

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2017
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty

Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer
Justin Nelson, County Counsel
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

Audience

David Sykes, Heppner Gazette-Times

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 9:01 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments

Shelley Ena introduced herself to the Board as the new LPSCC (Local Public Safety Coordinating Council) Coordinator for Morrow and Umatilla Counties. She stated she wished to observe the meeting process.

Horseshoe Bend Discussion

Dave DeMayo, Heppner

Mr. DeMayo presented his idea to the Board for dealing with a section of Highway 74 referred to as Horseshoe Bend. This area requires traffic to slow to 10 miles per hour and impacts area farmers, ranchers and business owners, he said. Mr. DeMayo proposed the Army be approached to see if the work could be done at cost by troops as part of a Troop Construction Project. The project could be taken to a certain point and then turned over to the County for completion under the supervision of the Oregon Department of Transportation, he said. He then outlined the pros and cons of such an arrangement. The Board members expressed interest in a follow-up meeting with representatives of the Oregon National Guard, which Mr. DeMayo offered to arrange.

Open Agenda

Mr. Sorte said the minutes of February 22nd could be added to the Consent Calendar, if the Board so chooses.

Consent Calendar

~~Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Consent Calendar for March 2, 2017. The following items in the Consent Calendar:~~

2. Corrected version of Resolution R-2017-2
3. Minutes of February 22, 2017

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Manufactured Structures Intergovernmental Agreement, Agent Agreement No. 90G000278 with the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Building Codes Division

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Mr. Gorman reminded the Board he signed an earlier version of this IGA, with their approval. Since that time, amendments were made to the agreement which make it more favorable for Morrow County, he said. After outlining the changes, the Board was in favor of Mr. Gorman once again signing.

Board of Commissioners Office Staffing Request

Mr. Sorte requested increasing the Executive Assistant from a 0.8 FTE (full time equivalent) to a full 1.0 FTE. The benefits to the BOC Office and fiscal impact were reviewed.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve increasing the Executive Assistant in the Board of Commissioners Office from 0.8 FTE to 1.0 FTE. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Review Invoice – Columbia Development Authority (CDA) Membership Dues

While the Board did not question the efforts of the CDA, the item was delayed for further information gathering since all three Commissioners are new to the CDA payment process.

Board of Commissioners Title Discussion

Mr. Sorte suggested a resolution be considered to formalize the official title of the Board of Commissioners. It would offer a reference point for the official change and provide uniformity when documents are generated (resolutions, orders, ordinances, agendas, etc.). The Board agreed to move forward with a draft resolution in the near future.

Morrow County Code Update Discussion

Mr. Sorte explained the Morrow County Code was last officially updated in 1986 and is now out-of-date. He said it would require a commitment of staff time or funds to hire an outside contractor, but it is a lower priority. The Board requested estimates be obtained for further consideration during the budget process.

Department Reports

Road Report

Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director

Matt Scrivner, Assistant Road Master

The Road Report of activities in February was provided by Mr. Scrivner.

Road Maintenance Work on Wagon Wheel Loop and West Glen Subdivision

Mr. O'Brien requested approval for a one-time grading of Wagon Wheel Loop and West Glen Subdivision roads which are local access roads and not County roads. He went on to say the County bears some responsibility to provide occasional maintenance because these two subdivisions were poorly planned and implemented and impact a significant number of residents.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the recommendation of the Public Works Director to perform a one-time maintenance on Wagon Wheel Loop and West Glen Subdivision. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty asked if there needs to be a resolution, as mentioned in Mr. O'Brien's memo. Mr. Nelson said he would draft one while the meeting continued since Mr. O'Brien indicated the work needs to be done this week.

Commissioner Russell amended the motion to request the necessary resolution be drafted for signature later in the day before work can proceed. Commissioner Doherty seconded the amended motion. Unanimous approval. Vote on the original motion: unanimous approval.

Review Building and Park Maintenance Costs

Mr. O'Brien

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

The operating costs associated with each County building were reviewed and discussed. The Commissioners thanked Public Works for gathering the information as they said it provided them with a better understanding of charges they see in the weekly Accounts Payable.

Administrative Officer Report

Mr. Sorte reviewed his monthly written report to the Board.

Break: 10:44 a.m. **Resumed:** 10:51 a.m.

Resolution R-2017-4 – In the Matter of a Resolution to Authorize County Road Department to Expend Resources for Local Access Road

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve Resolution R-2017-4, "In the Matter of a Resolution to Authorize County Road Department to Expend Resources for Local Access Road." Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Correspondence Reviewed

- February 24, 2017 Report on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Energy and Agriculture in the Umatilla Basin
- Comment Letter signed by the Planning Director to the Oregon Department of Energy regarding the Boardman Solar Energy Preliminary Application for Site Certificate
- Letter from the Assessor/Tax Collector to Taxing Districts regarding the 2017-2018 Value Estimate
- Letter from Public Works informing the Board of the successful bidders in last week's Surplus Vehicle Sealed Bid Auction
- Legislative newsletter from Representative Greg Smith

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Doherty said he attended the February 27th ODOT sponsored Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Public Meeting in Boardman. He also attended the

LPSCC meeting where bylaws were discussed, and the 60th birthday celebration for the City of Irrigon.

- Chair Lindsay attended the Energy Facility Siting Council meeting in The Dalles; the LPSCC meeting; met with the Chief Executive Officer of CAPECO (Community Action Program of East Central Oregon); and a separate meeting with the CEO of the Morrow County Health District, Bob Houser.

Adjourned: 11:19 a.m.