

**Morrow County Court**  
**February 10, 2016**  
**Irrigon, Oregon**  
**Oregon Trail Library District, Irrigon Branch Community Room**

**Present**

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

**Audience**

Melissa Lindsay, Heppner

Judge Tallman called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**City and Citizen Comments – Irrigon**

No comments

**Open Agenda**

No items

**Department Reports**

Veteran's Department Update

Linda Skendzel, Veterans Service Officer

- A written update and Quarterly Report for October-December 2015 were provided in advance of the meeting for the Commissioners to review. Because there were no questions from either report, Ms. Skendzel relayed a success story she had in helping a veteran obtain long awaited dental work. She explained the difficulty veterans encounter when attempting to claim dental work as a result of an injury during service, which was the case in this situation. This particular veteran's dental work was estimated at \$6,000 by one dentist, but Advantage Dental was willing to do the work for substantially less.
- Ms. Skendzel asked if the Court would be in favor of an expenditure of \$150 from her budget to purchase an American flag that will be raised during specific national holidays at Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Irrigon. The American Legion, Post 37, Hermiston, which also serves Morrow County, is selling the flags, and she said she would be willing to contribute toward similar memorials at other County cemeteries, if or when, she becomes aware of those opportunities.
- Ms. Skendzel provided a brief summary of several proposed legislative bills and discussed upcoming conferences for veterans.

**Herbicide Bid Award**

Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director

Mr. O'Brien said staff reviewed the three bids and recommended awarding to the low bidder, Crop Production Services, Inc.

*On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Russell moved to approve awarding the bid for Herbicides to Crop Production Services, Inc., at the submitted amount of \$48,535.50. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Mr. O'Brien said the contract will be ready for signature at next week's meeting.

## **Department Report**

### Planning Commission Appointment

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Ms. Wolff confirmed she received verbal notification from Ken Bailey, Heppner, of his interest in serving on the Planning Commission. Ms. McLane noted two attempts at advertising the opening on the Commission were unsuccessful.

*Commissioner Rea moved to appoint Ken Bailey to the Morrow County Planning Commission with the term effective this date, through December 31, 2019. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### Planning Department Update

- Federal Emergency Management Agency's review of Morrow County's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan – Ms. McLane said there are a few problem areas that need to be addressed prior to adoption.
- Joint Management Agreements with each community in the County regarding management of Urban Growth Areas – the most recent update was in 2002 and new versions are near completion.
- Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores/Devin Oil Appeal Process – Ms. McLane said the deadline for appeals was February 2<sup>nd</sup>, so it appears this matter is now behind us.

## **New Business**

### Affidavit for the Partial Cancellation of a Water Right Certificate

Ms. McLane explained that this is a request from the Water Resources Department through West Extension Irrigation District regarding water rights under Root Lane and Meadow Loop Road. She said the rights were not addressed at the time the subdivision was built; are not needed by the County; and West Extension would like them back.

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Affidavits for Partial Cancellation of a Water Right Certificate, Number 86491 (Grieb Farms, Inc.) and Number 86492 (Craig Pritchard), and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

## **Old Business**

### Utility Easement – City of Heppner

Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer

Kim Cutsforth, Manager, City of Heppner

Mr. Sorte presented the updated easement which has been amended to address his previous concerns. The easement request pertains to the property where the new fire hall will be constructed. Mr. Sorte discussed the concerns and solutions in detail.

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Modification of Easement between Morrow County and the City of Heppner. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### **New Business**

#### Resolution – Application for Purchase of Equipment for Use by Morrow County Parks

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve “In the Matter of the Application for the Recreation Trails Program Grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for the Purchase of Equipment for Use by Morrow County Parks,” Resolution Number R-2016-3. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### Resolution – Application for Rehabilitation and Development at Cutsforth Park

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve “In the Matter of the Application for the Local Government Grant Program from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for the Rehabilitation and Development at Cutsforth Park,” Resolution Number R-2016-4. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### **Old Business**

#### Gilliam & Bisbee Building Lease

Mr. Sorte said he has been working with County Counsel and Community Counseling Solutions to finalize the lease, and hopes to have it ready next Wednesday. He then discussed the items that are yet to be resolved. After discussion, the Commissioners decided to move forward with the draft lease agreement since CCS would like to occupy the additional space in the building.

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Commercial Lease Agreement with Community Counseling Solutions as presented in draft form, with the stipulation if Community Counseling Solutions requests or requires additional substantive changes, the document will come before the Court for further action, and authorize Judge Tallman or Jerry Sorte to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### **Contracts**

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

#### US Bank, Equipment Finance, State and Local Government Addendum, Agreement #2047523

Mr. Tovey said his office reviewed the agreement and recommended approval.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve the agreement with US Bank, State and Local Government Addendum, Agreement #2047523, Equipment Finance, and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### **Minutes**

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve the minutes of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

## **Claims**

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Payroll Payables, Monthlies, dated January 29<sup>th</sup>; Payroll Payables, Immediate & Electronic, and HRA VEBA, both dated February 3<sup>rd</sup>; and the Accounts Payable, dated February 11<sup>th</sup>, in the amount of \$117,076.79. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

## **Correspondence Reviewed:**

- Letter from Sanitary Disposal, Inc., Hermiston, about a discount offered during “Spring Clean-up Week.”

## **Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Rea reported she attended the Heppner Chamber of Commerce meeting where she provided an update on the Boardman to Hemingway Project. She also attended the Road Committee meeting where she reviewed the Court’s Long Range Planning goals and informed them the Road Department would receive \$1 million of the \$1.3 million received from Strategic Investment Program funds.
- Commissioner Russell said the Board of Property Tax Appeals, of which he is a member, heard four appeal cases. He also provided a report on the Special Districts Association of Oregon meeting he attended.
- Judge Tallman said the new exterior doors for the Fair pavilion will be installed in the near future. Regarding the upcoming dedication for the Bartholomew Building, he said he contacted Westwinds Nursery about landscaping, and talked to a member of the Bartholomew family. Commissioner Rea said she would like to make sure the invitation list to the dedication includes citizens who volunteer their time serving the County on various boards and committees.

**Recesses for lunch: 11:20 a.m.**

**Reconvened: 1:30 p.m.**

## **New Business**

Columbia Gorge Bi-State Regional Energy Zone (CGBREZ) – Mid-Columbia Wind Projects

Judge Steve Shaffer, Gilliam County

Dana Peck, CGBREZ

David Van’t Hof, Consultant for CGBREZ

The group came to ask Morrow County to participate in the cost to hire the consultant to create Purchase Power Agreement opportunities, such as in California, for Mid-Columbia wind projects. Judge Shaffer said the request is for \$10,000. Various discussions ensued. The Commissioners decided to consider the matter and notify them of the decision during the County’s Budget Hearings process in April, if not sooner.

**Adjourned: 2:25 p.m.**