

Morrow County Court
January 27, 2016
Heppner, Oregon
Bartholomew Building

Present

Judge Terry Tallman
Commissioner Leann Rea
Commissioner Don Russell
Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer
Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director
Justin Nelson, County Counsel/District Attorney
Roberta Lutcher, Court Executive Assistant

Audience

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector
Gayle Gutierrez, Treasurer
Melissa Lindsay, Lexington
Joe McElligott, Ione
Greg Sweek, Heppner

Judge Tallman called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments – Heppner

Joe McElligott, Ione

Mr. McElligott referred to an email dated September 16, 2014 from Burke O'Brien, using his private email, to Tom Paul, Oregon Water Resources Department, Special Assistant to the Director, in which Mr. O'Brien identifies himself as Morrow County Public Works Director. Mr. McElligott said the email contains a complaint about a landowner having unpermitted ponds and damming the springs that feed Rock Creek. Mr. McElligott said he is in the process of getting the ponds permitted and had to file a Freedom of Information Act request to obtain the email. Mr. McElligott asked the Court if they authorized the complaint and inquired about their stance on water developments. He also requested a written response that he can provide to the Water Resources Department as a way to clarify the situation. Discussion. Commissioner Russell said what a property owner does on his property should be between the owner and the body regulating the activity, as long as it is within the law. He added he was not a Commissioner at the time of the complaint. Judge Tallman said he did not recall the issue being discussed in 2014. Commissioner Rea said to the best of her knowledge, she also did not remember it being discussed. Judge Tallman stated whether or not the Court discussed this should not preclude our Public Works Director from doing some investigating. He went on to say he wasn't sure this email could be classified as a complaint. Mr. McElligott said the Water Resources Department considered it a complaint and when he spoke to Mr. O'Brien he didn't get an answer to the same questions he posed today. The Commissioners said they would research the matter, consult County Counsel, and report back to Mr. McElligott.

Open Agenda

Ms. Wolff said the agenda item for the Public Health Department regarding a new position will be moved to next week.

Department Report

The Loop, Morrow County Transportation Update

Anita Pranger, Coordinator

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs – Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas Grant Agreement

Ms. Pranger explained the agreement was just received but has an effective date of September 15, 2015 through September 14, 2016. Commissioner Rea observed we are more than four months into the agreement and it would be appreciated if the Department of Veterans Affairs transmitted it to the County earlier. Ms. Pranger also said she cannot apply for reimbursement from the grant until February.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Grant Agreement with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs for the Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas, in the amount of \$45,000 and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

- Ms. Pranger said there may be grant funds available for dispatch, and other services, and she would like to know if the Court is in favor of hiring a dispatcher when these funds become available. The Commissioners agreed by consensus, with the stipulation the position will remain only as long as grant funds support it. Ms. Pranger was given approval to develop a job description and wage with the assistance of the Human Resources Director.
- Ms. Pranger said The Loop, Morrow County Transportation Advisory Committee would like to change the current 800 number to mirror the landline number but this would necessitate changing stationery, business cards, and any other advertising materials already printed. Commissioner Rea voiced her concern that this could make things confusing for the clientele since numbers are already in circulation. The Commissioners asked Ms. Pranger to relay the concerns back to the committee about the expense to reprint materials and the possibility for confusion.
- Ms. Pranger provided a brief summary of the Oregon Transportation Safety Action Plan meeting held in La Grande.

New Business

Oregon State University Extension – Changes in Staffing and Budget Impacts

Mary Corp, Regional Administrator/Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center Director

Julie Baker, Office Specialist/Morrow County Leader

Ms. Corp discussed two new positions that will have budget impacts for the County. They are the Livestock/Natural Resources position and the Latino Outreach position, and both will be split on a 50/50 basis between Morrow and Umatilla Counties. The Livestock position will be housed in Pendleton, but will have office space at the OSU/Morrow County Extension Office in Heppner. The Latino Outreach position will be housed in Hermiston and mostly serve the Boardman, Irrigon, Umatilla, and Hermiston areas. Ms. Corp said the monetary requests to both

Counties are for the same amounts, but fiscal year 2016 will be less than fiscal year 2017 because the employees will only be employed for part of that year. In addition, she said, the FY 2016 amount of \$14,820 for both positions will come from Morrow County reserve funds currently held at OSU. The FY 2017 request of \$38,240 for both positions will be presented to Morrow County during Budget Hearings in April, she said.

Resolution: Occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Mr. Nelson reported the occupation is still an active issue and has not yet been resolved. Commissioner Rea said the resolution is important to show support for fellow county officials and because any county could find itself in a similar situation.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve In the Matter of Resolution of Occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Resolution No. R-2016-1. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Resolution: Interfund Loan

Commissioner Rea moved to approve In the Matter of an Interfund Loan from the General Fund to the Child Abuse Multi-disciplinary Initiative (CAMI) Grant pursuant to ORS 294.468, Resolution No. R-2016-2. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Old Business

Love's Travel Stops Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) License Application

Sheriff Ken Matlack

Sheriff Matlack reported Love's Travel Stops are located in Douglas and Multnomah Counties and he contacted both jurisdiction. Representatives of both Sheriff's Departments said Love's Travel Stops did not have issues with selling to underage individuals or drinking on the premises and were good working partners. However, both agencies reported an issue with prostitutes frequenting the truck stops, but deputies were proactive and it is not a consistent issue.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the OLCC Liquor License Application for Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc., and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

New Business

Sheriff's Department Request to Fill Vacancies

Sheriff Matlack

After lengthy discussion on several topics, including the placement of Emergency Management job duties, the request was rescheduled for next week. This will allow time for Mr. Sorte, Ms. Wolff and Sheriff Matlack to work together on the sequence of events necessary to accomplish Sheriff Matlack's goals in appointing an Undersheriff.

Department Report

Juvenile Department Quarterly Update

Tom Meier, Director, via telephone conference

LeAnn Wright, Office Support Specialist

Mr. Meier provided a brief review of his Second Quarter Report for 2015-2016. He noted that referrals increased to 29 (18 in the previous quarter) and nine of those were from one School Resource Officer (SRO). He said he anticipated the increased activity when SROs were hired. He also said his staff is working hard and will keep up with the increased caseload. Judge Tallman said there is some frustration because there is a lag between the SRO making a report and it being received by the Juvenile Department. Mr. Nelson said that could be attributed to the time it takes for a law enforcement supervisor to approve a report filed by an SRO.

Surplus Furniture – Pioneer Annex and Gilliam & Bisbee Building (G&B)

Mr. Sorte explained there were some miscellaneous items left by County departments when they vacated the Pioneer Annex and G&B. He said other County departments were given the opportunity to claim the furnishings and he now has recommendations for what remains. He said the furniture at the Annex could be conveyed to the Morrow County Health District as part of the sale of the building, and the furniture at G&B could be included in the office space lease with Community Counseling Solutions. He clarified the furniture at G&B would remain County property.

Commissioner Rea moved to declare the furniture remaining at the Pioneer Annex as surplus. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

County Counsel Report

Justin Nelson

- The Quitclaim Deed for the sale of the Pioneer Annex has now been signed by both parties.
- Work continues with Idaho Power regarding an agreement/easement on Bombing Range Road.

Claims

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Accounts Payable, dated January 28th, in the amount of \$377,829.30. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Minutes

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the January 20th minutes, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of January 20th. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Correspondence Reviewed:

- Invitation to an Open House from Umatilla Electric Cooperative for their new facility in Boardman, Thursday, February 11th, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Commissioner Reports

- Judge Tallman provided a report of the Safety Summit held in Pendleton and said it was well attended.

11:45 a.m. - Recessed to attend Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group Annual Luncheon.

1:25 p.m. – Reconvened

Commissioner Reports, continued

- Commissioner Rea discussed the \$25,907.73 check the County received from the dissolution of the Umatilla Basin Water Commission assets. She said she expects the County will receive a request from the Northeast Oregon Water Association for the bulk of the amount. Discussion. The Commissioners delayed a decision as to the disposition of the funds until receipt of an invoice from NOWA.
- Commissioner Rea said the Columbia Development Authority continues to negotiate water rights with the Oregon National Guard and the Army regarding the former Umatilla Chemical Depot.
- Commissioner Rea said she has been assisting the Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County with budget matters.
- Judge Tallman said he’s been in contact with Master Clockmaker, Gary Kopperud, about the Courthouse clock and learned he fabricated a new cast iron piece that was damaged. Commissioner Rea asked if the clock might have fewer problems if the clockworks controlled one clock face, rather than three, as it was originally designed. She said the other two faces could be battery or electric operated.
- Judge Tallman reported on a Community Renewable Energy Association (CREA) meeting where the concern discussed was that proposed legislation by investor owned utilities could stop renewable energy development in eastern Oregon.

Administrative Officer Report

Jerry Sorte

- Public Works is putting the bid out for janitorial services and he recommended it be on a three-year basis, with the ability to get out of the contract if the County’s needs are not being met. After discussion, it was emphasized good communication from Department Heads and Elected Officials is needed to make sure the terms of the contract are being met.

Long Range Planning

Rick Worden, Finance Department Director

Audience

Bobbi Childers, Clerk

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

Gayle Gutierrez, Treasurer

Melissa Lindsay, Lexington

Carla McLane, Planning Department Director

Greg Sweek, Heppner

The current Long Range Planning spreadsheet includes Carty 1 Additional Monies in the amount of \$1,531,211 starting in fiscal year 2016-2017. Because of construction delays, PGE may not meet the June 30th date for the generation and sale of power at the Carty Plant, therefore, it will

not trigger the SIP (Strategic Investment Program) monies to the County. On the other hand, there will be a Construction in Progress assessment PGE will pay the County. The Commissioners previously stated their commitment to use only energy dollars to fund facility construction, not general fund dollars, and Construction in Progress dollars would go into the general fund. To make up for the change in the way funds will come to the County, the Commissioners made several adjustments to the Long Range Planning spreadsheet for FY 2016-2017.

Other discussion items:

- Whether or not to make changes to the Morrow County Retirement Plan – After a review of previous discussions, Mr. Worden said a good starting point would be to ask for actuarial projections if changes to the percentage in the formula are made, while still mirroring PERS. The Commissioners asked him to obtain a cost estimate for having the Plan’s actuary generate the projections. Commissioner Rea said she would like the Court to reach a decision by Budget Hearings. Ms. Wolff reminded the Court that any changes would be subject to union bargaining, assuming the unions would agree to midterm bargaining.
- Purchase of County vehicles - \$52,850 remain for vehicle acquisition from the \$120,000 budgeted. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Sorte were asked to look into the bid process to obtain two new four-wheel drive vehicles.
- Courthouse facility needs – heating and cooling problems and needed flooring upgrades were discussed. Mr. Sorte said he would contact Public Works and ask them to meet with Department Heads and Elected Officials to determine their facility needs.
- Ms. McLane informed the Court that PGE plans to amend the Site Certificate for Carty 1 to allow them to move forward with Carty 2. She said it will have a solar energy component of about 400 acres.
- The debate among the Commissioners continued, with no resolution, on several topics:
 1. Build a new facility in the north end or acquire an existing building and remodel?
 2. Consolidate all north end services to one community or maintain a presence in both Irrigon and Boadman?
 3. Build a storage facility to preserve survey records? Should it be located in Lexington and upgrade the Public Works/Road Department office space at the same time?

The Commissioners decided a tour of potential buildings and sites would be beneficial, so that will take place on February 17th.

The next Long Range Planning sessions in advance of Budget Hearings will take place on the afternoons of February 24th and March 30th.

Adjourned – 4:34 p.m.