

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2017
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty

Darrell J. Green, County Administrator
Kim Cutsforth, Interim Admin. Officer
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 9:02 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda: Request to add to Business Items: Update on the concessionaire contract at The Landing Lodge at the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park. Request to add to Consent Calendar: Executive Session Minutes of November 1st; and the Justice Reinvestment Grant Award.

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable dated November 30th in the amount of \$327,567.85*
- 2. Manual check to Pioneer Construction dated November 20th in the amount of \$949,735.67*
- 3. Board Minutes: November 1st Regular Meeting & Executive Session; November 8th Regular Meeting*
- 4. Order Number OR-2017-10: In the Matter of Correcting Road Name Inconsistencies Along Columbia Avenue and Columbia Lane*
- 5. Annual Renewal of Property Use License between Oregon State University and Morrow County Parks to conduct Oregon ATV Safety Youth Rider Endorsement Classes and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*
- 6. Tax refunds due to taxpayer overpayments to: Kaizen Holdings, LLC in the amount of \$2,968.48; Waste Connections U.S., Inc. in the amount of \$130,364.60; and CoreLogic in the amount of \$3,354.98*
- 7. Justice Reinvestment Grant Program Grant Agreement – total funding award: \$135,527.61; grant period of July 1, 2017-June 30, 2019; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*

Business Items

Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County Update

Lisa Patton, Neighborhood Center Coordinator
Leann Rea, Neighborhood Center Board President
Barb Orwick, Neighborhood Center Board Vice-President

Ms. Patton reviewed statistical reports for August-September, covering such topics as number of food boxes distributed, number of families assisted with various needs, and number of people referred to other agencies for assistance. She also discussed the Giving Tree program and the

Kids Shopping Day. Ms. Patton also provided the Working Budget for 2018. The Commissioners commended Ms. Patton and the Neighborhood Center Board members for the volume of people assisted by the Center.

OHV Park Concessionaire at The Landing Lodge

Ms. Cutsforth explained the contract with John and Barbara Harris to act as the concessionaire at The Landing expired in November and the County was in the process of reviewing that contract with the possibility of renewing it. To that end, she said she and Parks General Manager Greg Close met with the Harris' representative and had multiple email communications regarding the possible terms of a new contract, but all parties could not agree. She said the County's five-percent portion of the gross revenue at The Landing dropped by half from the first year of the contract with the Harris' to the second (\$9,600 in the first year; \$3,500 in the second year). The County was subsidizing double what it had been, said Ms. Cutsforth. On the other hand, she continued, The Landing may always need to be subsidized in some form as its presence is considered a way to attract people to the OHV Park. She said the County will issue a request for proposals and she encouraged the Harris' to submit a proposal, but they declined.

Ms. Cutsforth said this is coming before the Board at this point because there have been negative comments about the County made on Facebook, and a great deal of misinformation as a result. Those posts also included contact information for the Commissioners, Public Works Director, and Parks General Manager and encouraged people to make contact with them. Ms. Cutsforth suggested a response be drafted for the email communications received by the County and the Board directed her to do so.

Reduce Redemption Period for Property

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

As discussed on a prior date with the Board, this involves a vacant house in Heppner owned by Sally Marlatt. She died in 2013 and had participated in the Oregon Property Tax Deferral program for Senior Citizens beginning in 1994. The lien against the property now exceeds \$15,000, nearly half of which is interest. The Senior Deferral Lien must be paid by the County to the Department of Revenue when the Tax Collector deeds the property to Morrow County. Postponing the normal end of the redemption date will allow the lien to become larger and the house to fall in further disrepair. Ms. Marlatt's estate was dismissed as insolvent by the Circuit Court in May of 2015. Discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve mailing the Notification of Property Alleged to be Subject to Waste or Abandonment to lien holders listed in the Title Report and set a Public Hearing date of January 3, 2018, 10:00 a.m., Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room, Heppner, Oregon. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner/Department Liaison Discussion

Following a discussion where both Commissioner Russell and Commissioner Doherty expressed the desire to not pursue this option, the matter was tabled.

Sheriff's Office Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA)

Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director

Ms. Wolff presented the CBA approved by the Morrow County Bargaining Team and the Morrow County Sheriff's Association and Teamsters. She reviewed the changes compared to the previous agreement.

Discussion then centered on the 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for each year of the three year agreement, retroactive to July 1, 2017. Finance Director Kate Knop noted the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Adopted Budget allowed for a 2.5% COLA. The Commissioners agreed moving forward with future union negotiations they will require precise financial impact numbers well in advance of setting the negotiation parameters for Human Resources. They also expressed some discomfort with the sequence of the County's budget process occurring prior to union negotiations and asked if union negotiations could take place earlier.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Morrow County and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office Association for the term July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020, including 3% Cost of Living Adjustments each of the three years, with the adjustment for the current year retroactive to July 1, 2017, and all other agreements as stated in the document. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Ms. Wolff said the Subscription Agreement, which pertains to health insurance benefits, was only received two days ago and is being reviewed by Finance and County Counsel. She asked that the Board designate someone to sign the document, once the reviews have been completed. The Board agreed by consensus to authorize the Chair or County Administrator to sign the Oregon Teamster Employers Trust Subscription Agreement on behalf of the County.

Review Bids for Compact Track Loader; Award Bid

Matt Scrivner, Assistant Road Master

Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director

Mr. Scrivner reviewed the bids received for a new compact track loader and recommended the awarding the bid to Bobcat of Pasco.

Commissioner Russell moved to award the bid for a new Bobcat T750 T4 Compact Track Loader to Bobcat of Pasco in the amount of \$58,377.36 and authorize the purchase. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Road Department Monthly Report

Mr. Scrivner reviewed his report.

Chair Lindsay took the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Scrivner on his appointment as the Public Works Director and then thanked Mr. O'Brien for his years of service to Morrow County. She

said as a new Commissioner she had a lot of questions and Mr. O'Brien never failed to take time with her to answer them. In addition, he was always very willing to explain the workings of the Public Works Department.

Sheriff's Office Monthly Report

Administrative Lieutenant Melissa Ross

Lt. Ross reviewed her report for October, which included arrest statistics, motor vehicle accident statistics and the number of people served through Civil Paper Service. She said 85 individuals were served in October and each Civil Paper Service means multiple trips for the officer attempting to contact the person. It's a very time consuming part of law enforcement, she said.

Juvenile Department Quarterly Report

The written quarterly report provided by Juvenile Director Tom Meier was reviewed.

Correspondence

- Letter from St. Patrick's Senior Apartments Board Member Jack Meligan seeking discretionary funds from the County to help pay for a new roof on the building. The Commissioners asked that Mr. Meligan be asked to submit a formal request. Ms. Cutsforth, as the Executive Director of the Howard & Beth Bryant Foundation said it will be dedicating \$10,000-20,000 for the project. Commissioner Russell said another avenue for the Senior Center to pursue could be the Columbia River Enterprise Zone II Board funds given to the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group for community enhancement.
- Jackson County Order Number 206-17: A Resolution to Consider Solutions to the Threat of Wildfires in the Region.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Doherty discussed outreach he will attempt as the new Second Vice President for the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC). He mentioned numerous counties are joining together to find solutions to the circumstances that led to this year's wildfires, as referenced in the Jackson County Order above.
- Commissioner Russell and Chair Lindsay recapped the Road Committee and Parks Committee meetings they both attended.
- Commissioner Russell discussed some of the sessions he attended at the AOC Annual Conference earlier this month, in particular a session on the Clean Air Act and the smoke from the wildfires. He said Senator Betsy Johnson, District 16 – Scappoose, spoke very frankly about people in Portland having a lack of concern for all parts of the State, except their own when it comes to wildfires.
- Chair Lindsay said she met with Oregon Water Resources Department Region Manager Mike Ladd about several matters, including water rights; and the Heppner-Lexington Pipeline.
- Chair Lindsay requested a complete list of County-owned vehicles and the departments they are assigned to so she can better understand the status of the fleet.

Adjourned: 11:29 a.m.