

Morrow County Court
May 4, 2016
Heppner, Oregon
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room

Present

Judge Terry Tallman
Commissioner Leann Rea
Commissioner Don Russell
Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer
Justin Nelson, County Counsel/D.A.
Roberta Lutcher, Court Exec. Asst.

Audience

Jim Doherty, Boardman
Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector
Melissa Lindsay, Heppner
Greg Sweek, Heppner
Shelley Wight, Public Health Department

Call to Order: 9:02 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments – Heppner

Comments & Questions - Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Transmission Line Project

John Luciani, Morrow County

Shane Matheny, Heppner

Mr. Luciani and Mr. Matheny had several questions for the Court; some of them were:

1. Why is the transmission line needed?

Answer:

Commissioner Rea said the Oregon Public Utility Commission determines if a project is worthwhile and needed, which they did. Commissioner Russell explained the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has a contractual obligation with electric cooperatives in southwest Idaho to provide power. He continued, even though there will be a substation at the Port of Morrow, it is not a project driven by the Port. It is a northwest power project that doesn't just belong to Oregon and Washington; they (BPA and Idaho Power) feel entitled to the power for Idaho too, he concluded.

2. There is an existing energy corridor along I-84; why won't that be the route?

Answer:

Commissioner Russell said the proposed I-84 route would have had a much larger impact on people and property than other proposed routes. The Bureau of Land Management is the lead agency in the complicated federal process, he explained, and it is not driven by Morrow County or the Port of Morrow. He said the Morrow County Court had to choose one of the route options that would be the least intrusive. There will be winners and losers in this, he added.

3. Both Mr. Luciani and Mr. Shaney expressed their serious safety and health concerns living under transmission lines.

Response:

Commissioner Russell said people farm under power lines in all 50 states, and they even go through Threemile Canyon Farms and the City of Boardman. He suggested they speak to

farmers who farm under lines. Both Mr. Luciani and Mr. Matheny said they have already done so. Mr. Sorte said he would ask the Planning Department Director to find a contact person who can respond to their safety concerns.

Mr. Luciani and Mr. Matheny said they planned to attend this evening's B2H Open House in Boardman. Commissioner Rea said it will be set up so the public can ask questions of the various agency representatives.

Open Agenda

Commissioner Russell requested to be named as an alternate for Commissioner Rea on the Columbia Development Authority Board; the Court agreed by consensus.

Department Reports

Road Report

Matt Scrivner, Assistant Road Master

- Spring road grading has been taking place.
- Sunflower Flat Road rocking project – there has been a substantial amount of two-inch rock placed in areas to help with grade issues, and to level the road base.
- Big Butter Creek Lane chip seal project – most of the work has been completed from mileposts 3-6; currently working from mileposts 6-9.
- A crew has been out on multiple roads cleaning up fallen trees from the winter.
- Tower Road – companies hired by Love's Travel Stops will be installing a turn lane during the week of May 9th-13th. Tower Road will remain open but controlled by flaggers during the daytime hours; signs will be in-place for the nighttime hours.

Permits

On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Application for Necessity to Build on the Right of Way, Application #OKS, from Portland General Electric to bore under Tower Road, 6.99 miles from the intersection with the I-84 Interchange, for the installation of electrical control lines. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Application for Necessity to Build on the Right of Way, Application #OKT, from Portland General Electric to bore under Tower Road, 6.99 miles from the intersection with the I-84 Interchange, for the installation of a second line for possible future use. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Application for Approach Site Approval, Application #206, from CR General Construction LLC, off Public Access G, Garrison Lane. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Household Hazardous Waste Event Update

Sandi Putman, Public Works Management Assistant

Ms. Putman reported the event on April 1st had a record turnout with 59 participants. She said she may try to schedule another in the fall. Ms. Putman said a similar event took place in all the County's schools – the Department of Environmental Quality's School Lab Cleanout Program. She handed out printed versions of DEQ's PowerPoint presentation which described the program.

Flaggers Needed

Ms. Putman said the Road Department is still recruiting for flaggers to work from June-September. She said it would fit well with a student's schedule, as long as he/she is 18 years old.

Sheriff's Department Update

Sheriff Ken Matlack

Undersheriff John Bowles

Sheriff Matlack reviewed three press releases issued by the Sheriff's Department:

- April 8th - motor vehicle accident on Tower Road that ultimately resulted in a fatality.
- April 10th - young adult female reported she was sexually assaulted by a 15 year-old male in Irrigon.
- April 25th – husband arrested for assaulting his wife during a camping trip near Blake Ranch.

Miscellaneous items during April included:

- The U.S. Department of Justice requested information from the Sheriff's Department regarding personnel who provided assistance during the standoff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.
- A hospital in Washington reported treating a stab wound on a male from Boardman who drove himself there; he is not cooperating with the investigation.
- A driver reported having a gun pointed at him/her by another driver on Highway 730. After investigation, a person was charged and arrested.
- A driver accidentally hit the Sheriff's Department building, causing minor damage. However, the airbags deployed on the vehicle, and the driver needed medical attention.

New Business

Forest Service Title II Projects

Ann Niesen, District Ranger, Heppner Ranger District

Ms. Niesen reviewed the Title II Project applications to be submitted to the Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee. The Court then determined a ranking of the projects.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve a High Priority rating of the Title II Project Submission Form, Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee, MO-UMA16-Road Maintenance, for the 2016 fiscal year; and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve a High Priority rating of the Title II Project Submission Form, Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee, MO-UMA17-Road

Maintenance, for the 2017 fiscal year; and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Cooperating Agency Status Memorandum of Understanding
Postponed until next week.

County Counsel Report

Justin Nelson

Mr. Nelson said the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) is looking into several issues, including the legality of what some counties consider to be unfunded mandates. He said he will continue to gather information, and present it to the County Court for a decision on whether to participate in possible litigation.

Administrative Officer Report

Jerry Sorte

Surplus Furnishings

Mr. Sorte reported he verified with the appropriate State agency that Morrow County met all its obligations after purchasing the surplus items and can proceed with the liquidation. He then detailed the schedule which first offers the furnishings to other Morrow County agencies and non-profits, and then to the general public.

Landscaping for Bartholomew Building

There is about \$33,000 in the budget for this project, which will have to be put out for bids. Mr. Sorte said the request for bids will include a landscape plan for consistency.

Update and Discussion on County Business Processes

Mr. Sorte asked the Court to consider whether or not Road Department permit and application decisions can be made at the department level, as well as, requests to recruit and hire employees for already budgeted positions.

Claims

Objectionable items noted by the Commissioners:

- \$10 late fee incurred by the District Attorney's Office
- \$4 Visa charge for a "Monster Drink/Cherry Coke" by someone in the Sheriff's Department
- \$106 plaque for an employee retiring from the Sheriff's Department

The Commissioners stated they thought their position had already been made clear on these types of matters. Mr. Sorte said he will reiterate the County's position to Department Heads and Elected Officials, and continue to clarify through policy.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Payroll Payables, Immediates & Electronic, dated April 13th, and April 27th; and the Accounts Payable, dated May 5th in the amount of \$86,241.40 (which includes an add-on of \$800 to Sam Bellamy for pre-payment of two months' rent for the Lexington School Gymnasium Building). Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Minutes

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the minutes of November 12, 2015, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of November 12, 2015, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the City-County-Port Meeting minutes of April 13th, as presented. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

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

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the minutes of April 27th, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Rea said she attended an Oregon Department of Transportation Morrow/Umatilla County Travel Shed Analysis and Transit Development Strategy (Travel Shed) meeting in Hermiston. The topic was the pilot project for a public transit plan to connect Umatilla and Morrow Counties, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Milton-Freewater, and the Walla Walla Metropolitan Planning Organization. The next meeting will be in a few months to allow ODOT to gather information requested by the Counties. She said she also attended The Oregon Consortium and Oregon Workforce Alliance meeting, by phone, where it was unanimously voted to dissolve the organization. The County Court will need to sign a resolution agreeing to the dissolution, she explained.
- Commissioner Russell said he will be attending the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors annual conference next week in Hood River. He also said he's been approached by AOC to serve on a committee that deals with the environmental impacts of shipping on the lower Columbia River, which he is considering.
- Judge Tallman said the owners of the GreenWood Resources lumber mill in Boardman may seek a change in designation that allows them to process wood from sources outside the County. The Commissioners agreed they would like the mill to continue to operate. Commissioner Rea requested Mr. Sorte and Carla McLane, Planning Director, review the matter.

Adjourned: 12:15 p.m.