

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2017
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Kim Cutsforth, Interim Administrative Officer
Justin Nelson, County Counsel
Kate Knop, Finance Director
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 9:00 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda: Chair Lindsay requested to add a discussion on the Staff Accountant position discussed at the August 23rd meeting.

9:01 a.m. Public Hearing – Strategic Investment Program (SIP) Agreement with Wheatridge/NextEra Energy, Inc.

Chair Lindsay handed the gavel to Commissioner Russell to conduct the hearing as she recused herself from the discussion and decision.

Chair Russell called for abstentions or conflict of interest - Chair Russell: none; Commissioner Doherty: none. Chair Russell called for the Staff Report.

Justin Nelson, County Counsel summarized the negotiation process that led to today's proposed SIP Agreement with Wheatridge/NextEra Energy, Inc. He pointed out a motion made by the County Court on January 14, 2015 stipulated future SIP agreements shall use Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CBEC) for all electric service needs for project facilities located within CBEC Public Utilities Commission assigned service territory within Morrow County, unless otherwise agreed in writing. He said he received an email yesterday from CBEC General Manager Tom Wolff waiving that provision. Mr. Nelson recommended the Board consider and approve the SIP Agreement and corresponding Resolution No. R-2017-24.

There were no responses to Chair Russell's calls for proponents, opponents or neutral parties to speak. He closed the Public Hearing at 9:11 a.m.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the Oregon Strategic Investment Program Agreement "Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility" and accompanying Resolution No. R-2017-24: In the Matter of Requesting that the Oregon Business Development Department Exempt the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility from Property Taxation under the Strategic Investment Program. Chair

Russell seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty took the opportunity to thank the other members of the negotiating team. He added that during his campaign he made it clear he wasn't a proponent of wind energy, but as he now sits in the seat as a Commissioner, he had to negotiate a value he felt was good for the County. He said he believed he was able to get to that spot. Chair Russell extended a thank you to Commissioner Doherty for the extra time he put into the negotiations. As it was Commissioner Doherty's first time negotiating a SIP Agreement, Chair Russell said he proved himself capable. Aye: Chair Russell; Commissioner Doherty. Recused: Commissioner Lindsay. Motion carried.

The gavel was passed back to Chair Lindsay.

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable dated September 7th in the amount of \$241,055.06; Manual Checks dated August 28th; Void Checks dated August 22nd; Payroll Payables, Immediates & Electronic dated August 15th, 28th (Employee Final) and August 29th*
- 2. Minutes: August 9th; August 16th*
- 3. Kayak Public Transit Purchase Service Agreement, effective July 1, 2017-June 30, 2019*
- 4. Request to Issue Credit Card to Interim Administrative Officer*
- 5. Three Public Works Purchase Pre-Authorization Requests – Addition to Lexington Office Building (\$150,000); De-icer Tank & Application System (\$9,850); Pickup Plow (\$8,795)*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Waste Connections, Inc. Letters of Support

Kevin Green, District Manager, Waste Collections, Inc.

Mr. Green requested two letters of support: 1.) To Metro Procurement Services (bid to receive up to 500,000 tons of Metro municipal solid waste); and 2.) To the Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners (Headquarters Landfill Request for Proposals). Various discussions.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve signing the letters of support for Waste Connections, Inc. to Metro Procurement Services and the Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Janitorial Contract Update & Discussion

Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director

Sandi Pointer, Public Works Management Assistant

Ms. Pointer returned to discuss bid amounts with and without the janitorial service emptying office area garbage cans (not restrooms or other public areas):

- If employees empty the garbage cans in their work areas: \$90,336 per year
- If the janitorial service empties all garbage cans: \$99,696 per year

Finance Director Kate Knop noted the gap between what was budgeted for janitorial services and the bid now stands at about \$30,000, when you take into consideration what has already been paid out for janitorial services so far this fiscal year.

Interim Administrator Kim Cutsforth said the County will communicate with employees as to expectations with this change.

Commissioner Russell moved to accept the bid from Patriot Building and Grounds Maintenance in the amount of \$90,336, with a contract to follow in the near future. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Request to Approve School Resource Officer (SRO) Position

Kim Cutsforth, Interim Administrator

Ms. Cutsforth explained this is a housekeeping item to create a budget line item for the SRO position that was approved during the Budget Committee Hearings.

Ms. Knop said formal approval is required for a budget adjustment of \$65,000 from contingency to increase the Sheriff's Office FTEs (full time equivalents), and the funds from the school districts associated with the memorandums of understanding for this position. She said she will return next week with the formal resolution.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the School Resource Officer position, as needed by the Finance Department Director. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Revised Intergovernmental Agreement with Oregon Water Resources Department

Chair Lindsay explained the original agreement signed on August 16th listed incorrect "Deliverables" dates. This revision corrects those dates, she said.

Commissioner Doherty moved to accept the Intergovernmental Agreement with Oregon Water Resources Department, as revised. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Proposed Staff Accountant Position

Chair Lindsay said she called David Sykes, Heppner Gazette-Times Editor, about the inaccuracies in the August 30th article about the Staff Accountant position. He will be printing a correction in the next edition, she said.

Chair Lindsay then talked about meetings she held to discuss this position, and updated the Board on work being done by staff to gather more information as a result of discussions at the August 23rd BOC meeting.

It was clarified by the Board that the County Auditor/Finance Director is not expected to perform all the County Auditor duties listed in Oregon Revised Statute until the County's analysis is completed.

Department Reports

Treasurer's Monthly Report

Gayle Gutierrez, Treasurer

The monthly report by Ms. Gutierrez included the Pooled Cash Report; Report of Interest Rates; Outstanding Checks; Finley Buttes License Fee Fund; and Finley Buttes Trust Road Fund. She also said she submitted a revised Investment Policy to the Oregon Short Term Fund Board, which is scheduled to be reviewed in October.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Doherty said a great deal of his time recently has been spent on the SIP negotiations, however, he also attended meetings related Public Health and public transportation (The Loop). He said he contacted a counterpart in Multnomah County to offer Morrow County's assistance in the wake of the Eagle Creek fire.
- Commissioner Russell said upcoming meetings include an Association of Oregon Counties meeting; a Business Oregon meeting; and the Governor's Luncheon in Pendleton.

Adjourned: 10:09 a.m.