

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

Present

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Kim Cutsforth, Interim Administrative Officer
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 7:50 a.m.

Open Agenda: Add: a discussion on the status of the concessionaire contract at the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park's restaurant, The Landing Lodge; and an update on the Morrow/Umatilla County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) Coordinator

Business Items

Welcome New County Administrator

Chair Lindsay welcomed Darrell Green as the new County Administrator.

Mr. Green said his first few days have gone well and he has found people to be encouraging and positive.

Ms. Cutsforth said she and Mr. Green visited most of the Departments and interacted with staff.

Congratulate Commissioner Doherty on becoming Association of Oregon Counties (AOC)
Second Vice-President

Chair Lindsay congratulated Commissioner Doherty and asked him what he thought it would entail.

Commissioner Doherty said he plans to be a part of driving legislation that can help Morrow County, while still remembering he also represents every County in the State. He said the focus will be to take care of his base first and then build out from there.

Regarding how his new responsibilities might impact Morrow County, Commissioner Doherty explained in the past year he and Commissioner Russell regularly attended the monthly AOC legislative session updates in Salem and that will continue for both of them. There is also a budget within AOC that will fund his attendance at some regional and national conferences.

Update on Morrow/Umatilla Counties LPSCC Coordinator Position

Chair Lindsay said a staffing change took place, but Morrow and Umatilla Counties plan to maintain the partnership and move forward in the shared position. She noted the Coordinator position is, in fact, an employee of AOC.

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. It was decided to continue the conversation to the regular 9:00 a.m. BOC Meeting.

Adjourned: 8:27 a.m.