

Morrow County Court
July 6, 2016
Heppner, Oregon
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room

Present

Judge Terry Tallman

Commissioner Leann Rea

Commissioner Don Russell

Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer

Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director

Justin Nelson, County Counsel/District
Attorney

Roberta Lutchter, Court Executive Assistant

Jim Doherty, Commissioner-Elect

Melissa Lindsay, Judge-Elect

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

City and Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda: No items

Old Business

Ambulance Service Area Plan

Rusty Estes, Emergency Medical Services Coordinator, Morrow County Health District
Mr. Estes reviewed the requested changes and mentioned the GIS Planning Tech within the
Planning Department is producing updated maps for the Plan.

*Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Ambulance Service Area Plan as presented by Mr.
Estes. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Order Abolishing the Office of County Judge and Establishing a Board of County
Commissioners

Postponed until next week.

Three Month County Counsel Contract Extension

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve signing a three month County Counsel Service
Contract, effective July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016; at the rate of \$2,300 additional monthly
salary for both Justin Nelson and Richard Tovey (no medical or retirement benefits shall be
provided to Justin Nelson). Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.*

Blue Mountain Early Learning (BMEL) Hub Appointment Recommendation

A memo from Public Health Director, Sheree Smith, serving as Chair of the Early Childhood
Committee, explained last week's Court action appointing Citlali Mendoza to the BMEL Hub
should have been a recommendation to appoint, not an actual appointment. She also apologized
for the confusion.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the recommendation to the Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub that Citlali Mendoza serve on their Advisory Committee. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

New Business

Public Hearing – Zoning Ordinance Update – Article 7 Dimensional Adjustments, Variances, Special or Temporary Use Permits and Non-Conforming Uses

Carla McLane, Planning Department Director

Hank Pieper, GIS Tech

Judge Tallman opened the hearing at 9:11 a.m. He then called for abstentions or conflicts of interest - Commissioner Rea: none; Commissioner Russell: none; Judge Tallman: said he spoke to people but only for the purpose of information gathering. The Staff Report was called for, which Ms. McLane provided. Judge Tallman called for the following to speak - proponents: no response; opponents: no response. The Public Hearing was closed at 9:27 a.m.

Based upon the recommendation of the Morrow County Planning Commission, Commissioner Rea moved to approve amending the Zoning Ordinance for Article 7, Dimensional Adjustments, Variances, Special or Temporary Use Permits, and Non-Confirming Uses, as outlined. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Ms. McLane said the usual 90-day timeframe could impact plans for someone interested in development at Blake Ranch. Is the Court willing to enact the emergency clause to expedite the process, she asked. The Court agreed.

Department Reports

Assessment & Taxation Department Update

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

Senate Bill 1513 - (This bill authorizes counties to exempt up to \$250,000 of assessed value of each owner-occupied principal dwelling owned by a surviving spouse of a fire service professional, police officer or reserve officer killed in the line of duty, from property taxes imposed by all taxing jurisdictions.)

Mr. Gorman explained some counties are already adopting this and are tying it to the Disabled Veteran or Surviving Spouse Property Tax Exemption. This would make things easier to administer, he said. Judge Tallman noted audience members, Marc Rogelstad, Fire Chief, Boardman Rural Fire Protection District, and Rick Stokoe, Boardman Chief of Police, were in attendance and submitted a letter in support of SB 1513. Mr. Gorman said if the SB 1513 exemption was used by someone, the impact to the County would be minimal. Discussion. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to move forward with a resolution to be drafted by County Counsel.

New Business

County Court Meeting Schedule for July and August

Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer

Mr. Sorte asked the Court if there was interest in scheduling abbreviated County Court meetings in July and August to accommodate vacation schedules and allow extra office time for staff. The Court agreed to shortened meetings on the following days to approve Accounts Payable: July 20th, August 3rd and August 17th. Since the August 17th meeting is during the week of the Morrow County Fair, it will be held in Heppner instead of Boardman. As August 31st is the fifth Wednesday of the month, no meeting will be held that day.

The Loop – Morrow County Transportation

Anita Pranger, Coordinator

Ms. Pranger requested approval of a grant fund agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Rail and Public Transit Division, in the amount of \$55,000 to purchase a handicap accessible van with a ramp and lift.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the ODOT Rail and Public Transit Division Grant Agreement Number 31375, in the amount of \$55,000 for the purchase of an ADA accessible van. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Judge Tallman asked Ms. Pranger about ridership statistics. She said May 2016 saw numbers more than double over the same period last year, which has been the trend for the last five months.

Department Reports

Planning Department Update

Ms. McLane

- Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Transmission Line Project Collaborative Letters in Support of West of Bombing Range Road Alternative – Ms. McLane reviewed the letters originating from Idaho Power Company urging the Navy to support the west of Bombing Range Road route. One letter will be sent to the congressional delegations of Oregon and Idaho, while the other will go to the Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus. The Commissioners agreed to be among the signers of the letters.
- Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Notice of Public Hearing, Proposed Confined Animal Feeding Operating, Lost Valley Ranch, Boardman – Ms. McLane said the Public Hearing will be Thursday, July 28th, Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, 4:00 p.m., and comment is due August 4th. She said the County previously commented to ODA when the Land Use Compatibility Statement was signed. However, that letter is not included on ODA's website link specifically for comment on this CAFO. She asked if the Court would like to make sure the letter is fully in the record. The Court agreed that steps should be taken by Ms. McLane to ensure its inclusion. In addition, the Court agreed to provide comment by August 4th regarding water quality and quantity concerns, and potential dust issues from the dairy.

Road Department

Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director

Mr. O'Brien provided the Road Report and then reviewed the following permits:

On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Rea moved to approve Application #OKV, Necessity to Build on Right of Way, from Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc., for a 7.2 kV 3 Phase Overhead Power Line on Rhea Creek Road, .05 miles from the intersection with State Highway 206/207. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Rea moved to approve Application #OKW, Necessity to Build on Right of Way, from Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc., for a 7.2 kV Single Phase Power Line on Rhea Creek Road. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

On the recommendation of Public Works, Commissioner Rea moved to approve Application #OKX, Necessity to Build on Right of Way, from Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc., for a 7.2 kV 3 Phase Overhead Power Line on Rhea Creek Road, .45 miles from the intersection with State Highway 206/207. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

After a discussion that centered on turning over the authority to approve permits to the Public Works Director, the Court was agreeable to the change. Mr. Sorte said a resolution would be created to delegate that authority.

Oregon Association of County Engineers & Surveyors (OACES), County Road Funding Update
Mr. O'Brien said the OACES subcommittee met recently and crafted a proposal in the event new gas tax revenue becomes available during the 2017 Legislative Session. Mr. O'Brien explained the formula and said the next step is to forward it to the Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Committee for approval.

Sheriff's Office Update

Sheriff Ken Matlack

Undersheriff John Bowles

The Sheriff's Report for June 2016 was reviewed.

County Counsel Report

Mr. Nelson had no new items to report.

Administrative Officer Report

Mr. Sorte

- The electrician will begin work July 11th on the basement and first floor of the Courthouse as part of the heating and cooling improvements to that building. That phase will take approximately three weeks to complete.
- Working with Benton County on the sister-county partnership for emergency preparedness.

- In the near future, the specifications for a new County website will be made available for bidding.
- Tony Clement, General Maintenance Supervisor, has been grading the area behind the Bartholomew Building in preparation of landscaping.

Claims

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Payroll Payables, Monthlies, dated June 28th, and the Accounts Payable, dated July 7th, in the amount of \$312,664.51. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Minutes

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the minutes of June 29th, as presented. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Correspondence Reviewed:

- Memo from the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs regarding the Oregon Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans, Service-connected Disabled Veterans, or Surviving Spouses.
- Letter from the Oregon Department of Forestry to Morrow County on the budgeted costs of the Forester in providing protection for privately owned forest land for fiscal year 2017. The certified rates were outlined in the letter.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Rea said she attended a Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO) meeting on June 24th, where she was reappointed to serve on the board until the end of her term in December. Commissioner Rea said she and Commissioner Russell attended Senator Jeff Merkley's Town Hall meeting in Lexington on July 3rd. She said she was generally pleased with the meeting.
- Judge Tallman said he attended the Regional Community Advisory Committee meeting where goal incentive dollars were discussed. He said the goals will start increasing by \$5,000,000 each year for the region. If the goals are not met, it could mean a \$1,000,000 loss, he said. He also discussed the buy-in early in the formation of the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization mostly by hospitals, but also by one individual. He said a group created a list as to how profits would be distributed but it was not subject to much scrutiny. He said one individual came away with a substantial amount of money.

Executive Session Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)

Adjourned: 11:52 a.m.