

**Morrow County Court**  
**April 13, 2016**  
**Irrigon, Oregon**  
**Oregon Trail Library District, 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**

Jim Doherty, Boardman  
Melissa Lindsay, Heppner

**Call to Order:** 8:58 a.m.

**City and Citizen Comments – Irrigon**

Kathy Street, Director, Oregon Trail Library District  
Ms. Street said each library branch is offering several new programs that are slowly gaining in popularity. She then asked about the possibility of acquiring some of the County's excess furnishings. Judge Tallman explained there will be a time when entities can view and pick up furnishings, but that date is yet to be determined. Ms. Street also asked for clarification of ownership of the building that houses the Heppner branch of the library. The Commissioners stated it is a County-owned facility.

**Department Reports**

Road Department Permits & Applications

Matt Scrivner, Assistant Road Master

*On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Rea moved to approve Permit Application #OKO to Build on the Right of Way from CenturyLink, on Tower Road at the intersection with Kunze Road for buried telephone line. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

*On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Rea moved to approve Permit Application #OKP to Build on the Right of Way from Umatilla Electric Cooperative, on Utah Avenue, near the intersection with Second Street for an overhead power line crossing. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

*On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Russell moved to approve Permit Application #OKQ to Build on the Right of Way from the City of Heppner, on Riverside Avenue, near the intersection with Fuller Canyon Road for a sewer line crossing, with the stipulation that*

*any disturbed asphalt must be replaced within 10 days. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

*On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Rea moved to approve Permit Application #OKR to Build on the Right of Way from the City of Heppner, on Riverside Avenue near the intersection with Fuller Canyon Road for a water line crossing, with the stipulation the cut must be paved within 10 days of excavation. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

*On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Rea moved to approve Application #203 for an Approach Site Approval from Liliana Medrano, on County Road "G" (Public Access), also known as Garrison Lane. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

*On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Rea moved to approve Application #204 for an Approach Site Approval from Caris Sell Homes, Inc., on Columbia Lane near West 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Irrigon. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

*On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Rea moved to approve Application #205 for an Approach Site Approval from Joseph Santora, on Meadowbrook Road. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### Juvenile Department Update

Tom Meier, Juvenile Department Director

- All individual juvenile dependency cases have been officially transferred to the State Circuit Court. However, Morrow County Juvenile Department will retain some delinquency cases for the near-term.
- The Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility (NORCOR) increased the daily rate charged to the County for juvenile detention, effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, from \$115 per day to \$165. The third quarter saw one juvenile in detention for 44 days, according to Mr. Meier.
- Requested a budget line item be created for expenses related to Measure 11 cases (certain crimes against persons that have mandatory minimum prison sentences, and no possibility for a reduction in the sentence).
- Third Quarter statistics were reviewed.

#### Veteran's Department Update

Linda Skendzel, Veteran Service Officer

- Ms. Skendzel discussed the problems veterans encounter because the Veterans Administration is slow in data entering claims.
- Statistics for Morrow County show 110 female veterans, but she said she only works with about 15. She said the difference may be attributed to older female veterans who don't identify themselves as veterans.

#### Retirement Program Update

Rick Worden, Finance Director

Mr. Worden explained the Morrow County Retirement Plan's actuaries, Milliman, suggest two changes: reduce the assumption on investment returns from 7.5% to 7%; and switch to the same mortality tables used by PERS (Public Employees Retirement System). He said this is consistent with the information from McGee Wealth Management during their recent update. The estimated increase in retirement costs for the County in the upcoming fiscal year will be approximately \$400,000, he said. Discussion.

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve the following: Henceforth the County will use the seven percent (7%) interest rate assumption, and change to the same mortality table assumptions as PERS, and direct Mr. Worden to prepare the budget based on these assumptions. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### Budget Committee Appointment

*Commissioner Russell moved to appoint Larry Mills to the Morrow County Budget Committee, term ending June 30, 2017. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

#### CARE Team Financial Update – Public Health

Mr. Sorte said Sheree Smith, Public Health Director will provide this update during her Budget Hearing presentation.

#### **Break**

#### **Old Business**

##### Order to Vacate Fellbourne Street

Carla McLane, Planning Director  
Hank Pieper, GIS Planning Technician  
Mr. Pieper provided a reading by title.

*On the recommendation of the Morrow County Planning Department, Commissioner Rea moved to approve "In the Matter of Vacating Fellbourne Street," Order Number OR-2016-2. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

##### Ordinance Amending the Morrow County Comprehensive Plan, Specifically Replacing the Economic Element

Ms. McLane provided the first reading by title. The second reading and adoption are scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>, she said.

##### Wilson Lane & Laurel Road Intersection Improvements: Corrected Amendment to the Right of Way Services Agreement with the State of Oregon

Richard Tovey, County Counsel  
Mr. Tovey said the resolution came to the Court last week but was inadvertently missing some information specific to Morrow County.

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve Agreement Number 31023-01, Resolution Exercising the Power of Eminent Domain, Exhibit D, Right of Way Services, Resolution No. R-2016-7. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

## **New Business**

Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer

### Bartholomew Building Use Request – Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO)

Mr. Sorte said a written policy is still being developed regarding the use of the Bartholomew Building. However, CAPECO requested use of the Lower Floor Conference Room one day a month for the next two months. They will bring everything they need and may ask to continue the arrangement after a policy has been developed, he said. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to CAPECO's request to use the Lower Floor Conference Room one day a month in May and June.

### Declaration of Surplus Vehicles

Mr. Sorte said Anita Pranger, Coordinator, The Loop – Morrow County Transportation, requested two of the Dodge Chargers be allocated to her program for use in Heppner and Boardman. After discussion, the Commissioners decided to send them to surplus and use the proceeds to purchase two used vehicles for The Loop with better access and visibility.

*Commissioner Rea moved to declare the following vehicles as surplus and direct they be sent to State Surplus:*

1. 2013 Dodge Charger (E254328; VIN 2C3CDXATXDH617852)
2. 2013 Dodge Charger (E254327; VIN 2C3CDXAT8DH617851)
3. 2007 Dodge Charger (E246734; VIN 2B3KA43H67HB77825)
4. 2009 Dodge Charger (E244175; VIN 2B3KA43TX9H641864)

*and authorize the Administrative Officer to sign the titles on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### Credit Card Request – Public Health Department

Mr. Sorte reviewed the request and recommended approval. He stated, as a reminder, Department Heads are ultimately responsible for all credit cards within their departments.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve four new credit cards for the Public Health Department, each with a maximum credit limit of \$2,500. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### Former Lexington School – Rental for Furniture Storage

Mr. Sorte said a portion of the excess furnishings held by the County have been stored in the former Lexington School Building. He said he is working on a short-term rental agreement (\$400 per month) with the person who is purchasing the facility.

*Commissioner Russell moved to allow the Administrative Officer the ability to finalize a rental agreement for space at the former Lexington School Building where surplus furnishings are stored, to cover the time period of the next few months, with the possibility of a one month extension; and authorize Mr. Sorte to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### Payment for Services Provided During the Bartholomew Building Dedication

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve a \$25 payment to Rick Drake for his participation in the Bartholomew Building Dedication (last minute substitute performer of the National Anthem). Judge Tallman seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### SAIF Corporation Policy Performance Summary

Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director

Ms. Wolff said the good news from this report is the modifier for this year will be 0.86, which is tremendous. The modifier during a recent bad year was 1.45, so this new number is a very positive thing, she said. She said employees need to know their safety improvement efforts have made a difference.

### **Claims**

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Payroll Payables, Immediate & Electronic, Employee Final Checks, dated April 1<sup>st</sup>; April 2016 Retirement Taxes, dated March 6<sup>th</sup>; and Accounts Payable, dated April 14<sup>th</sup>, in the amount of \$182,970.67. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### **Minutes**

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve the minutes of April 6<sup>th</sup>, as presented. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

### **Correspondence Reviewed**

- Planning Department notice to adjoining property owners regarding a Public Hearing on April 27<sup>th</sup> concerning the Lexington Airport
- USDA News Release – Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee Update

### **Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Rea reported on a productive meeting in Heppner with Karen Wagner, Senator Jeff Merkley's Field Representative (Pendleton Office). Commissioner Rea also provided an update on Columbia Development Authority's continuing efforts to transfer the former Chemical Weapons Depot land to Morrow and Umatilla Counties and the Oregon National Guard, and issues regarding wells on the property.
- Commissioner Russell said he attended an Association of Oregon Counties transportation subcommittee meeting and was appointed as a representative to the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors. As mentioned in a previous report, Commissioner Russell met with Columbia Basin Electric Coop's General Manager, Tom Wolff, over power line issues with Umatilla Electric Coop and wind energy developers. The two agreed the County has no role here.
- Judge Tallman said he attended a ConnectOregon VI meeting in John Day where 13 project applications were reviewed for Region 5. He said the group has \$4.5 million to disburse, and one of the requests alone totaled \$2.5 million. Another meeting to establish priorities is planned, he said.

### **Department Reports**

#### Planning Department

- Ms. McLane distributed one of the packets for the two Public Hearings on April 27<sup>th</sup>; the other will be mailed to the Commissioners.
- Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Transmission Line Project Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Port of Morrow. This will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions of Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Energy, and Idaho Power representatives. Umatilla County and the Navy opted not to actively participate, she said.
- Ms. McLane asked the Court if the Planning Department continues to have support for updating the Comprehensive Plan. The Commissioners voiced their support, but Judge Tallman said some members of the public have commented to him they are not necessarily in favor of it. Discussion.

**Adjourned: 11:56 a.m.**