

**Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**May 24, 2017**  
**Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room**  
**Heppner, Oregon**

**Present**

Chair Melissa Lindsay  
Commissioner Don Russell (via telephone)  
Commissioner Jim Doherty (via telephone)  
Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer  
Justin Nelson, County Counsel  
Carla McLane, Planning Director (via telephone)  
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

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

**City and Citizen Comments:** No comments

**Open Agenda Requests:** No items

**Consent Calendar**

*Commissioner Russell moved to approve the following items in the Consent Calendar:*

- 1. Accounts Payable dated May 25, 2017; Void Check dated May 17, 2017; 2017 Q1 SUTA Tax Rate Adjustment Payment dated May 18, 2017*
- 2. Public Works Permit Applications for Necessity to Build on Right-of-Way #OLR and #OLT.*

*Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

**9:03 a.m. Public Hearing – Transportation System Plan Appendix B Update**

Chair Lindsay opened the Public Hearing and noted there was one person in the audience, Mr. Jack Engle. Planning Director Carla McLane asked Mr. Engle if he could provide testimony at the continuation of this Public Hearing on May 31, 2017. Chair Lindsay added that due to travel commitments by two of the Commissioners, they were only available by phone today and preferred to continue the Public Hearing until next week to allow full participation. She told Mr. Engle he had the option of providing comment today or next week, but the Board would accommodate putting his comments into the record today if that was his preference.

Jack Engle, Heppner

Mr. Engle said when he bought 800 acres here in 1995 the roads near his home were in good condition, but they have deteriorated in the last 22 years. He said some of the roads were recently graded (Liberty School Road, Dale Brown Road, Logan Lane) but spring rains caused ruts and run-off. He asked the County to put gravel on the roads he mentioned. He also asked what the County plans for the north end of Liberty School Road in the Keck Canyon area because that section is in a bad state of repair.

Chair Lindsay said the best way to handle this would be for Mr. Engle to talk to the Road Committee as this particular Public Hearing is for the Transportation System Plan, Appendix B Update. Administrative Officer Jerry Sorte said staff will follow up with Mr. Engle to get him the proper contact information for Public Works/Road Department staff. Chair Lindsay went on to explain the Road Committee is very active and the County is working to fund roads the best it can, given the restriction that General Fund dollars cannot fund road work. She said the next Road Committee meeting will be in June and that would be a good place for Mr. Engle to start. She also invited him to next Wednesday's Public Hearing if he would like to restate his concerns after meeting with Public Works/Road Department staff.

Ms. McLane said the Transportation System Plan Appendix B lists Liberty School Road on the Medium Priority List of Projects and identifies it as asphalt that will be reclaimed back to gravel (Highway 206 to Bergstrom Lane, 2.9 miles). Ms. McLane also referred Mr. Engle to Public Works/Road Department personnel, saying they could better answer his more detailed questions. She also asked to be provided with Mr. Engle's contact information.

Chair Lindsay said the Public Hearing will be continued to allow further notice and participation to May 31, 2017, 9:00 a.m., Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room, 110 N. Court Street, Heppner.

*Commissioner Russell moved to continue the Public Hearing on the Transportation System Plan Appendix B Update to May 31, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room, 110 N. Court Street in Heppner. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.*

## **Business Items**

### Corrected Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2017

Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer

Mr. Sorte explained the Board minutes adopted on May 10<sup>th</sup> for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting contained an error concerning the discussion about which County employees/officials should have access by Board Policy to inquire about Morrow County bank accounts. He said the minutes stated the Administrative Officer was to draft a policy, seeming to imply a policy would be written and brought back. He said his recollection of the discussion was the Board made the policy at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and directed the Administrative Officer to write a letter indicating that was the policy that would then be distributed to the banks. He asked the Commissioners if this was their recollection as well. He said corrected minutes were prepared using the minute taker's notes but there is benefit to the Board reiterating its intent. County Counsel Justin Nelson said the minutes do need to be clear as to what was intended to happen.

Commissioner Russell said it was clear in his mind the intent of the motion was to set policy that the three elected Commissioners, Finance Director and Treasurer have access to bank accounts. At the end of the day, if a Commissioner, the Finance Director or the Treasurer have a banking

question, they should be able to go directly to a bank and get a direct response without it being filtered by someone else.

Commissioner Doherty said the Board was clear in directing staff to craft a letter to allow Commissioners to look into bank matters. There is no harm in additional checks and balances, he said.

*Commissioner Doherty moved to accept the adjusted minutes of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Discussion: Chair Lindsay said the conversation has been clarified in that Commissioner Russell made a motion that staff draft a policy when in fact we intended to draft a letter stating our policy, which was an agreement between the three of us that we wanted a letter drafted to also authorize the Commissioners and Finance Director inquiry access. The word “policy” created an issue, we’re stating our agreement as Commissioners was we draft a letter stating our desire. Mr. Sorte asked if he was correct that on May 3<sup>rd</sup> the Board made the policy that those people would have inquiry access. Chair Lindsay agreed; Commissioner Russell said yes, we made policy at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Commissioner Doherty said he had nothing further to add. Unanimous approval.*

### **Department Reports**

Written monthly reports were provided for the Road Department and Sheriff’s Office.

**Adjourned:** 9:24 a.m.