

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2017
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, Wells Springs Room
2 Marine Drive, Boardman, OR

Present

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer
Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director
Kate Knop, Finance Director
Richard Tovey, County Counsel
Roberta Lutchter, Executive Assistant

Audience

David Sykes, Heppner Gazette-Times
Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector
Karen Pettigrew, Boardman City Manager
Terry Tallman, former Judge
Cheryl Tallman, Boardman

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

City and Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda/Agenda Changes: Add: Board of Commissioner (BOC) minutes of March 8th

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the following items in the Consent Calendar:

- 1. Accounts Payable dated March 16th; Payroll Payables, Monthlies dated March 3rd; Payroll Payables, Immediates & Electronic, dated February 1st, February 15th & March 1st; Employee Final Paycheck dated February 17th; and HRA VEBA dated March 1st; Correct March 8th approval of February 2017 Retirement Taxes to read March 2017 Retirement Taxes*
- 2. Minutes: February 22nd Board of Commissioners Work Session with the Budget Committee; March 1st Board of Commissioners Meeting; March 1st Board of Commissioners Work Session; March 8th Board of Commissioners Meeting (with correction)*

Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Update on the Morrow County Equity Fund and Loan Committee membership review

Rex Baker, Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC)

- Current balance on the seven loans outstanding: \$379,906.63. All loans are being paid on time and there are no delinquencies.
- Funds available to loan: \$160,759
- A new loan request will be presented in the near future, therefore, all entities that make up the Loan Review Committee need to be contacted to ensure they have a designated representative.
- Commissioner Russell and staff provided a brief history of the Morrow County Equity Fund for the benefit of the two newest Commissioners.

- Discussion took place on whether or not Loan Review Committee meetings are open to the public. Administrative Officer, Jerry Sorte, said County Counsel would provide a recommendation at the next week's BOC meeting.

Commissioner Russell moved to appoint the current Morrow County Finance Director, Kate Knop, to the Morrow County Equity Fund Loan Review Committee. Commissioner Doherty seconded. (Chair Lindsay agreed to contact Community Bank regarding its current representative.) Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Authorization to Restructure the Organization of the Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Ken Matlack

Undersheriff John Bowles

Undersheriff Bowles stated the goal is to create a working command structure that focuses on chain of command, reliability, accountability and fiscal responsibility. He said it would separate the office into five divisions: Administration, Operations, Corrections, Communications, and Administrative. Additional discussion topics:

- If approved, the restructuring would have an annual budgetary increase of \$28,000 for the department. However, the budget could accommodate the increase for the remaining few months of the current fiscal year. After that, it has not been determined or calculated.
- Over-time pay would decrease as some of the new supervisors would no longer be eligible for over-time.
- There is the possibility the Teamsters Union could object to two current positions being moved to a category that does not require union membership (Chief Civil Deputy, Detective). The restructuring will also mean some positions will be reclassified and moved to different pay ranges.
- It was clarified several times by the Board that the request being considered was to restructure the Sheriff's Office, not increase funding to that department. Undersheriff Bowles said, if necessary, future differences could be made up by cuts in the budget and applying for more grants.
- When Sheriff Matlack asked if the Sheriff's Office could directly receive revenue from traffic safety patrols (citations), Ms. Knop explained the Sheriff's Office is a "cost center" (A department within an organization that does not directly add to profits but still costs the organization money to operate.) She said the revenues generated by the Sheriff's Office are \$600,000 but personnel costs are \$2,800,000. Morrow County's General Fund supports that gap and recognizes it's a department that provides a necessary service.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the restructuring of the Sheriff's Office. Discussion of effective date. Motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the restructuring of the Sheriff's Office as presented, with the target effective date of April 1st. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Purchase Pre-Authorization Request – Sheriff's Office Vehicle

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Purchase Pre-Authorization Request from the Sheriff's Office for a 2017 Dodge Charger in the amount of \$24,303. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Break: 10:40 a.m. **Resumed:** 10:50 a.m.

Department Reports

Planning Department Update

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Ms. McLane provided updates on the following items:

- Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Transportation System Plan and Zoning Ordinance Amendments (Transportation System Plan Appendix B – Amendment; Farm and Forest Use Model Code Update; Article 2, Establishment of Zones – Amendment; Article 9, Administrative Provisions – Amendment; Article 4, Section 4.170, Site Development Review – Amendment).

Chair Lindsay asked if the Planning Commission should continue to spend its time on code and ordinance rewrites or focus on decision-making. Ms. McLane said the consensus of the Planning Commission members at the last meeting was to work on the Comprehensive Plan and codes and leave staff to do implementation. Mr. Sorte suggested Ms. McLane return in the near future with a Planning Commission work plan that will be presented to the Board for its feedback.

City County Insurance (CIS) Annual Conference Report and 2018 Premium Projections

Ms. Wolff

Ms. Wolff said both she and Ms. Knop attended this year's conference where they found many of the sessions to be beneficial. She then outlined the insurance premium projections for 2018 but noted the health benefits are based on information at the present time and could change given the unknown factors surrounding healthcare reform.

- Liability +3.8%
- Auto Physical Damage +6.5%
- Property -7.3%
- Medical (Regence) +9.0%
- Dental (Delta Dental) +2.0%
- Vision (VSP) +5.0%

Correspondence Reviewed

- Letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency approving the Morrow County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

- Agenda for the March 16th meeting of the Morrow County Compensation Board

Commissioner Reports

- Chair Lindsay said she's been in contact with Mike Ladd, Oregon Water Resources Department, North Central Region Manager, about several matters of mutual concern, and he will provide a report to the Board on April 5th in Heppner. Chair Lindsay also said she's spent time speaking to other Commissioners and met with Umatilla County Commission Chair George Murdock.
- Commissioner Doherty said he plans to meet with Representative Greg Walden during his visit to Heppner's Wee Bit O'Ireland Celebration; Chair Lindsay and Commissioner Russell echoed those plans. Commissioner Doherty said he'd like to explore the option of receiving legislative updates from Senator Bill Hansell, if it could be of benefit. Commissioner Doherty provided an update on Oregon Senate Bill 754, which would raise the minimum legal sales age of all tobacco products to 21. He said he spoke to the bill's sponsor, Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, and she is cautiously optimistic. She also expressed her gratitude to Morrow County for helping to enlist the support of Sen. Hansell.
- Commissioner Russell said he and Commissioner Doherty attended AOC (Association of Oregon Counties) meetings Sunday-Monday in Salem. He then discussed several proposed legislative bills, one sponsored by Senator Betsy Johnson, Senate Bill 936 (Increases in increments the taxable portion of value of eligible project property under the Strategic Investment Program and eliminates differences in taxation of projects in urban and rural areas); and another, House Bill 2597, which seeks to make penalties for distracted driving offenses similar to a DUII (driving while under the influence of intoxicants), with fines up to \$2,000.

Adjourned: 11:47 a.m.