

**Morrow County Court
December 23, 2015
Heppner, Oregon
Bartholomew Building**

Present

Judge Terry Tallman
Commissioner Leann Rea
Commissioner Don Russell
Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director
Justin Nelson, County Counsel/District Attorney
Rick Worden, Finance Department Director

Excused

Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer
Roberta Lutcher, Court Executive Assistant

Audience

Melissa Lindsay, Lexington, Morrow County Planning Commission member

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

City and Citizen Comments – Ione/Lexington

No comments

Open Agenda

Judge Tallman said he would like to be excused at 10:00 a.m. to participate in a conference call with the Community Renewable Energy Association.

Claims

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Lump Sum Retirement Taxes, dated December 23rd; and the Accounts Payable, dated December 23rd, in the amount of \$301,211.64. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

New Business

Planning Department – Purchasing Pre-Authorization

Carla McLane, Planning Department Director
Hank Pieper, GIS Technician

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Purchasing Pre-Authorization for the Planning Department in the amount of \$6,142.50, which includes a 10% discount for paying the remaining balance on the Mindmixer Online Community Engagement web-based platform, and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

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

Ms. McLane provided additional reading materials for the Commissioners and said she will continue the discussion at the January 20th Court meeting.

Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Preliminary Environmentally Preferred Route

Ms. McLane said the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) preliminary Environmentally Preferred Route aligns with Interstate 84 between the proposed Longhorn Substation and a point west of Pendleton, but Morrow County's preferred route is west of Bombing Range Road. The BLM requested comment from cooperating agencies by January 8, 2016 in order to designate an Agency Preferred Route. Ms. McLane said Morrow County will generate a comment letter after a public hearing on January 6th. However, in the meantime, BLM is holding a conference call at 10:00 this morning (December 23rd). She said that it is her hope the January 8th deadline will be extended. She also said she would provide the Court with a summary of the conference call.

New Business

Sheriff's Office Request to Surplus Miscellaneous Vehicles

Undersheriff Steve Myren

Undersheriff Myren said he was approached by members of Umatilla/Morrow Emergency Service Radio Operators group about the possibility of acquiring the older command truck that is no longer in use by the Sheriff's Office. The group of ham radio operators provides an alternate form of communication during emergency situations. He asked the Court if the truck could be offered as surplus to the group. Undersheriff Myren had an additional request to surplus two of the department's oldest ATVs to Lake County Search and Rescue. The Commissioners were open to both requests and Undersheriff Myren said he would return to the next Court meeting with the necessary paperwork.

Department Report

Special Transportation Update

Anita Pranger, Coordinator, The Loop, Morrow County Transportation

- Ms. Pranger presented the new logo for the program and discussed ridership numbers for 2014 and 2015. She said during the transition to a new Coordinator, ridership temporarily decreased but has since increased.
- There is a new volunteer driver in Boardman and another in Irrigon, both of whom Ms. Pranger has kept busy. The new driver in Boardman is able to drive the 26 passenger bus because she has a CDL (commercial driver's license).
- The specifications for a new 14 passenger bus have been sent to the State of Oregon for review and approval, which could take up to 10 months. The bus will be purchased using funds from a 5310 Grant offered by the Federal Transit Administration.
- The bus recently rotated to the Road Department cannot be placed there because of requirements associated with the original grant purchase. The bus is 50,000 miles short of its life expectancy and, therefore, can only be transferred to another transportation agency.

New Business

Special Transportation Advisory Committee Member Appointments

Ms. Pranger said current members, Virginia “George” Nairns and Karen Pettigrew requested to be reappointed. She said the committee continues to look for a person to represent the Hispanic community. Discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to reappoint Virginia “George” Nairns (representing Heppner and seniors and disabled) and Karen Pettigrew (representing Boardman and seniors) to the Morrow County Special Transportation Advisory Committee, with terms from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

10:00 a.m. – Judge Tallman excused for conference call

Schneider Replat - Irrigon

To assist the Court, Ms. McLane explained the replat as “legally combining lots and, thereby, vacating the internal lot lines for that lot.”

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Schneider Replat of Lots 1 through 7, Block 44, “Town, now City, of Irrigon,” in S.W. ¼ of Section 19, T 5 N, R 27 E, W.M., Morrow County Oregon. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Minutes

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the October 14th minutes as presented. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the December 16th minutes as presented. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Contracts

Amendment No. 1 to Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) No. 15-054 with the Oregon Department of Energy

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Mr. Nelson said the amendment was just received by the Planning Department and is effective January 1, 2016. He said he reviewed the amendment which primarily consisted of language modifications that reference a statute change.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve Amendment No. 1 to IGA #15-054 with the Oregon Department of Energy and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Wolff asked the Commissioners to consider the possibility that routine items taken up during County Court meetings might now fall under the duties of the new Administrative Officer, Jerry Sorte. She offered the multiple contract amendments as an example. The Commissioners said they would like to review the initial contract, but not the amendments. They agreed to revisit the matter after the first of the year when Judge Tallman would be in attendance.

Ms. Wolff discussed a change in the process when County representatives, such as Department Heads, request to be on the Court agenda. The requests will continue to come to Ms. Wolff and she will then consult Mr. Sorte about whether it is an item suited for his office or the Court. She stressed this is not meant to limit access to the Commissioners by anyone, especially members of the public. The Commissioners made it clear that members of the public are always welcome and encouraged to address the Court during meetings. They also said they were in favor of routing the requests from Department Heads through Mr. Sorte.

New Business

Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Preliminary Environmentally Preferred Route, continued

Ms. McLane said she learned during the conference call that BLM's comment date of January 8th was extended to January 22nd.

Navy's Final Environmental Impact Statement

Ms. McLane briefly discussed the document, which she provided for the Commissioners' review. She said a 30-day waiting period is in place to allow time for comment.

Public Health Department Purchasing Pre-Authorization

Sheree Smith, Public Health Department Director

Ms. Smith reviewed the computer equipment she would like to purchase using funds from a Transformation Grant.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Purchasing Pre-Authorization from Public Health to purchase five iPads with accessories and protection, in the amount of \$3,995 and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Purchasing Pre-Authorization from Public Health to purchase a laptop, in the amount of \$1,535.93 and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Public Health Staffing Changes to Fill the Nurse Case Manager Position

Ms. Smith said she has not been able to fill the advertised Nurse Case Manager position, however, two current employees are willing to share the position. This alternative would require an increase in the FTE (full time equivalent) of the affected employees, Erin Anderson and Diane Kilkenny. She pointed out that using current employees will save money, compared to a new hire.

Commissioner Russell moved to allow the Public Health Department to fill the Nurse Case Manager position from within the Department by shifting the hours among current employees, as outlined, effective January 4, 2016. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Adjourned: 11:00 a.m.