

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2018
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present

Chair Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Commissioner Melissa Lindsay
Darrell Green, Administrator
Kate Knop, Finance Director
Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director
Richard Tovey, County Counsel
Roberta Lutchter, Executive Assistant

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

City and Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable dated February 1st in the amount of \$89,756.93; Accounts Payable dated February 8th in the amount \$144,552.28; Manual Check to Power Motors dated January 22nd in the amount of \$68,184.23; 2017 Q4 SUTA/WBF Quarterly Payment dated January 31st in the amount of \$8,982.19; Payroll Payables, Immediates & Electronic dated January 17th in the amount of \$147,838.81; Payroll Payables, Monthlies dated January 19th in the amount of \$176,584.47*
- 2. Minutes: January 10th and 17th; December 13th – Corrected*
- 3. Resolution No. R-2018-3: In the Matter of Appropriations for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2017 (to distribute \$1,000,000 to the Morrow County Retirement Plan)*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Presentation from Howard & Beth Bryant Foundation Regarding the Gilliam-Bisbee Building

Kim Cutsforth, Executive Director, Howard & Beth Bryant Foundation

As background, during the Budget Hearing Meetings in April 2017, the Board discussed setting aside \$250,000 to raze the Gilliam-Bisbee Building if a viable option for its use was not brought forward in the next year. Ms. Cutsforth is now asking for confirmation of the County's willingness to instead allocate those funds to bring the building up to code so the Foundation can work to restore it as an event center. Ms. Cutsforth said the amount the Foundation plans to invest in the building once it's been deeded to the appropriate non-profit entity, will be \$1,200,000. This will be done through a combination of grants, financing and other sources, she said.

After discussion, the Commissioners said that they were in favor of the proposal, but there were two questions left to answer: 1.) Whether the Board will use funds from this or the next fiscal year, and 2.) Ms. Cutsforth needs to return with additional information regarding the non-profit owner.

Road Committee Appointment Requests

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Mr. Scrivner reviewed the list of appointees and alternates.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to appoint the members and alternates to the Road Committee, as presented by the Road Department. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion. The motion was then withdrawn.

Because there were two new letters of interest presented by Mr. Scrivner and several changes suggested by the Commissioners, the Board directed staff to provide an updated list of appointment recommendations for next week's agenda.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Appointment Requests

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Sandi Pointer, Public Works Management Assistant

Public Works staff recommended the appointment of Blain Middleton, Finley BioEnergy LLC, to Position Two (residing near or adjacent to Finley Buttes Landfill). However, the Board suggested he be appointed to Position Six and staff conduct outreach to find someone who better fits the parameters of Position Two.

Commissioner Doherty moved to appoint Blain Middleton to Position Six (Person with County, At-Large); term to be July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2022. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Review Fuel Contract Bids; Award Bids

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Commissioner Russell asked why the specifications in the "Request for Bids – Gasoline" were for mid-grade gas instead of regular. The explanation from Public Works was this was a longstanding preference of the Sheriff's Office. The Commissioners requested verification from the Sheriff's Office, and if it is no longer the preference, rebid at the lower grade.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to award the following bids:

- 1. Lubricants to Hattenhauer Energy Co., LLC; \$21,281.45*
- 2. Diesel Fuel to Devin Oil Company; \$159,052*
- 3. Aviation Fuel to Devin Oil Company; \$22,645*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Review Airport Asphalt Bids; Award Bid

Sandi Pointer, Public Works Management Assistant

Ms. Pointer explained the asphalt work to the existing parking apron and fuel area at the Airport will be funded through a Federal Aviation Administration/Oregon Department of Aviation sponsored program. A public “Invitation to Bid” process resulted in two bids, with Public Works recommending Pioneer Asphalt, Inc., she said.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to award the Morrow County Lexington Airport – Apron Construction and Reconfiguration project to the low bid from Pioneer Asphalt, Inc., in the amount of \$199,156.25. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Resolution No. R-2018-4 – Local Government Grant from Oregon Parks & Recreation Department for Campground Power Upgrades at OHV Park

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Mr. Close said the Resolution initiates the County’s grant application process to the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department. The application is to make power upgrades to 25 campsites in Sections D and E at the OHV Park, explained Mr. Close. He further explained the roughly \$20,000 matching funds required of the County will be through labor and equipment costs.

Mr. Close outlined the estimates for the work as follows:

- Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc., line extension to campsites: \$38,641.33
- Wight’s Electric, 400 amp service, etc., to 25 campsites : \$46,162
- 4R Equipment LLC, drill and blast trench: \$11,500 (if needed)

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve Resolution No. R-2018-4, In the Matter of the Application for the Local Government Grant Program from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for Development at Morrow County Off-Highway Vehicle Park Campground. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay stressed the numbers presented by Mr. Close are connected to this Resolution in the last section where authorization to make purchases is mentioned. Unanimous approval.

Fire Protection Consultant Solicitation Results; Award

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

The Parks Department proposed retaining Dean Robinson as the contracted Fire Protection Consultant since the contract is due to expire. Public Works personnel gathered estimates for similar services and recommended the contract be awarded to Mr. Robinson, which will be brought forward next week.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve moving forward with engaging Dean Robinson as the Fire Protection Consultant with the contract to follow next week. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Break: 10:14 a.m.

Resume: 10:24 a.m.

Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director

Ms. Wolff presented estimates of the fiscal impact of several different options for potential COLA increases for the County's 25 non-union represented management level employees. After discussion, the Commissioners requested that an additional in-depth analysis of the long-range implications of any increases be brought forward next week.

Surplus Property Disposition

Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director

Ms. Wolff asked the Board for direction as to the disposition of a manufactured home in Irrigon now owned by the County through foreclosure (285 S.E. Fourth St.). Ms. Wolff was directed to contact any agency that may have a use for the property, such as the City of Irrigon. If there is no interest, she will return with an Order to send the property to auction.

Review Responses to the Budget Committee Vacancy Announcement

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop reviewed the letters of interest received and noted all six applicants qualify for appointment because they are registered voters. Applications were received from Kim Cutsforth, Heppner; Jeanine Dilley, Boardman; John Kilkenny, Heppner; John Qualls, Heppner; Greg Sweek, Heppner; and Jeff Wenholz, Irrigon. Discussion took place as to whether the appointment should be based on geographic residency or qualifications.

Commissioner Doherty moved to appoint John Qualls to a three-year term on the Budget Committee, effective through June 30, 2020. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty said he didn't have a challenge with where people come from regionally because there is a safeguard in place against a "rogue" Budget Committee in the Board of Commissioners having the final say. He said while many have expressed to him a preference for regional representation, that sentiment needs to be worked through, but that may be his approach as well. Chair Russell said it's important to keep regional representation on the Budget Committee because what is important to someone in Ione may not be important to someone in Irrigon. He said the County should look for representation from throughout the County on how to spend County dollars. Commissioner Lindsay said she looked at the applicants as individuals and who was more qualified for the daunting task of serving on the Budget Committee. Extensive discussion then took place on geographic residency vs. qualifications. Aye: Commissioner Lindsay. Nay: Chair Russell and Commissioner Doherty. Motion failed.

Chair Russell moved to appoint Jeff Wenholz to a three-year term on the Budget Committee, effective through June 30, 2020. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion. Aye: Chair Russell and Commissioner Doherty. Nay: Commissioner Lindsay. Motion carried.

The Commissioners expressed thanks to all the applicants for their willingness to serve and encouraged people to attend the Budget Hearings scheduled for April 17-19 at the Bartholomew Building.

Review Morrow County Goals for North County Facilities from Crow Engineering

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green reviewed the seven goals compiled by Crow Engineering for Morrow County Facility Planning and asked the Commissioners for feedback so a final list can be relayed to Crow. There was then concern expressed by some audience members about the Board's intentions concerning goal #7:

- Provide Morrow County with a plan to build a new fully functional and aesthetically appealing facility that will allow for a north County presence to serve its public majority who reside in Boardman and Irrigon, while retaining its seat in Heppner.

The Commissioners stressed there were no intentions to move the County seat and that the sentence contains the phrase "while retaining its seat in Heppner." In the end, it was determined to strike the sentence.

Department Reports

Treasurer's Report

Gayle Gutierrez, Treasurer

Ms. Gutierrez reviewed her report and noted the interest rate for the Local Government Investment pool is currently 1.85%.

Ms. Gutierrez said she is continuing to find out why the Oregon Short Term Review Board has not notified her that they approved the Morrow County Investment Policy in October. She said Morrow County is not the only entity in the same situation.

Assessment & Tax Quarterly Report

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

Mr. Gorman reviewed his report, which included the amount of 2017-2018 Taxes Left to Collect (\$1,797,619, or 94.4% collected); activities of Appraisal staff; and that he will testify tomorrow before the House Revenue Committee regarding House Bill 4139 (Rental Equipment Tax).

Finance Department Quarterly Report

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop reviewed her report for October-December 2017. She said her efforts have focused on publishing the audited Morrow County Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and the administration of the Morrow County Retirement Plan. She also outlined additional work taking place in her office by all staff members (Accounts Payable, Payroll).

Administrator's Monthly Report

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green reviewed his report. He also discussed the status of the property being purchased in Boardman to relocate the Public Works yard from Irrigon. Commissioner Lindsay offered to sign the closing documents since she has been closely involved in the process from the beginning; Chair Russell and Commissioner Doherty agreed.

Correspondence Reviewed

- Letter to the Secretary of the Navy from Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Jeff Merkley and Representative Greg Walden “...regarding the Navy’s apparent lack of progress on its commitment to regional stakeholders to address certain regional impacts and energy needs, including through the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line...”
- Letters from Oregon AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) notifying the County of its intention to reopen contracts due to expire for Local 2479 and Local 2479-002.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Doherty discussed the meetings he’s attended and said he plans to discuss them in more detail in the future when time allows.
- Commissioner Lindsay discussed the possibility of an invitation to attend a meeting with the Navy at Whidbey Island and said Kathleen Cathey (Sen. Wyden’s Field Representative) may have been instrumental in securing it.
- Chair Russell said he attended the Columbia Development Authority meeting and, to no one’s surprise, the transfer date for transferring the Umatilla Chemical Depot land has been moved back by the Federal government. He said this process has been going on for at least 29 years.

Adjourned: 12:30 p.m.