**

Ms. Wolff noted two changes to the agenda – the Road Report will be in written form only and the Tobacco Policy Discussion was postponed until January.

**Department Report**

Road Report

- Briefly discussed; the Commissioners said they will review in detail on their own.

**Old Business**

Equity Fund Loan - Establish Interest Rate, Morrow County Health District (MCHD)

At the December 9<sup>th</sup> Court meeting, the Commissioners approved an \$80,000 loan from the Equity Fund to MCHD for the purchase of the Pioneer Annex building. During discussion, an interest rate of 1.5% was mentioned, but that figure on the document reflected the fee charged by Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC), not the interest rate. A motion is now necessary that includes the interest rate. GEODC suggested a rate of 1.5%-2.0%, but that is solely the Court's decision. Commissioner Rea abstained from the discussion and vote as a member of the MCHD Board.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve an interest rate for the Equity Fund loan to Morrow County Health District of 1.5%, annual, for the duration of the loan. Judge Tallman seconded. Unanimous approval (Commissioner Rea abstained).*

Second Reading and Adoption: Ordinance Amending the Comprehensive Plan, Specifically Replacing the Natural Hazards Element

Carla McLane, Planning Department Director  
Hank Pieper, GIS Tech

Ms. McLane provided the second reading by title.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve An Ordinance Amending the Morrow County Comprehensive Plan, Specifically Replacing the Natural Hazards Element, County Ordinance No. ORD-2015-5. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Review and Interpretation of Significant Resources Overlay Map and Goal 5 Natural Resources Inventory

Ms. McLane requested this discussion be continued until next week's meeting.

**New Business**

Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Transmission Line Project Update

Ms. McLane said at last week's meeting in Ontario between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Cooperating Agencies, the preliminary Environmentally Preferred Route was announced. That route will align with Interstate 84 between the proposed Longhorn Substation and west of Pendleton. She said the route was chosen based on comment from some Umatilla County landowners, and a letter from the Umatilla Board of Commissioners also weighed heavily in the decision. Ms. McLane said the BLM will send postcards to the affected landowners, who will likely be learning of this for the first time. BLM will make a determination January 8, 2016, so Ms. McLane said she would like to draft a comment letter and hold a public hearing on January 6, 2016. She explained the I-84 route was removed from consideration earlier in the process and the west of Bombing Range Road is Morrow County's preferred route because it fits well for becoming a corridor for moving power. Ms. McLane provided a map of the preliminary Environmentally Preferred Route for review.

Commissioner Russell said it is his understanding the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners no longer supports the I-84 route. He also said a BLM representative at the Ontario meeting implied they had not received an official response from Morrow County, to which he replied Morrow County is not in favor of the I-84 route. He added Morrow County citizens have not had a chance to evaluate the route and people who thought they were not in the pathway, now are. It was not his idea of a "cooperator's" meeting, he said. Discussion.

The Court agreed to change the location of the its meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup> from Heppner to Boardman to accommodate the public hearing.

Purchasing Pre-Authorization Follow-Up, Parks

Mr. Tovey reviewed Co-County Counsel, Justin Nelson's letter explaining the legal sufficiency of the two quotes gathered for the purchase of the wood processing unit, instead of the three normally required. Statute allows an exception if three quotes are not reasonably available as long as there is "a written record of the effort the contracting agency makes to obtain the quotes or proposals." Mr. Nelson's letter goes on to state the documentation provided by Greg Close, Parks General Manager, satisfies the requirements of ORS 279B.070.

## **Administrative Officer Report**

Mr. Sorte provided the following update of activities:

- Continued to meet with Department Heads and learned a great deal about the Morrow County retirement plan with Mr. Worden.
- Spent time at Public Works and saw some of the road and bridge projects in the County.
- The possibility of administrative-type planning sessions with the Court were discussed and will be scheduled after the first of the year.

## **Minutes**

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve the December 9<sup>th</sup> minutes, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of October 14<sup>th</sup>, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval*

The regular minutes of October 14<sup>th</sup> were delayed for further clarification.

## **Claims**

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Payroll Payables, Immediate & Electronic, dated December 9<sup>th</sup>, HRA VEBA dated December 9<sup>th</sup>, and Monthlies, dated December 3<sup>rd</sup>; Void Check, dated December 16<sup>th</sup>; and Accounts Payable, dated December 16<sup>th</sup>, in the amount of \$257,616.96. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

## **Commissioner Reports**

- Judge Tallman reported on the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization, Regional Community Advisory Council meeting at the Port of Morrow, and the Community Renewable Energy Association meeting.

**Adjourned: 10:13 a.m.**