

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2018
Bartholomew Building, Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present

Chair Don Russell

Commissioner Jim Doherty

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay

Darrell Green, Administrator

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director

Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 9:03 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 September 27th in the amount of \$200,326.31; September Retirement Taxes dated September 26th in the amount of \$275.*
- 2. Minutes: September 12th.*
- 3. Oregon Health Authority Grant Agreement #158129 – Healthcare Preparedness Region 9 Coordination Requirements, effective when signed by all parties or July 1, 2018, whichever date is later, and expire on July 31, 2019. Grant amount not-to-exceed \$40,880.*
- 4. CaCoon (Care Coordination) Subaward Agreement #1010448, Amendment 2, Shared Plan of Care, effective October 1, 2017 in the amount of \$10,000.*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Morrow County/Oregon State University Extension Update

Erin Heideman, 4-H Agent

Larry Lutcher, Agronomist

Julie Baker, Administrative Program Specialist

Mr. Lutcher discussed his research, particularly related to wheat variety trials that perform well in Morrow County. Ms. Heideman talked about her efforts to reinvigorate and grow the 4-H Program County-wide. Both Mr. Lutcher and Ms. Heideman responded to questions from Commissioners and staff.

Resolution R-2018-20 – County Opportunity Grant Application to Oregon Parks & Recreation Department for OHV Park Electrical Improvements

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Mr. Close said the County applied for a grant earlier in the year to fund the same project, but it was not successful. It was suggested the County now pursue this grant, said Mr. Close.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve Resolution No. R-2018-20, In the Matter of the Application for the County Opportunity Grant Program from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for Development at Morrow County Off-Highway Vehicle Park Campground. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Doherty asked Mr. Close about feedback from park visitors since the closing of the restaurant at the OHV Park. Mr. Close said there were more comments immediately following the closure, but over time as the information was circulated, comments decreased. He explained most visitors come prepared to be self-sustaining, with the exception of people who rent cabins. He said the restaurant is definitely missed but visitor numbers continue to increase, however, next year's statistics will be a better indicator.

Department Reports

Road Department Monthly Report

Eric Imes, Assistant Road Master

Mr. Imes reviewed his report for September. Following his review of permits approved in September, the Board discussed the approval process. Commissioner Lindsay said when the approval authority was delegated to the Public Works Director, or designee, she believed it was for approaches and simple road crossings, not for use of County easements over a substantial distance; Commissioner Doherty agreed. Commissioner Lindsay asked to bring this to a future agenda for discussion.

Correspondence

- Agenda for the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Annual Conference, November 13-15.
- Oregon Department of Energy notice of public hearing: Request for Amendment 2 of the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility site certificate to allow the certificate holder to construct and operate two battery storage systems, 20 and 30 megawatts. Public hearing will take place Thursday, October 25th, 5:30 p.m., Boardman City Hall.
- Notice of November 8th retirement open house for Port of Morrow General Manager Gary Neal, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Reports

- The Commissioners discussed this week's fire that started on the Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility – Boardman (Bombing Range) and the fact that the emergency responders from multiple entities in the County will see no reimbursement from the Navy. It was noted the only firefighting assets on the Bombing Range property were burned in the fire (a tractor and a disc).
- Commissioner Doherty discussed AOC meetings he attended as that organization's Second Vice President. The AOC special assessment to counties was then discussed by the Commissioners. The assessment is now needed to repay AOC's Road Fund because funds were moved from there to the General Fund for operating expenses. Commissioner Doherty said there have been discussions at district AOC meetings about whether the

auditors should have picked this up over the years, but AOC legal counsel, Rob Bovett, set that discussion aside.

- Commissioner Lindsay said the recent Military Economic Advisory Committee meeting took up goal setting and crafting its mission statement. She said the mission statement conversations have been interesting as the various interests, such as developers and the Navy, attempt to protect their side in the statement itself. However, she said the National Guard representatives have been productive, engaging and more understanding. Commissioner Lindsay also provided an update on the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) meeting where that group wrapped up goal setting and is moving forward on one of the goals. That goal is to rewrite current statute to allow mental health/behavioral health holds. She reported Jessy Rose, who is the current LPSCC Coordinator for Wasco, Hood River, Sherman and Wheeler Counties, will assist Morrow County on an interim basis. Commissioner Lindsay discussed the Suicide Awareness Event held at the Heppner Fit Park and coordinated by Morrow County Veterans Services Officer Linda Skendzel. She said it was an excellent event that included booths from multiple agencies, food and live music, but was not well attended. Ms. Skendzel will hold another Community Suicide Awareness Event in Boardman on Saturday, October 27th, from 12:00-4:00 p.m. at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Center.

Break: 11:05 a.m. **Resumed:** 11:10 a.m.

Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) – To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed

Closed Executive Session: 11:40 a.m.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the expenditure for the separation agreement and full release. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Aye: Chair Russell, Commissioner Lindsay. Nay: Commissioner Doherty. Motion carried.

Chair Russell said Morrow County government, as a whole, needs to follow a consistent standard in hiring. Continuing, he said other elected officials need to follow the same standard as everyone else. Chair Russell encouraged the Human Resources Director and Administrator to make sure that standard is followed. Commissioner Doherty said these comments are not necessarily related to the previous motion, but are made as overall policy; Chair Russell agreed. The Board then asked that this topic come to a Work Session in the near future for more in-depth discussion.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:43 a.m.