

Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
September 27, 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
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

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

City and Citizen Comments

Janet Greenup, Heppner

Ms. Greenup discussed the recent change DirecTV made to subscribers in Morrow County by converting their local channels from the Portland market to the Yakima market. She said this was done without notice and people were not given the choice. After receiving no satisfaction from DirecTV's customer service, Ms. Greenup did some investigating of her own. She found the "Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act Reauthorization Act of 2014 (STELAR) Market Modification – Overview of Process for Requesting FCC to Modify a Broadcast Station's Local Television Market for Cable or Satellite Carriage Purposes." In a nutshell, County governments can file a Market Modification Petition. The Commissioners requested Ms. Greenup provide the information to their office, and said they will schedule this for discussion in the near future.

Open Agenda: Request to add: September 13th & 20th minutes to the Consent Calendar; discussion on holding Business Meetings separate from regular Board of Commissioner meetings; discussion on bringing in a facilitator on the topic of team building.

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable dated September 28th in the amount of \$199,846.75*
- 2. September 13th and 20th minutes*
- 3. Purchase Pre-Authorization Request, Weed Department, 2018 Dodge Ram 4500 Regular Cab Chassis 4x4, \$41,719*
- 4. Order No. OR-2017-8: In the Matter of Appointing Members to the Morrow County Board of Property Tax Appeals (Don Russell as Chairperson and member representing the County Governing Body; Ed Rollins and John Qualls as members representing the Non-Office Holding Pool; terms from October 15, 2017-June 30, 2018)*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval

Business Items

Will Elder, Senior Solid Waste Operations Planner, Metro

Mr. Elder explained Metro is the regional governance entity for the management of growth, infrastructure and development in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties. Metro recently began a procurement process for the transfer and disposal of solid waste, and four potential landfills were identified. They are: Finley Buttes Landfill, Morrow County; Columbia Ridge Landfill, Gilliam County; Wasco County Landfill, Wasco County; Roosevelt Regional Landfill, Klickitat County, Washington. In discussing the timeline, Mr. Elder said he will meet with the Metro Council October 12th to summarize the feedback from each of the counties; the Request for Proposals will be issued in November; responses will be evaluated in the spring of 2018; negotiations in the summer of 2018; the contract will take effect January 1, 2020. He said the important components of the RFQ will be a landfill capacity of 30 years or greater, and the use of landfill gas-to-energy fuel. Comments from the Commissioners:

- Commissioner Russell said since Finley Buttes' inception, it's been a good business partner for Morrow County. He said they take good care of the landfill and crews pick up debris that comes off the trucks on Bombing Range Road. Finley Buttes also produces electricity for the neighboring onion plant. Morrow County shines in its ability to offer multiple freight opportunities via trucking, barge and rail. He said Morrow County welcomes the opportunity for Finley Buttes to grow its business.
- Commissioner Doherty asked how truck traffic would be impacted in the region. Mr. Elder said 60 trucks travel through the Gorge daily, but it would depend on the scenario. In the scenario where waste is brought by barge or rail and ends up near the Port of Morrow intermodal yard, the trucking distance would be much shorter. However, containers that go by barge or rail hold 30 tons, while Metro's trailers hold 34 tons, which means the number of trucks from the Port of Morrow to Finley Buttes could increase by a few more than 60. Commissioner Doherty commented eastern Oregon is the "playground" for recreationists from the Portland metro area, and it's also "energy central" for that area's power needs through gas, solar, and wind generation. Eastern Oregon receives 65% of Portland and Salem's bio-waste and Metro needs to appreciate what we do for them, and vice-versa, he said.
- Chair Lindsay said as a neighbor to Finley Buttes, it's in her view on a daily basis and she regards it as a growing hill and not a growing dump. She said Finley Buttes Landfill responds quickly to complaints, and maintains open and frequent communications with the Board of Commissioners.

Process to Add Weeds to the County's "A" list of Noxious Weeds

Dave Pranger, Weed Inspector/Coordinator

Carla McLane, Planning Director, via telephone

Mr. Pranger requested permission to begin the process to add three weeds to the County's "A" List of Noxious Weeds. They are Plumeless thistle, Flowering rush, and Yellow flag iris. The Weed Advisory Board concurs with the request, said Mr. Pranger. Ms. McLane discussed the process to amend the relevant ordinances. By consensus, the Board agreed to initiate the

process. Ms. McLane said she will contact other departments that might be impacted and will return when the amendment process is ready to move forward.

Update from the Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Office

Janet Greenup, SWCD Manager

A summary of activities provided by staff at the SWCD Office include:

- Assisting landowners with grant writing. Successful projects include a Ducks Unlimited/Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) grant to a landowner in Irrigon for engineering in a wetland, and another for construction and repairs in a wetland; Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board/Oregon Weed Board grant for a biocontrol using gall midge and gall wasps to prevent Russian Knapweed seed head formation. The biocontrol has been moved to different locations in the County. It's also being used in nine other Oregon counties.
- OWEB Small Grants are offered through a team effort of the Umatilla Basin and Walla Walla Watershed Councils, and other SWCD Offices in the area by assisting landowners with grants up to \$15,000 for upland projects, such as spring development and riparian fencing along creeks.
- Provide wildlife guzzlers in Morrow and Gilliam County for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) mid-management practices for contracts prior to 2017. Students at Heppner High School construct the roofs at a cost of \$35 each.
- Manage a Wildlife Habitat Program in partnership with ODFW.
- Acts as the Weed Advisory Board to the Board of Commissioners.
- Provides plant identification to citizens.
- Hands out free weed spray on specific days in Boardman, Irrigon and Heppner.
- Coordinates the Watershed Field Day held each year in Lexington for area sixth graders. The Umatilla County SWCD Office and the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council also assist in coordination.
- For two years now, the Morrow SWCD Office has been able to provide health insurance to its employees (not families) for the first time in at least 30 years. This was due to the monetary assistance from Morrow County (\$55,000).

Parole and Probation Intergovernmental Agreement #5471

Undersheriff John Bowles

Commissioner Russell moved to approve Intergovernmental Agreement #5471 with the State of Oregon Department of Corrections to provide Parole and Probation services, effective July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019, in the amount of \$1,167,408, and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Team Building Facilitator

Chair Lindsay said she and Commissioner Doherty heard this particular speaker at last week's County College Session. His name is David Rabiner and he's done seminars for Community Counseling Solutions in the past. She said she asked Kim Cutsforth, Interim Administrator, to poll the department heads and elected officials as to interest.

Ms. Cutsforth said she was able to speak to most of them, and all but one thought it was a good idea. The Commissioners asked Ms. Cutsforth to return next week with a cost estimate and timeframe. Chair Lindsay said Court Discretionary Funds could be used.

Possible Addition of Business Meetings to BOC Schedule

Chair Lindsay said numerous counties utilize the Business Meeting format to meet and discuss items informally. They are open public meetings, she stressed, and the decision making will take place in the regular Wednesday Board of Commissioners meetings. She asked her fellow Commissioners to give this consideration and perhaps start on a once monthly basis.

Department Reports

Road Report

Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director

Matt Scrivner, Assistant Road Master

Mr. Scrivner reviewed his Road Report for work done since the last week of August.

Commissioner Doherty stated the Road Department received the largest budget amount in Morrow County's history and asked if the work will carryover until next spring. Both Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Scrivner said it will. Mr. Scrivner added the crew worked on more roads than originally anticipated. Mr. O'Brien said every project came in under the original estimate, even the projects that were contracted out.

Sheriff's Office Report

Undersheriff John Bowles

Undersheriff Bowles highlighted a few items from the report:

- Successful search and rescue on September 11th of three juveniles separated from their hunting party.
- A suspicious circumstances call in Irrigon on September 18th resulted in the arrest of three individuals on burglary and outstanding warrant charges.
- Officer involved shooting on September 22nd. The suspect is hospitalized in Portland and is conscious and alert. Oregon State Police are investigating and the Morrow County Deputy is on paid leave. The event was captured on the deputy's body camera, as well as those of the responding officers.

Miscellaneous

Background Information on the Northeast Water Association (NOWA) Dues Invoice

As a result of an email inquiry from Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant, former Commissioner Leann Rea offered to provide the history of the County's association with NOWA. After recounting the events that led to the formation of NOWA, she said the County agreed to pay \$5,000 a year for two to three years, at which time NOWA was expected to be self-supporting. [\$5,000 payments were made for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, with the 2017-2018 invoice expected shortly.]

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Doherty discussed his upcoming meeting schedule and noted he just attended the final session of County College. He said he was asked to run for the Vice President position for the Association of Oregon Counties Board of Directors, which he will do. He said he is interested in the position if it can bring value to Morrow County.
- Commissioner Russell attended the Community Renewable Energy Association (CREA) meeting where that group is looking for additional money to study the incentives Oregon offers in comparison to other states.

Commissioner Russell discussed an email he received from Greg Smith in his role as Director of the Columbia Development Authority regarding the transfer of the former Chemical Weapons Depot to local control. That date was scheduled for December 1, 2017 but is now delayed until May 30, 2018. Commissioner Russell said it's been at least 25 years to get to this point and he doubted any of the original people involved will live long enough to see its completion. He said a new management plan is being drafted by Catherine Dickson with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation but she has missed the last three meetings of the CDA. Commissioner Russell discussed the possibility of allowing the other entities to carve out their sections and let the tribes continue to negotiate their section. He said the tribe's negotiations shouldn't delay the economic benefits expected by the other entities and the people of the northeast Oregon Columbia Basin region. Commissioner Doherty suggested we contact our Congressional delegation to help move the process along. If that doesn't help, we should "cut bait," he said.

Commissioner Russell also discussed the Public Health Community Advisory Committee meeting in Baker City. He said he had the opportunity to talk to Sheree Smith, Public Health Director, about the difficulty in recruiting new nurses because our wage is not competitive. He said this issue, which is also faced by the Sheriff's Office, needs to be discussed, however before that, the sustainability of the County's retirement plan needs to be reviewed at a Business Meeting or Work Session. Commissioner Doherty agreed, as did Chair Lindsay who said it's been on the table for at least two years.

Correspondence

- Email correspondence from the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners Office asking for a joint meeting on Friday, October 13th at 10:30 a.m. Suggested agenda topics include Workforce; Water issues; 911 Dispatch; Health Programs; and Veterans.

Adjourned: 11:12 a.m.