

Morrow County Court
October 12, 2016
Irrigon, Oregon
Irrigon Branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, Community Room

Present

Judge Terry Tallman
Commissioner Leann Rea
Commissioner Don Russell
Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer
Richard Tovey, County Counsel
Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director
Melissa Lindsay, Judge-Elect
Jim Doherty, Commissioner-Elect

Excused

Roberta Lutcher, Court Executive Assistant

Audience

David Sykes, Heppner Gazette-Times

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

Open Agenda Requests: Contract for Window Washing

Partition Plat Recording Fee Waiver Request

Aaron Palmquist, Irrigon City Manager

Mr. Palmquist said he is making the request on the City's behalf, as well as the Oregon Trail Library District's, to waive the estimated recording fees of \$361 associated with the partition of the land on which the building that houses both entities is located. He said the City waived its fees, paid for the survey, and the required advertisement to notify the public. The Court opted to pay the fees from the Court Discretionary Fund rather than waive them because the State is owed a portion of the fees.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve paying the recording fee for the Partition Plat associated with the request from the City of Irrigon and the Oregon Trail Library District, Morrow County Deed Record 2015-36502, from the Court Discretionary Fund. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

City and Citizen Comments

Barb Huwe, Irrigon
Sam Heath, Mayor, City of Irrigon
Janet Cooley, Irrigon

Ms. Huwe wanted to bring to the Court's attention the new tables, chairs and window coverings for the library and meeting room that were purchased through the efforts of the Friends of the Irrigon Library (FOIL). She then discussed the consideration by the County Court of north end building options. She said she believed Strategic Investment Program (SIP) funds would be the best option to fund a facility. She added she trusts the Court to do the right thing for Irrigon by keeping as many County offices there as possible.

Mayor Heath asked the Court how it would benefit Irrigon if current County offices were moved out of Irrigon. Commissioner Russell said the only reason Boardman is being considered is because there's a public use building there that will be surplus property and could be purchased at a reasonable price, especially when compared to building new. He said there will be an architect brought in to assist the County in determining cost and space needs prior to making any decisions. There are services that need to stay in Irrigon, he said, but some services can serve the County from either community. He explained he would have a difficult time justifying the higher cost to build new when an existing facility could possibly save the County millions of dollars, especially when it doesn't really matter to the County where those services are located. Commissioner Russell said the other issue is how to pay for a facility. Should the County borrow money or create a reserve account until there is enough to pay for it, he asked.

Commissioner Rea said interest rates to borrow money are very low – two-percent or less. If the County takes a few years to build up a reserve account, building costs will likely increase by more than the two-percent the County would pay on a loan, she said. The County would be “money ahead” to borrow the funds, build a facility and serve everyone under one roof, said Commissioner Rea.

Ms. Cooley said Irrigon residents have always felt like the lesser community in Morrow County. Irrigon doesn't have the ability to attract industry and we've accepted the fact we're a bedroom community, she stated. Ms. Cooley said Irrigon residents don't want to lose the things they do have in Irrigon, and she then requested the County make every effort to maintain its presence in Irrigon.

Morrow-Grant County OHV Park – Youth Elk Hunt, Applicant Draw

Greg Close, Parks Operations Manager

Mr. Close said there are up to six spike elk tags available for the youth hunt, but the successful applicants are required to get their own tags. Half of the OHV Park will be closed to off-highway vehicles and only open to the youth while they hunt, and it will be heavily patrolled, he said. The youth are also accompanied by parents, he noted.

The following applications were submitted and drawn:

1. Tanner Mills, Irrigon
2. Jonathan Brannon, Heppner
3. Kellen Grant, Heppner
4. Cami Jo Van Arsdale, Lexington

5. Logan Namitz, John Day
6. Tanner Mills, Irrigon – duplicate, rejected

Miscellaneous

Judge Tallman announced to the group that an artist named Myron Sahlberg will be coming to Morrow County next week to offer portrait painting classes. He said Mr. Sahlberg is a retired art professor from Alexandria Technical and Community College in Minnesota and his appearance is sponsored through the Morrow County Cultural Coalition. He said Mr. Sahlberg will conduct workshops in County schools and for members of the general public.

New Business

Justice Court FTE Increase Request

Judge Ann Spicer

Judge Spicer explained the staff workload in her office has dramatically increased because many more traffic citations are being issued since the speed limit was increased on certain highways. Over the course of two days recently, Judge Spicer said she suspended the driving licenses of six people who were going in excess of 100 miles per hour (mph), and that used to be the total for an entire year. In one week there were 47 citations for going over 90 mph, she added. She then detailed the backlog of work this has created.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the request from Judge Spicer to add one additional day per week to the part-time Justice Court Clerk position, with the stipulation it will be reviewed prior to next year's budget preparation to see if it is still needed. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Contracts

Sandi Putman, Public Works Management Assistant

Addendum to the Schindler Elevator Corporation Contract

Ms. Putman explained this addendum adds the Bartholomew Building elevator to the existing contract for the Courthouse elevator with Schindler Elevator Corporation. She said she reached out to Otis Elevator Company but they did not respond and Olympic Elevator Company out of Redmond, Washington declined. The current fee for the Courthouse is \$158 per month and the Bartholomew Building will be \$195, bringing the total per month to \$353, she said.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Addendum to the Schindler Elevator Corporation Contract #4100042429, to add the Bartholomew Building hydraulic elevator at \$195 per month, and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Window Washing Contract

Ms. Putman said her research showed it is less expensive to contract with a window washing service than to call them on an as-needed basis. She said she obtained bids from ABV Window Cleaning and Wambeke Window Washing with the latter being the low bid. The bids included a

cost breakdown by building in case cleanings beyond those specified in the contract are requested, she said. Wambeke's rate for the first year is \$3,206 and \$1,680 in the subsequent years of the five-year contract, said Ms. Putman.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the contract between Morrow County and Wambeke Window Washing of Hermiston, Oregon; effective date to be the date the contract is signed by all parties and shall expire after five years, with an option for yearly renewal; first year cost to be \$3,206 and subsequent years to be \$1,680. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

Planning Department

Carla McLane, Planning Director

- An offer has been made to an applicant for the GIS Planning Tech position.
- Ms. McLane said she received a letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that provided more details into the federal determination to not list the Washington ground squirrel as a candidate species as threatened or endangered. She asked the Court if it might be the appropriate time to reach out to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Commission since Oregon still lists them as a threatened or endangered species. She said she and Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer, could meet with ODFW's local Wildlife Biologist, Steve Cherry, as a first step. The Court agreed by consensus to Ms. McLane moving the process forward.

Purchasing Pre-Authorization – Ricoh GIS Plotter

Ms. McLane said \$15,000 was put aside during the last budget cycle from the Building Permit Fund to further develop Planning's GIS program. The request is for \$9,550 for a GIS plotter and installation, and she said she plans to return in the near future with another request for an iPad, GPS locator and other items needed for field work.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Purchasing Pre-Authorization request from the Planning Department in the amount of \$9,550 to purchase a GIS plotter, including installation, and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Planning Commission Appointments

Ms. McLane said two members have, or will be resigning – Melissa Lindsay in September and David Sykes at the end of October. Sue Oliver's term expires at the end of December but she submitted a written request to be reappointed. Three other letters of application were received but the last one was not timely, she explained. Ms. McLane reviewed the letters and recommended Stacie Eckstrom's letter, which was received after the deadline, be kept on file for future vacancies.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve filling the Planning Commission positions as follows:

- *Position 3, Irrigon: Sue Oliver, term to be January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2020*
- *Position 6, Heppner: Greg Sweek (replacing David Sykes), mid-term appointment to be October 26, 2016 through December 31, 2018*
- *Position 7, At-Large: Wayne Seitz (replacing Melissa Lindsay), mid-term appointment to be October 12, 2016 through December 31, 2019*

Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Ms. McLane said the next Planning Commission meeting of October 25th will be a continuation of the process to evaluate the Morrow County Farm and Forest Use Zones in comparison to the Farm and Forest Use Model Code. She invited the Court to attend – 7:00 p.m. at the Bartholomew Building.

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – Implementation of New Air Toxin Regulations

Ms. McLane said DEQ is proposing a whole new program to evaluate toxins but they are severely backlogged with their existing air permit process. She said she views it as an extreme regulatory scheme that will also require new fees to hire additional staff. During a forum meeting in Pendleton, the audience could make automated responses to the presentation but the choices were only for levels of regulation, nothing else, such as don't do this, she said. She went on to say there is a real potential for negative impacts to Morrow County and Morrow County industries. This is designed to target the railroad tie plant in The Dalles and the coal fire plant in Boardman, and anything that might replace it – fossil fuel generation in general, she said. Ms. McLane said she could provide additional information for the Court.

Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Permit – Lost Valley Ranch

Commissioner-Elect Jim Doherty asked Ms. McLane about the new comment period associated with this permit. She said the Environmental Quality Commission, a group focused on environmental justice issues, asserted the permitting agencies did not perform their due diligence by reaching out to adversely impacted groups. The comment period was reopened but it was not driven by anything local, she said. Discussions ensued.

On another matter, Ms. McLane responded to an audience question about the odor that envelopes Irrigon on occasion. She explained it's from a waste water issue with the Port of Morrow and organic farmers spreading chicken manure. The County has issued road crossing permits to the Port as they seek to send the waste water farther south of Irrigon, and she said, the organic farmers are following accepted farming practices, as long as they're applying it under agronomic rates and best measure practices.

County Counsel Report

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

Mr. Tovey said the County Counsel Office continues to review contracts. While Justin Nelson has been working with the Road Department on several items, Mr. Tovey said he has been researching issues with the Assessor's Office during the last few weeks.

Administrative Officer Report

Mr. Sorte

- Attended the Fair Board meeting last night and anticipates an update for the Court in the next few weeks regarding the relationship between the County, Fair Board and Rodeo Committee.

Claims

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the October 2016 Retirement Taxes, dated October 6th; 2016 Fair Premiums, dated October 10th; Void Check, dated October 11th; Payroll Payables, Immediates & Electronic, dated September 28th; Payroll Payables, Monthlies, dated October 4th; Payroll Payables, Employee Sick Pay, dated October 4th; Payroll Payables, Employee Final (two), dated October 4th, and October 6th; and the Accounts Payable, dated October 13th in the amount of \$220,035.46. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Minutes

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the minutes of October 5th, with corrections. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Correspondence Reviewed

- Invitation from the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team to the October 21st meeting of cooperating agencies regarding the Blue Mountains Forest Plans.
- Invitation from Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc. to its annual meeting on Thursday, November 3rd, 11:45 a.m., Ione American Legion Hall.
- Agenda for the November 15th meeting of the Fair Board in Heppner. Minutes of the September 13th meeting were also included.

Commissioner Reports

- Judge Tallman discussed a few of the topics of discussion from a recent Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) meeting. He also mentioned that the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council obtained a three-year grant to fund six coordinator positions for 15 counties. Morrow and Umatilla Counties will share a coordinator, who is scheduled to start in January.
- Commissioner Russell said he participated via telephone conference during some AOC steering committee meetings and the connections were very successful, which hasn't been the case in the past. He also reported on last night's Cultural Coalition meeting where they allocated their limited resources of \$7,500. As usual, there were more requests than money, he said.

Adjourned: 11:07 a.m.