

Morrow County Court
August 17, 2016
Heppner, Oregon
Bartholomew Building, 110 N. Court St.

Present

Judge Terry Tallman
Commissioner Don Russell
Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer
Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director
Roberta Lutcher, Court Executive Assistant

Excused

Commissioner Leann Rea

Audience

David Sykes, Heppner Gazette-Times

Call to Order: 9:07 a.m., followed by pledge of allegiance

City and Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda: Mr. Sorte requested the addition of a Warranty Deed for a portion of the areas needed for the Wilson Lane Road and Laurel Lane Road Intersection Improvement Project.

New Business

Warranty Deed – Wilson Lane Road and Laurel Lane Road Intersection Improvement Project

Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director

Mr. O'Brien provided an overview of the intersection improvement project and explained two warranty deeds are associated with it. The deed presented today is from Thomas and Debbie L. Imus. Another deed is still pending from Earl Connell.

Commissioner Russell moved to accept the Warranty Deed from Thomas and Debbie L. Imus to convey to Morrow County fee title to the property described in Exhibit A, dated February 22, 2016, in consideration of \$3,350, and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Judge Tallman seconded.

At this point, Mr. O'Brien requested that the motion include authorizing Judge Tallman to sign the Warranty Deed from Mr. Connell when it's prepared. The Court agreed.

Commissioner Russell amended the motion to include authorizing Judge Tallman to sign the Warranty Deed associated with this project from Earl Connell when it's presented. Judge Tallman seconded. Unanimous approval.

Judge Tallman called for a vote on the main motion: Unanimous approval.

Claims

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Void Check dated August 18th; and the Accounts Payable, dated August 18th, in the amount of \$379,980.83. Judge Tallman seconded. Unanimous approval.

North End Facilities Discussion

Commissioner Russell discussed the effects of last week's request from a group of Irrigon residents to have County services remain in Irrigon. He said he's been contacted by multiple people and clarified what are facts and what are rumors. He said the County does not yet have the necessary information to make a decision, and he remains open to many options. He said he wants to do what is best for the County, from an economic standpoint.

The discussion turned to the Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) building that will be available early 2017. Judge Tallman said he's concerned some of the technology in the building may not be adequate, and that the building would require extensive remodeling. Commissioner Russell said the building has been upgraded to fiber optic internet, and he was in agreement about the need to remodel.

In discussing the possibility of new construction, Commissioner Russell said he'd like to bring an architect into the discussion and come up with an estimate of costs. Judge Tallman agreed. Judge Tallman also said he'd prefer future discussions involving community members be done in a workshop-type setting.

Commissioner Russell said while Commissioner Rea indicated her preference was to make a decision before she leaves office, the reality is there isn't enough time or money in the budget.

Commissioner Reports

- Judge Tallman reported on a recent Community Renewable Energy Association meeting.
- Commissioner Russell said he attended the Eastern Oregon Counties Association meeting in Ontario and it was beneficial to collaborate with others from eastern Oregon. He said Morrow County is in a more fortunate position than some natural resource-dependent counties with declining revenues and populations. He also discussed the impact to counties that border Idaho due to an inability to compete with the different rules and tax structures.

Correspondence Reviewed

- Invitation to an award presentation to the Morrow-Grant County OHV Park on August 25th at 10:00 a.m. from the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department.
- Invitation to the Jefferson County Courthouse Dedication on Friday, September 9th, 1:00 p.m., Madras.

Adjournment: 9:47 a.m.