

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2018
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon**

Present

Chair Don Russell

Commissioner Jim Doherty

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay

Darrell Green, Administrator

Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

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

City and Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: None

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable dated December 6th, \$88,211.13; Payroll Payables, Immediates & Electronic dated November 20th, \$157,691.20*
- 2. Minutes: October 24th; November 20th*
- 3. Oregon Health Authority Agreement #158129, Amendment 1, \$6,879 in additional funding for Healthcare Preparedness Region 9 Coordination, and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Forest Service Update – Ellis Integrated Vegetation Project

Brandon Houck, District Ranger, Heppner Ranger District

Mr. Houck provided a slide presentation on the Ellis Project and discussed the timeline for public comment. In the past, the Commissioners expressed concern over potential road closures, and reiterated that concern to Mr. Houck, adding it's difficult to comment when the plan itself and associated maps are not yet available.

Mr. Houck said he does not have access to the maps either at this time, but would like to be flexible when it comes to road closures. Perhaps focus on roads already closed and not used, or roads that are closed seasonally, he explained.

Planning Director Carla McLane said in her experience with other Federal agencies, the comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the most important time to comment (October 1 - November 14, 2019). She also asked when the Commissioners can request Cooperator status. Mr. Houck said he would find that out and report back.

Mr. Houck said the public can make comment online or in-person at the Heppner Forest Service Office. While there, they can also view the map of the project area. (Comments can be made online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=41350>.)

9:37 a.m. Public Hearing – Co-adoption of the Heppner Transportation System Plan

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Stephen Wrecsics, GIS Planning Technician

The Staff Report was provided by Mr. Wrecsics. Chair Russell called for abstentions or conflicts of interest. Hearing none, a discussion took place on the difference between City of Heppner and County standards.

Chair Russell called for proponents to speak.

Edie Ball, Heppner City Manager, said it's been a journey to get this project finalized and she urged the Board to approve the Plan. She said when the City is at the point of developing its Urban Growth Boundary, both the City proper and the UGB will appear seamless.

No responses were received when Chair Russell called for opponents, neutral parties, or those offering rebuttal to speak.

9:51 a.m. Closed Public Hearing

Commissioner Doherty moved to adopt the City of Heppner Transportation System Plan Update as part of the Morrow County Transportation System Plan to be applied in the Heppner Urban Growth Boundary. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Ms. McLane asked the Board to consider adding an emergency clause since this has already been adopted by the City and development is pending.

Commissioner Lindsay said she's made her opinion clear in the past on the use of emergency clauses.

Chair Russell asked if development is anticipated. Ms. McLane replied yes, but she did not know the timing.

Commissioner Lindsay said the developer could already have invested time and effort under the existing rule. She said it would make her even more uncomfortable if the emergency clause speeds up the timeline for new rules and costs the developer even more money. Brief discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to incorporate an emergency clause for 21 days relative to the City of Heppner Transportation System Plan to be applied in the Heppner Urban Growth Boundary. Commissioner Lindsay seconded and requested further discussion. Commissioner Doherty said he did not disagree with Commissioner Lindsay's assessment, but to him an

emergency is an emergency. He said he didn't see the harm in 21 days being the default...but he would like to research it further. He said he was relying on Ms. McLane's recommendation. Chair Russell said he did not agree with the legislature's use of declaring emergencies to circumvent public input and that he needed to separate their actions from the County's actions. Vote: Aye: Chair Russell, Commissioner Doherty. Nay: Commissioner Lindsay. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Treasurer's Monthly Report

Gayle Gutierrez, Treasurer

Ms. Gutierrez provided the Pooled Cash and Outstanding Checks Reports, and current interest rates for the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP), Bank of Eastern Oregon and Community Bank. The activity summary for the LGIP was also provided.

Business Items

Board of Commissioners Committee & Board Assignments 2019

After discussion, a few changes were made to the list.

Port of Morrow Road Transfers Update

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director

Ron McKinnis, Port of Morrow Engineer

Requests have been made by the City of Boardman and the Port of Morrow to be granted authority over a number of County roads within their boundaries. Ms. McLane, Mr. Scrivner and Mr. McKinnis were back to provide an update on their research into the history of the roads and how to transfer that authority.

County Counsel Richard Tovey said as he was just seeing the proposed process for the first time, he would suggest some public notice might be necessary, as well as a process for the transfer of jurisdiction to the City of Boardman. He requested additional time to make a determination.

Department Reports, continued

Administrator's Monthly Report

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green's report included updates on building projects:

1. North County Facility – Examining the Design-Build option, which is a contracting method in which both design and construction take place simultaneously. It also offers a single point of contact and responsibility for design and construction.
2. Gilliam Bisbee Building – Quitclaim Deed signed on November 30th that conveyed the building to the Heppner Community Foundation.

He also discussed various meetings attended, as well as other projects of significance.

Sheriff's Office Monthly Report

Administrative Lieutenant Melissa Ross

After a brief review of the statistics for November, Lt. Ross said future reports will have a different format to allow for a comparison of statistics for multiple months.

Correspondence

- Public Notice – Department of Environmental Quality Requests Comments on PGE Coyote Springs' Proposed Title V Operating Permit Renewal (due January 2, 2019)

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Doherty suggested the County look into audio/video recording Board meetings. He cited a few examples of other counties that have made the move, such as Gilliam, Douglas and Umatilla. Commissioner Lindsay commented this idea has been discussed in the past, and she then asked County Counsel to look into any possible storage or retention implications.
- Commissioner Lindsay discussed a housing-related meeting in La Grande; current activities of the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council Coordinator, Jessy Rose; a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Work Session held in Portland; and a South County Community Meeting. She said one of the topics at the Community Meeting was a fixed bus route between north and south County. She said there was a great deal of support for it at the meeting.
- Chair Russell discussed the December 3rd meeting of the Columbia River Enterprise Zone II Board (CREZ). He said a decision was made to remain with the law firm currently used by CREZ and to possibly issue a Request for Proposals for legal counsel after the first of the year. Chair Russell said CREZ received an Enterprise Zone property tax abatement application which has been agreed upon, in principle, but CREZ Board members are waiting to see the final contract. Chair Russell discussed discretionary funds that come to CREZ and suggested establishing a formula for distribution, especially since those funds could grow substantially in the coming years. He asked his fellow Commissioners for ideas and suggestions. Also discussed by Chair Russell was a Leadership Summit dinner in Portland. He was able to invite two guests, who were Gilliam County Judge Steve Shaffer and Wasco County Commissioner Steve Kramer.

11:54 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

12:04 p.m. Closed Executive Session – No decisions

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:52 a.m.