**Morrow County Board of Commissioners**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 18, 2017**

**Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, Boardman, Oregon**

**(Multiple Locations Due to Weather)**

**Present in Boardman**

Commissioner Don Russell

Commissioner Jim Doherty

**Via Telephone Conference from Heppner**

Chair Melissa Lindsay

Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer

Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director

Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

**Via Telephone Conference from Other Locations**

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

**Audience in Boardman**

Judge Terry Tallman

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

**Call to Order:** 10:02 a.m.

**City and Citizen Comments –** No comments

**Open Agenda –** Postpone consideration of letter in support of County Noxious Weed Control Programs; remove Purchase Pre-Authorization Request from the Parks Department for conference and travel; Chair Lindsay requested a discussion on County vehicle usage.

**Business Items**

**Update on Boardman Solar Project and Heppner Wind Project**

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Ms. McLane explained that weather/road conditions prevented Laura Minor with Invenergy from attending the meeting, but it has been rescheduled for February 8th. Ms. McLane provided a brief update on the projects from the Planning Department’s perspective and provided two maps from Invenergy (solar facility site boundary; facility layout).

**Jail Use Agreement with Umatilla County to Provide Available Jail Space**

Sarah Smith, Morrow County Sheriff’s Office, Assistant Communications Sergeant

Sgt. Smith reviewed the contract details. She also informed the Board the allotted beds per month have been exceeded every month except July. The budget was in the negative by $9,000 in November and $8,000 in December, she said. Parole and Probation has been advised to reduce the number of people they lodge in jail, and Sgt. Smith then reviewed the conditions for determining whether or not to lodge an individual for the Board. There may be an upcoming request at budget time to increase the bed numbers, she added.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Jail Use Agreement with Umatilla County dated July 1, 2016, with renewal on a fiscal year basis until terminated by either party; at the rate of $57 per prisoner per day for 480 bed spaces per month. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Consider Letter of Support Concerning Funding of the Nurse Care Manager for the CARE Program**

Commissioner Russell stated he and Chair Lindsay attended the most recent Public Health Local Community Advisory Council meeting and were familiar with the letter.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve signing the letter of support concerning funding of the nurse Care Manager for the CARE Program. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Chamber of Commerce Memberships**

Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer

Following a brief discussion, the Board was in favor of continuing membership in the local chambers of commerce and ICABO (Ione Community Agri-Business Organization).

*Commissioner Doherty moved to continue memberships with the chambers of commerce in the County’s communities and ICABO, as has been past practice. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Use of County Vehicles by Commissioners**

Chair Lindsay explained she will be attending County College in Corvallis and it doesn’t make sense to drive 20 miles to pick up the County vehicle in Heppner and then drive another 20 miles almost back to her starting point. She requested an exception to policy to allow her to pick up the vehicle the day before and return it the day after she returns. Commissioners Russell and Doherty stated they were in favor of the exception.

*Commissioner Russell moved to allow Chair Lindsay, at her discretion, to park the County vehicle at her residence for an upcoming trip to Corvallis to attend County College. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Aye: Commissioners Russell and Doherty; abstained: Chair Lindsay.*

**County Counsel Report**

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

Mr. Tovey said his office has been working on issues raised at the last Board meeting regarding the order to establish Commissioner Position #3 and the resolution designating the rotation of the chair position.

**Administrative Officer Report**

Mr. Sorte

* A Road System Update and Planning Work Session is scheduled for next week’s BOC meeting.
* A website training is scheduled so department heads can learn how to create webpages for their own departments. The plan is to “go live” with the website as soon as possible and it will continue to be a work in progress.

**Claims**

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Accounts Payable dated January 19th. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Commissioner Russell amended the motion to also include the Planning Department Visa Single Check Payment dated January 12th, bringing the total amount of Accounts Payable to $355,426.51. Commissioner Doherty seconded the amended motion. Unanimous approval.*

**Minutes**

Judge Tallman requested a clarification to the December 14th minutes regarding the Planning Department Update. The minutes stated:

“The Bureau of Land Management released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project on November 25th. There are two copies at the Planning Department Office and a reading room is available. Ms. McLane said the Court could protest changes that were included in the FEIS to federal agency land management plans but there is no federal land in Morrow County apart from the Navy’s bombing range. The Court agreed to not protest the FEIS.”

Judge Tallman said there is additional federal land in Morrow County, and he would like that noted for future reference. The Board agreed and requested the notation be reflected in the minutes from this meeting.

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve the minutes of December 21st, as presented. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

*Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the minutes of December 28th, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**Correspondence Reviewed**

* Notice of Boardman Chamber of Commerce Economic Outlook Luncheon today.
* Agenda for January 19th meeting of the Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District and December 6th minutes.
* Agenda for January 24th meeting of the Planning Commission.
* Agenda for the January 24th meeting of the Fair Board and November 15th minutes.

**Commissioner Reports**

* Commissioner Doherty said multiple scheduled meetings were cancelled due to weather. He said he attended the meeting of the Forest Collaborative where grazing policies compiled by the Forest Service, the National Marine Fisheries, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service were discussed. Most County Commissioners signed the paperwork to be designated as Cooperators but they were not happy they were left out of the grazing policy decision process, he said. A follow-up meeting on this topic is planned.
* Commissioner Russell said he attended the meeting of the Columbia River Enterprise Zone II Board where they allocated $1.3 million to a variety of entities. He said Chair Lindsay attended and was able to participate for the first time.
* Chair Lindsay said Commissioner Doherty attended the Forest Collaborative in her place and it worked very well because of his background. Chair Lindsay also attended the Road Committee meeting and she said she thinks the representation on that committee should be re-evaluated. She reported on an introductory telephone call she had with PGE’s Wendy Veliz (Public Policy/Government Affairs).

**Adjourned:** 11:11 a.m.