

Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2018
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center
Boardman, Oregon

Present

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

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

City and Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: Chair Russell requested a discussion on the Board's meeting locations in April.

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Lindsay requested to remove the Affidavit for the Voluntary Cancellation of a Portion of a Water Right Certificate for further discussion.

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

- 1. Accounts Payable dated March 22nd in the amount of \$63,335.06; Payroll Payables, Monthlies, dated February 27th in the amount of \$182,350.39; Four Payroll Payables, Immediates & Electronic: February 27th in the amount of \$149,164.03; March 14th in the amount of \$149,608.85; HRA VEBA dated February 27th in the amount of \$3,125; Employee Final dated February 16th in the amount of \$1,147.67.*
- 2. Minutes of February 28th, March 7th, March 14th*
- 3. 2014 Intergovernmental Agreement for Strategic Investment Program Distribution of Community Service Fee with Portland General Electric, and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County.*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Affidavit for the Voluntary Cancellation of a Portion of a Water Right Certificate

Because there were some unresolved concerns about what will actually occur with the requested transaction, the Board agreed to take up the matter again in two weeks.

Business Items

Elected Official Compensation for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director

Ms. Wolff reviewed the recommendations of the Compensation Board regarding pay for Elected Officials. The recommendations were:

1. Commissioner compensation at \$51,000 with no Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)
2. Justice of the Peace compensation at \$75,000 with no COLA
3. Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor and Sheriff to receive a three-percent COLA
4. District Attorney stipend to remain at \$8,000 with no COLA
5. Surveyor compensation at \$36,000 with no COLA because of additional benefits
6. All numbers listed are gross wage numbers
7. At the time the Justice of the Peace or Sheriff positions are eligible for filing to run for the position, the compensation of each position will be reevaluated

Commissioner Doherty moved to accept the recommendations of the Compensation Board for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, removing the Justice of the Peace recommendation for further discussion. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Chair Russell said the Surveyor's compensation is based on 30 hours worked per month, which makes his hours too few to earn benefits. Ms. Wolff explained unlike appointed employees, hours are not identified with Elected Officials. Elected Officials receive full benefits as if they were full-time employees regardless of hours worked, she said. Chair Russell asked if the Surveyor could be paid \$3,000 per month as a part-time Elected Official with no benefits. If not, he said, the salary needs to be adjusted. Ms. Wolff said she would research his question and report back next week. Vote – Aye: Commissioner Doherty. Nay: Chair Russell, Commissioner Lindsay. Motion failed.

Commissioner Doherty moved to accept the recommendations of the Compensation Board for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, removing the Justice of the Peace and Surveyor recommendations for further discussion. Chair Russell seconded. Discussion. Unanimous approval.

Discussion took place on the possibility of a bonus rather than a salary increase for the Justice of the Peace position.

Commissioner Doherty moved to accept the recommendation of the Compensation Board for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 regarding the Justice of the Peace position. Chair Russell seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay questioned whether the Compensation Board should have, in part, based the salary increase on the fact the current Justice of the Peace holds a law degree when it is not a requirement of the job. She said “positions” should be analyzed, not “people.” Commissioner Doherty said as troubled as he was by how it came together, he will follow the Compensation Board's recommendation. Vote – Aye: Chair Russell, Commissioner Doherty. Nay: Commissioner Lindsay. Motion carried.

Discussion then centered on the Surveyor position. The Commissioners agreed the best option may be to contract with the Surveyor for specific services and for the use of his equipment. In addition, the County would continue to pass through the fees to the Surveyor that are required by Oregon Revised Statute. Staff were asked to return next week to discuss the feasibility of the proposal.

Correspondence

- Notice of Town Hall Meeting with Senator Ron Wyden, 9:15 a.m., April 4th at Riverside Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium in Boardman.

Chair Russell suggested the Board meet in Boardman on April 4th in order to attend the Town Hall Meeting. This will allow a Boardman meeting to take place in April since it is usually displaced by the Budget Hearings in Heppner; the other Commissioners agreed. (The April 4th BOC Meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Center.)

- Notice to Adjoining Landowners from the Planning Department, Public Hearing on March 27th, 7:00 p.m., Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, Boardman.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Doherty provided a brief overview of Rural Renewable Energy Development Zones and requested County Counsel and the Assessor/Tax Collector research this as a possible option for Morrow County.
- Commissioner Lindsay discussed meetings attended, such as the Military Economic Advisory Meeting, and meetings with Oregon Water Resources Department personnel about the Confined Animal Feeding Operation permit for Lost Valley Farm. This led to a discussion amongst the Board and Planning Director Carla McLane about Morrow County's expectation to be kept informed of potential issues in the County. Ms. McLane said she will contact representatives of OWRD, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Department of Agriculture to schedule a more in-depth Work Session with all parties in May.
- Chair Russell said he was able to have lunch with Representative Greg Walden Saturday during the Wee Bit O'Ireland Celebration in Heppner. He said he relayed ongoing issues with the Navy to Rep. Walden.

Adjourned: 10:57 a.m.