

Morrow County Court
March 16, 2016
Boardman, Oregon
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center

Present

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

Excused

Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director

Audience

Jim Doherty, Boardman
Melissa Lindsay, Lexington
Greg Sweek, Heppner

Call to Order: 9:03 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments – Boardman

No Comments

Open Agenda

Commissioner Rea requested to reappoint a member of the Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Russell moved to appoint Paul Hisler as a Livestock Producer representative to the Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee, term to be January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2019. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Bid Award – Portable Toilets

Commissioner Rea moved to award the bid to supply portable toilets for various Public Works projects to CB's LLC Portable Restrooms. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Old Business

Consideration of Request by the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Regional Energy Zone (CGBREZ) Regarding Advocacy for Mid-Columbia Wind Projects

The Court previously heard a request to participate in funding a lobbyist on behalf of mid-Columbia wind projects, but delayed a decision to allow further consideration. The Commissioners discussed the State of Oregon's increase in renewable portfolio standards to 50%

by 2040 and surmised that supply and demand will move the process along, making the services of a paid lobbyist unnecessary.

Commissioner Russell moved to notify Judge Steve Shaffer of Gilliam County that Morrow County opted not to participate in funding a lobbyist on behalf of mid-Columbia wind projects until the impact of the new Renewable Portfolio Standards has been evaluated. Commissioner Rea seconded. Yea: Commissioners Rea and Russell. Nay: Judge Tallman. Motion carries.

North County Facility Discussion

Highlights of the discussion -

- The building that houses Mountain Valley Land Co. in Boardman was removed from consideration.
- Blue Mountain Community College building in Boardman – Commissioner Russell asked to see what kind of sale agreement could be reached with BMCC and the City of Boardman (the City is involved because they donated the land to BMCC). He said those answers could also affect decisions related to Irrigon.
- Mr. Sorte was asked to explore options with the Public Safety building in Irrigon (former Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program facility) to see if it can be used for purposes other than Public Safety. He also said he would meet with Department Heads and Elected Officials to assess their building needs in the north end of the County, and report back to the Court.

Department Reports

Emergency Management Report

The written report submitted by Undersheriff John Bowles was reviewed and discussed.

New Business

Association of Oregon Counties Dues for 2016

Because the Commissioners had several questions about the “voluntary” dues associated with the invoice, Mr. Sorte said he would research the items and report back.

Property Use License – Oregon All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Safety

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Property Use License Agreement with Oregon State University to allow them to offer Oregon ATV Safety Youth Rider Endorsement Training at the OHV Park; time period of license shall be January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Administrative Officer Report

Mr. Sorte

- The Commissioners were asked to decide if a County Court meeting will be held on March 30th, the fifth Wednesday of the month.
- Staffing requests need to be submitted, in writing, to Mr. Sorte before April 6th so he can present them to the Court prior to Budget Hearings.

Claims

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Void Accounts Payable Checks, dated March 7th and March 10th; and the Accounts Payable dated March 17th, in the amount of \$114,860.59.

Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Minutes

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

Correspondence Reviewed:

- Notice to adjoining property owners from Morrow County Planning Department regarding the Lexington Airport and a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 29th, 7:00 p.m. at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, Boardman
- Update on Cutsforth Park to adjacent land owners
- Letter from PGE congratulating Morrow County on the dedication of the Bartholomew Building

Miscellaneous

Population Estimates from the Population Research Center at Portland State University

Commissioner Rea asked Planning Department Director, Carla McLane, to explain her reasons for concern over PSU's population figures for Morrow County. Ms. McLane listed multiple reasons why the County and its communities should be apprehensive about the numbers compiled by PSU. The Court asked her to prepare a draft letter to PSU, to be signed by the Court next week.

Notice from Clerk's Office - Juvenile Filings

Richard Tovey, County Counsel/Deputy District Attorney

Bobbi Childers, Clerk, via telephone

Justin Nelson, County Counsel/District Attorney, via telephone

Mr. Tovey said he just received notification from District Attorney, Justin Nelson, that the Clerk's Office would not accept a Juvenile Petition for Delinquency his office attempted to file this morning. Discussion took place concerning the change in structure of the County Court that will take place in January 2017 when the judicial function is removed from the Judge position and it becomes a part time Commissioner position. After Mr. Tovey cited state statute, the Commissioners and County Counsel agreed that until January 2017, the Clerk's Office is still responsible for accepting filings. At this point, Mr. Nelson and Ms. Childers joined by telephone conference.

Ms. Childers said there has been confusion during the transition and she has not been given clear guidance, so she will no longer accept filings. Judge Tallman apologized for the confusion, and for the lack of communication, and for any perceived slight to her on his part. Discussion. Ms. Childers said she would accept filings, as directed.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Rea said she was recently at the Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County and was impressed by the amount of merchandise now displayed and available in

the store, and the number of food boxes distributed each month. She also said they are in the process of installing a new heating and air conditioning system. Commissioner Rea discussed this week's Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee meeting, where losses to livestock by coyotes was one of the topics of discussion. Wolf statistics for eastern Oregon were also discussed by Steve Cherry, Wildlife Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. He said there were 88 wolves in 2014, and 111 in 2015.

- Commissioner Russell reported attending AOC subcommittee meetings in Salem on transportation and economic development.
- Judge Tallman discussed an upcoming Regional Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting, related to health care, and possible funds that may be distributed back to counties.

Adjourned: 11:43 a.m.