

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2018
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present

Chair Don Russell

Commissioner Jim Doherty

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay

Darrell Green, Administrator

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

8:00 a.m. Site Visit to Lexington Airport

The Commissioners viewed a PowerPoint presentation which showed the different phases of construction for the 2018 Lexington Airport Apron Construction Project. The group then toured the Airport improvements.

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

City and Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda: Commissioner Lindsay requested to add a discussion at the end of the meeting about tomorrow's Heppner Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable dated August 2nd in the amount of \$133,471.87*
- 2. Order No. OR-2018-9: In the Matter of Establishing the Morrow County Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Committee and Adopting the Bylaws*
- 3. Oregon Health Authority Agreement #157333 – Public Health, Medicaid Administrative Claiming, effective July 1, 2018-June 30, 2023, not to exceed amount \$320,000; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

9:05 a.m. Public Hearing

AC-120-18 Morrow County Parks Master Plan – To adopt the Parks Master Plan as a guidance document for the Comprehensive Plan related to Goal 4, Forest Land, and Goal 8, Recreation

Chair Russell called for abstentions or conflicts of interest; all replied in the negative. He then explained how to offer testimony and called for the Staff Report.

Planning Director Carla McLane said the Parks Master Plan is designed to be a foundational document, especially concerning the ability to allow additional visitor/traveler services in the future. These could include food service beyond a snack shack, overnight services beyond an RV Park, and a gas station/convenience store, she said. Discussion.

Ms. McLane stated the Plan comes with a “do adopt” recommendation from the Planning Commission, but noted one map will be replaced and a minor typo will be corrected.

Chair Russell called for proponents to speak, no response. He called for opponents to speak, no response. Ms. McLane discussed the option of declaring an emergency in order to move into the next phase of the process as timely as possible.

Chair Russell closed the hearing.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to adopt the Morrow County Parks Master Plan as a guidance document for the Comprehensive Plan related to Goal 4, Forest Land, and Goal 8, Recreation. Commissioner Doherty seconded and asked if the emergency clause would be included. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Lindsay discussed her hesitancy to include the emergency clause when there is not truly an emergency. She said it was done recently for a solar facility but she was uncomfortable doing so again. Discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to add an emergency clause to the original motion to expedite the process (effective 30 days after the first and second readings). Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

9:26 a.m. Public Hearing

AC-117-18 Heideman Aggregate – To add a locally significant site to the Morrow County Inventory of Natural Resources – Aggregate Mineral Resources

Chair Russell called for abstentions or conflicts of interest. Commissioner Lindsay stated she would recuse due to a conflict of interest and removed herself from the dais; Chair Russell and Commissioner Doherty said they had no reasons to abstain or conflicts of interest. Chair Russell relayed how to offer testimony and called for the Staff Report.

Ms. McLane said the request is to amend the Morrow County Comprehensive Plan by adding a locally significant aggregate site to the Morrow County Inventory of Natural Resources – Aggregate and Mineral Resources. The associated Conditional Use Permit CUP-N-329, which allows mining on land zoned Exclusive Farm Use, was approved by the Planning Commission. She went on to describe the application and Planning Commission process to-date.

Chair Russell called for proponents to speak:

Jay Rasmussen, HNS, Inc., La Grande

Aaron Heideman, Hermiston

Mr. Rasmussen said his primary role was to represent Mr. Heideman in his efforts to establish a quarry. He went on to say HNS supplies aggregate for a variety of projects and he also mentioned some of the agencies for which HNS has worked. Chair Russell said the opposition to Mr. Heideman’s application centered around the cement and asphalt portions of the original

application, but those have since been removed, correct? Both Mr. Rasmussen and Mr. Heideman agreed.

Chair Russell called for opponents to speak: no response.

Commissioner Lindsay requested to speak as a neutral party. She said her initial concerns about the cement and asphalt portions of the permit were resolved with Mr. Heideman. However, she said she remained troubled by some of the wording still in the CUP, which she understood was removed by the Planning Commission. Ms. McLane said her notes differed from Commissioner Lindsay's recollection of the meeting. The Board discussed delaying action until the Planning Commission minutes could be reviewed but Commissioner Lindsay withdrew her objection and said she and Mr. Heideman would reach an agreement on their own.

Chair Russell closed the hearing.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve Comprehensive Plan Amendment Request AC-117-18 Associated with Conditional Use Request CUP-N-329 - Adding a locally significant aggregate site to the Morrow County Inventory of Natural Resources – Aggregate and Mineral Resources. Chair Russell seconded. Vote – Aye: Chair Russell and Commissioner Doherty; Recused: Commissioner Lindsay. Motion carried.

Ms. McLane asked if there was interest in adding an emergency clause to allow operations to begin sooner.

Commissioner Doherty moved to add an emergency clause to expedite the process (effective 30 days after the first and second readings). Chair Russell seconded. Vote – Aye: Chair Russell and Commissioner Doherty; Recused: Commissioner Lindsay. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lindsay resumed her place at the dais.

Department Reports

Treasurer's Report

The report prepared by Treasurer Gayle Gutierrez was reviewed in her absence.

Business Items

Resolution No. R-2018-18: Declaring a Drought Emergency

Chair Russell asked where the request to declare an emergency originated, since an outside request is needed to begin the process. Bob Mahoney, Heppner, said he made the request as conditions are extremely dry and the water table is shrinking rapidly. He said he was concerned about water for his livestock and that two more months of dry weather are predicted. He encouraged the Board to declare the emergency, especially since neighboring counties have already done so. Discussion as to the potential assistance to farmers and ranchers when a drought declaration is approved by the governor.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve Resolution No. R-2018-18: In the Matter of Declaring a State of Drought Emergency in Morrow County. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Break: 10:12 a.m. **Resumed:** 10:19 a.m.

National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference Review

Commissioner Jim Doherty

Commissioner Doherty recounted his recent trip by bus to the NACo Annual Conference & Exposition in Nashville. He said there were 3,000 attendees and a wide variety of meeting topics from which to choose. A few of the sessions he attended were on Health Policy and Arts & Culture. Popular topics of interest were the Veterans Choice Initiative, the Opioid Crisis, and Disaster Response. Commissioner Doherty offered many anecdotes about the bus trip itself and offered the following advice for anyone who begins to feel too full of him or herself – just take a cross-country bus ride.

Department Reports, continued

Administrator's Monthly Report

Darrell Green reviewed his report and said if the Human Resources Director candidate passes the background and reference checks, that person should start August 20th.

Sheriff's Office Monthly Report

Administrative Lieutenant Melissa Ross was on hand for questions about the report. The group discussed the collaboration among entities responding to the Wilson Prairie Fire.

Finance Department Quarterly Report

Finance Director Kate Knop reviewed her report, including the activities of each section within Finance (Payroll, Accounts Payable, etc.). She also said the recruitment for the Staff Accountant position remains open.

Assessment & Tax Quarterly Report

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

Mr. Gorman reported on the activities of Appraisal staff and Assessor/Tax Collector staff. He also reviewed the following reports:

- Summary of Property Tax Collections for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018
- 2018 Foreclosure List Issued by Morrow County
- 2017-18 Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 77 Declarations (Tax Abatement Disclosures)

Correspondence

- Oregon Department of Forestry Fire Update for Friday, July 27th

- Letter from Barry Beyeler, Community Development Director, City of Boardman, expressing the value of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Specialist Chris Lulay to the City of Boardman
- Press release from the Port of Morrow regarding the Meet & Greet for Executive Director candidates on August 6th

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Doherty attended an Alcohol & Drug Policy Committee Meeting in Portland. He said Oregon is at the bottom of the rankings when it comes to treatment and prevention, however the Governor has made prevention, treatment and recovery a priority. Commissioner Doherty also said the vendor at the OHV Park restaurant decided to move on and gave two weeks' notice.
- Commissioner Lindsay attended a meeting for public comment regarding the Forest Plan. She said there are road closures that are listed under Elk Resiliency in the Plan. She said she was told by the foresters that the County doesn't have standing in an appeal process even though we are a Cooperator, but there may be an avenue through the Eastern Oregon Counties Association. Commissioner Lindsay also discussed the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council meeting yesterday where there were good conversations about the crossover of mental health and the justice system.
- Chair Russell said he participated in the Human Resource Director interviews last week, as well as the collective bargaining negotiations as an observer.

Heppner Chamber of Commerce Presentation

The Commissioners discussed the update the County will provide at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce luncheon and who will speak on the various topics, such as wind tower projects and north County facility planning.

Signing of documents

11:45 a.m. Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) – To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations

11:55 a.m. Closed Executive Session – No decisions

11:55 a.m. Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) – To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection

12:05 p.m. Closed Executive Session – No decisions

Adjourned: 12:05 p.m.