

Morrow County Court
June 15, 2016
Boardman, Oregon
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, Wells Springs 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, Commissioner-Elect
Melissa Lindsay, Judge-Elect
Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector
Robert Echenrode, Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC), General Manager
Carla McLane, Planning Department Director

Call to Order: 9:00 a.m., followed by pledge of allegiance.

Open Agenda: The Commissioners agreed Judge Tallman should represent the County at today's 10:00 a.m. ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Love's Travel Stops location west of Boardman.

Department Reports

Road Report

Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director
Sandi Putman, Public Works Management Assistant
Because Matt Scrivner, Assistant Road Master, was attending to other duties, Ms. Putman provided the Road Report.

Commissioner Russell mentioned the speed limit on Tower Road and noted another large employer is in favor of reducing the speed limit there. He said the Farm Director at Threemile Canyon Farms, Greg Harris, told him he supports the reduction. Judge Tallman requested Mr. O'Brien pursue the matter and report back.

Emergency Management Monthly Report

Undersheriff John Bowles

- Has been sending out various email alerts, notices and bulletins to all County staff, but would like to take advantage of other outlets. Mr. Sorte suggested he work with him as

he plans to update the County website, and disseminate information through the County's Facebook page, as well.

- Participated in the Cascadia Subduction Zone Exercise. He said the area's ham radio operators were unavailable to assist this time, meaning email was the only way for participants to communicate during the exercise. The previous exercise with the ham radio operators went much better, he said. If anyone knows of ham radio operators who may want to join this group, please encourage them, he said.
- Attended the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Spring Summit in Pendleton earlier this week where emergency preparedness comprised a significant portion of the agenda. He said he learned about the availability of staff training materials on emergency preparedness, and plans to offer them to Sheriff's Department employees.

Human Resources Business Items

Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director

Ms. Wolff said there were no items this week, but she will have items in the coming weeks.

New Business

Ambulance Service Area Plan

Postponed until next week.

Adoption of Morrow County 2016/2017 Fiscal Year Budget

Commissioner Rea moved to approve "In the Matter of Adopting the Budget, Making Appropriations, Imposing and Categorizing the Taxes," Resolution No. R-2016-11; and be it resolved that the Morrow County Court hereby adopts the Budget for the fiscal year 2016-2017 in the sum of \$34,736,181 now on file at the Morrow County Courthouse. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

9:38 a.m.: Judge Tallman left to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony

Budget Transfer Resolution R-2016-10

Commissioner Russell moved to approve "In the Matter of Transferring Appropriations within the Morrow County General Fund, Pursuant to ORS 294.463(1)," Resolution No. R-2016-10. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

County Court Meeting Scheduling for June 29th

Mr. Sorte said former Finance Director, Rick Worden, discussed with him the advantages of a meeting just prior to the end of the fiscal year on June 29th, but the Court does not customarily meet on the fifth Wednesday of the month. Due to other commitments, the Commissioners agreed to meet in the morning only. Planning Director, Carla McLane, then requested a work session to discuss Article 7 also take place that morning.

County Counsel Report

Richard Tovey

- Work continues with various departments on contracts and procurement procedures.

Administrative Officer Report

Jerry Sorte

- Katherine Knop has been hired as the new Finance Director. She will start Tuesday, June 28th.
- The Courthouse HVAC repairs have been completed on the second floor. The work to the basement and first floor will take place in three to four weeks. Portable air conditioning units are available from Public Works if needed.

Claims

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Payroll Payables, Immediates & Electronic, dated June 8th; VEBA, dated May 26th; Employee Final, dated May 27th; June Retirement Taxes dated June 10th; and the Accounts Payable, dated June 16th, in the amount of \$92,715.93.

Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Minutes

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the minutes of June 1st, as presented. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the minutes of June 8th, as presented. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Correspondence Reviewed

- Ms. McLane provided a review of the letter from the Department of the Navy to Mitch Colburn, Idaho Power Company, regarding Idaho Power's easement request application with the Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility, Boardman. She said the letter outlines areas that need to be protected, for example, Resource Management Areas (Washington Ground Squirrel) and Research Natural Areas (The Nature Conservancy). The implications of this letter will be an agenda item for the County Court meeting with the Navy on Monday, June 20th, she said.

Bid Opening – Bombing Range Road Overlay Project

Mr. O'Brien

Ms. Putman

Doug Ferguson, Ferguson Engineering & Surveying

Commissioner Russell read the following bids:

1. Pioneer Asphalt - \$1,420,108.00
2. Granite Construction - \$1,301,337.00

Mr. Ferguson said the bids would be reviewed and a recommendation forwarded to the Court.

New Business

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative (CBEC) Funding Request and Update

Tom Wolff, General Manager

Mr. Wolff explained CBEC is installing four electric car charging station within their service territory – two in Morrow County and one each in Gilliam and Wheeler Counties. He discussed the positive impact for tourism this could have on rural eastern Oregon because, on average, it takes four hours to charge an electric car, and during that time the owners could explore the communities where the stations are located (Condon, Fossil, Heppner, Ione). Each unit costs approximately \$13,700 to purchase and install, and qualifies for travel and tourism funding sources, said Mr. Wolff. The cost per unit comes down to \$9,590 after Oregon Department of Energy tax credits are applied, which were purchased by the Bank of Eastern Oregon. Monetary support was received by the other entities, he said, and then asked the Court to consider contributing \$1,500-2,500. Brief discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve a contribution of \$2,500 from the Court Discretionary Fund to Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative to assist with the purchase of two charging stations in Morrow County. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Russell said he attended the AOC Spring Summit earlier this week in Pendleton. He noted Morrow County won the prize for having the most commissioners in attendance. He also relayed an observation from a trip through Wasco, Oregon. He said they have a bicycle repair station in the City Park and he thought it was a very good thing to have available.
- Commissioner Rea said she too attended the AOC Summit, and an Eastern Oregon Workforce Investment Board meeting in Enterprise on Tuesday. She said the businesses and partners associated with the Workforce Board should be commended as it is held up as an example to the rest of the state for success.

10:35 a.m.: Judge Tallman returned

CBEC Update, continued

Mr. Wolff said he was asked to provide an update on the Wheatridge Wind Energy Project and independent transmission lines that will run from mid-Morrow County to Boardman. He said CBEC has been negotiating with UEC and there appears to be tentative agreement through a mediated session. Mr. Wolff asked Robert Echenrode, UEC General Manager, to comment.

Mr. Echenrode said a framework has been identified where CBEC can be the owner of a portion of the project, but there are still many differences in this very complicated \$40 million project.

Mr. Wolff said he continues to recommend Morrow County remain neutral; the Commissioners agreed and thanked him for the update.

Adjourned: 10:56 a.m.