

Morrow County Court
October 19, 2016
Boardman, Oregon
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center

Present

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

Call to Order: 8:57 a.m., followed by pledge of allegiance.

City and Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items

Department Reports

Emergency Management

Undersheriff John Bowles

- Undersheriff Bowles reported on recent trainings and conferences attended and noted they were educational and good opportunities to make contact with counterparts from around the State. He also said it would be beneficial for Commissioners to take part in Incident Command System (ICS) trainings available online. Undersheriff Bowles offered to provide copies to the Commissioners of an emergency response manual that covers multiple crisis scenarios.
- The Pioneer Memorial Hospital Evacuation Exercise went well with one important lesson learned – participants needed to remember to use the communication systems to update others on the status of their particular tasks, he said.
- A 2014 pickup purchased by the City of Irrigon for use by the Sheriff's Office, as part of the law enforcement agreement with the City, reached its three-year life cycle and was turned back over to the City. The Sheriff's Office has the same agreement with the City of Heppner.

Public Works

Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director
Sandi Putman, Public Works Management Assistant

Purchasing Pre-Authorization – Plow Head for General Maintenance Pickup

Ms. Putman explained the new plow head is for the recently purchased used pickup for General Maintenance. In addition, it's larger than the existing plow head and will be able to plow snow from parking lots faster, said Mr. O'Brien.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Purchasing Pre-Authorization from General Maintenance for a new plow head for the General Maintenance pickup, in the amount of \$7,849, and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Purchasing Pre-Authorization – Electric Lift Chain Hoists

Ms. Putman said the one-ton electric lift chain hoist will be purchased by Public Works and the three-ton electric lift chain hoist will be purchased by the Safety Committee. Mr. O'Brien said the partnership has been great, and in the past it was used to purchase a truck lift. He said he believed that purchase avoided potential injuries. Commissioner Rea commented workers' compensation claims are expensive and impact the County for a long period of time.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Purchasing Pre-Authorization from Public Works and the Safety Committee, with Public Works purchasing a one-ton lift electric chain hoist from Bend Rigging Supply, LLC, in the amount of \$2,927.20; and the Safety Committee purchasing a three-ton lift electric chain hoist from Bend Rigging Supply, LLC, in the amount of \$4,665.50, and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Ms. Wolff reported the Safety Committee also agreed to purchase two welding vests to replace two that were well used. A third vest also needed to be replaced and may be purchased by the department, but the Safety Committee typically asks departments to contribute toward purchases, she said.

2017 Property Use License Agreement between Oregon State University and Morrow County Parks to Conduct Oregon ATV Safety Youth Rider Endorsement Classes

Ms. Putman said this allows the use of the OHV Park safety training area for ATV and motorcycle safety trainings. She said an effort is made to have someone available each weekend to conduct the sessions.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Property Use License between Morrow County and Oregon State University to conduct Oregon ATV Safety Youth Rider Endorsement classes at the OHV Park; time period being January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017; and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Miscellaneous

- Ms. Putman informed the Court she applied for a Critical Oregon Airport Relief (COAR) Program grant that could help with improvements at the Lexington Airport. The hope is the COAR grant would provide the matching funds for another grant to rebuild the tie-down area and move the fuel station, she said. Mr. O'Brien said there will be further discussions about grant matching funds during next year's budget process.
- Mr. O'Brien and Ms. Putman discussed a recent Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors (OACES) conference where planning for catastrophic events was covered. They both spoke of the need to store fuel in-county that can be accessed during an emergency. Mr. Sorte said he and Undersheriff Bowles will be bringing people together to start these types of discussions. Judge Tallman said money needs to be set aside during Long Range Planning in this area, as well.

Assessment & Taxation – 2016-2017 Property Taxes

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

Mr. Gorman reviewed the following reports: Morrow County Statement of Taxes 2016-17 for Taxing Districts; 2016 Tax District Totals; and 2016 Top 20 All Roll Type Taxpayers for Morrow County.

In referring to the fact Special Taxing Districts are receiving an increased amount this year, Commissioner Russell said he advised some Special District board members that they're getting a one-time economic benefit from the Carty natural gas-fired plant not meeting the deadline to be online and that it's not sustainable.

Mr. Gorman also discussed the County being in the position of having 99% of taxes collected for all prior years. He said when you consider that \$32,000,000 was levied last year and then add up all prior years uncollected, it leaves only \$600,000, which has to be number one in the State. People are paying their taxes and that makes it nice, he said. Various discussions ensued.

County Counsel Report

Richard Tovey

Mr. Tovey said he's been working with Ms. Wolff on surplus properties that the Court previously gave permission to liquidate. He also worked with Mr. Gorman determining the status of mineral rights associated with the one of the aforementioned properties.

Administrative Officer Report

Jerry Sorte

Mr. Sorte said he plans to provide a detailed activity report once a month and oral reports on the other weeks. He also said he and County Counsel, Justin Nelson, are scheduling a presentation on Oregon Ethics Laws and Public Meeting Laws on Wednesday, November 9th, 6:30 p.m., probably in Irrigon. He explained the presentation will be available to the public and may be of interest to a wide variety of people including Special District Board members, for example.

Mr. Sorte said requests come in to his office occasionally for use of the Bartholomew Building conference rooms and he would like to pattern policy after those used by school districts. In the meantime, he said he will review requests on a case-by-case basis and most likely approve them from not-for-profits, community groups and other government agencies. The Court stressed their continued stance to not allow social events from outside entities in the conference rooms.

As the one-year mark approaches for the completion of the Bartholomew Building, Mr. Sorte said a walk-through with the building project manager and contractor took place. He said the County gave them a list of items to address and he will keep the Court updated as to their response.

Claims

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Payroll Payables, Immediates & Electronic, and HRA VEBA, both dated October 12th; and the Accounts Payable, dated October 20th, in the amount of \$237,159.79. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Minutes

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the minutes of October 12th, with correction. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Correspondence Reviewed

- Job announcement from the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) for six regional Local Public Safety Coordinating Council Coordinators (Morrow and Umatilla Counties will share a Coordinator).
- Draft Option 5 forwarded by Kimberly Lindsay, Community Counseling Solutions Executive Director. This Option was crafted by the Association of Community Mental Health Program Directors in response to a State workgroup's Options 1-4 for revamping mental health programs in the State. Judge Tallman said he was informed there is an Option 6 and he'd like to review it before responding; the Court agreed.
- Agenda for the Morrow County Planning Commission meeting of Tuesday, October 25th, 7:00 p.m., Bartholomew Building.
- Oregon State University, Baker County Extension Office notice of two seminars (November 9th in Baker City and November 10th in La Grande) on tips for building a cabin from start-to-finish, offered by Steve Bowers, OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Forester.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Russell said he and Judge Tallman attended Monday's AOC District 3 meeting in Condon. He said he accepted the position of Vice Chair and that good discussions were held, particularly concerning franchise fees for utilities. Currently, cities charge franchise fees, but counties do not, and he said AOC may look at this issue again. Commissioner Russell also said he attended the Columbia Development Authority (CDA) meeting and was tentatively elected Chair, as it is Morrow County's turn to serve

as Chair. He said when the new Commissioners take office in January, that decision can be revisited.

- Commissioner Rea said she also attended the CDA meeting, as well as a meeting with Ruchi Sadhir, Energy Policy Advisory, Office of the Governor. She said Ms. Sadhir presented an early draft for Morrow County being the area for a pilot project for siting a transmission line corridor. The City/County/Port meeting was well attended last night, she added.

11:13 a.m. - Executive Session Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i) – To review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing.

11:39 a.m. – Closed Executive Session – No decisions

Adjourned: 11:40 a.m.