

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2018
Irrigon Branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, Community Room
Irrigon, Oregon

Present

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

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

City and Citizen Comments

- Irrigon City Manager Aaron Palmquist provided a brief update. He said Irrigon was awarded a \$2,500,000 grant for sewer improvements but it will entail a 50% loan. He also offered his opinion on the plans discussed at last week's Work Session regarding the County facility to be built in Irrigon. The Commissioners stressed this was the first of what will likely be multiple drafts produced by Crow Engineering before it even reaches the public input phase.

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Lindsay requested removal of the Parks Department Purchasing Pre-Authorization Request.

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

1. *Accounts Payable dated March 15th in the amount of \$338,732.76*
2. *Minutes: January 24th, February 14th, February 21st*
3. *Buildable Lands Inventory and Housing Analysis Intergovernmental Agreement and Request for Proposals to Complete the Inventory and Analysis*
4. *Job Description for Part-Time Temporary Office Assistant (Board of Commissioners Office)*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Morrow County School District Funding Request – Day Treatment Behavior Classroom

Dirk Dirksen, Superintendent, Morrow County School District

Kimberly Lindsay, Director, Community Counseling Solutions

Jeanne McCarty, Director of Child & Family Services, Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI)

Mr. Dirksen discussed the need for a program to assist elementary-age children utilizing a separate day treatment behavior classroom facility. It would be broken into two age groups, kindergarten-third grades, and fourth-sixth grades. Mr. Dirksen said the plan is to use modular structures to house the program. Ms. Lindsay and Ms. McCarty outlined the need for the program, how it would work, and the benefits. Discussion. Mr. Dirksen said he will present the \$25,000-50,000 funding request to the County during Budget Hearings in April.

Irrigon Area Groundwater Update

Bev Bridgewater, Manager, West Extension Irrigation District

Aaron Palmquist, Irrigon City Manager

This was a continuation of the February 14th and 21st agenda items regarding an Affidavit for the Partial Abandonment of a Groundwater Certificate of Registration for a portion of a County road in the Irrigon area. After discussion and clarification, Ms. Bridgewater offered to return with the appropriate form for next week's Consent Calendar.

Parks Purchasing Pre-Authorization Request – Polaris Ranger

Greg Close, Parks Manager

Commissioner Lindsay asked questions about the budget for this request in order to assure the funding source was grants and not County dollars. Mr. Close emphasized the Parks Department is funded through grants and user fees, and added he was confident grant funding would remain consistent for "quite some time."

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Purchase Pre-Authorization Request from the Parks Department for an XP900 Ranger Titanium from John Day Polaris in the amount of \$19,168, and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Planning Commission Appointment Request

Stephanie Loving, Planner I

Stephen Wreccics, GIS Planning Tech

Four letters of interest were received for the Planning Commission Position #2 vacancy created by the resignation of Ken Bailey, Heppner. They were: Brian Thompson, Heppner; Steven Rhea, Heppner; Tripp Finch, Heppner; and Mike Alldritt, Lexington. Discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to appoint Brian Thompson to Position #2 of the Planning Commission, to serve the remainder of the term effective March 14, 2018 through December 31, 2019. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

Planning Department Monthly Report

Stephanie Loving, Planner I

Stephen Wreccics, GIS Planning Tech

Ms. Loving and Mr. Wrecsics presented Planning Director Carla McLane's report in her absence.

Correspondence

- Finance Department Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2018-2018
- Agenda for the Morrow County Budget Committee Meetings of April 17-19

Commissioner Reports

A few points of discussion during Commissioner Reports were:

- Commissioner Doherty will provide a summary on Rural Renewable Energy Development Zones in the near future.
- Current status of the part-time vacancy for the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) Coordinator for Morrow County and the disappointing way it's been handled by the Association of Oregon Counties as the responsible party and funding entity.
- Chair Russell discussed an op-ed written by Dirk Dirksen stating the graduation rates for Morrow County are actually much better than statistics reflect because of the unusual way in which the State of Oregon compiles and interprets the data.
- Discussion as to why the Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development, Jim Rue, was invited by the Navy to a meeting in San Diego when no representatives from Morrow County were even aware the meeting was taking place (Boardman Bombing Range airspace was discussed). Mr. Rue declined the invitation.

Adjourned: 10:35 a.m.