

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2018
Irrigon Branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, Community Room
Irrigon, Oregon**

Present

Chair Don Russell

Commissioner Jim Doherty

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay

Darrell J. Green, Administrator

Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 9:00 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments: Brief discussion about the population estimate for Morrow County recently released by Portland State University's Population Research Center. Commissioners, staff and audience members all voiced concern that the numbers were inaccurately low.

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

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

1. *Accounts Payable dated December 13th, \$121,173.78; Retirement Taxes dated December 5th, \$19,443.71; Payroll Payables, Monthlies, dated November 28th, \$180,796.22*
2. *Order No. OR-2018-23 – In the Matter of Distributing Proceeds Held by the County Treasurer from Sales of Tax Foreclosed Lands (Elder Street, Heppner; two properties on Cain Lane)*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Veterans Services Vehicle Purchase Request

Linda Skendzel, Veterans Services Officer (VSO)

Ms. Skendzel explained funds from the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs will be used to purchase a 2018 Toyota RAV4.

Administrator Darrell Green added the ODVA funds need to be used or returned to the State. Brief discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the Veterans Services Office request to purchase a 2018 Toyota RAV4 from Rogers of Hermiston in the amount of \$23,295.77, stock number 18H1062, which includes trade-in of the 2008 Toyota Corolla currently used by the VSO (\$4,750), and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Lindsay seconded, adding if the purchase is within the maximum of \$25,966. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to authorize the Administrator to sign any other paperwork necessary for the vehicle purchase. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to amend the vehicle purchase motion to remove the stock number reference and replace it with a not-to-exceed dollar amount of \$25,966. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Planning Commission Appointments

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Ms. McLane outlined the standard procedure of advertising vacancies on the Planning Commission, which recently took place for both Positions - 5, Irrigon, and 6, Heppner. The members currently in both positions were the only parties who expressed interest. She also noted a new search will be launched since Clint Carlson resigned (Position 8, greater Ione area).

Commissioner Doherty moved to appoint Jeff Wenzholz to Planning Commission Position 5, greater Irrigon area, effective January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2022. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to appoint Greg Sweek to Planning Commission Position 6, greater Heppner area, effective January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2022. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty asked if there would be any challenge with Mr. Sweek serving as Planning Commissioner and Enterprise Zone Manager. Ms. McLane said the potential for conflict of interest could be argued and it requires the person doing that job to be clear about what he is doing when he is with you. However, there is enough removed between the Enterprise Zone Manager and the Planning Commission...and it's been a long time since a Planning and Enterprise Zone action coincided. Commissioner Doherty said if it came about, it would necessitate mentioning, at a bare minimum. Ms. McLane agreed, and said if Mr. Sweek had additional visibility on something, she'd work with him and County Counsel. Unanimous approval.

Columbia River Enterprise Zone II Board Appointment

Mr. Green explained Commissioner Lindsay's term will expire December 31st.

Commissioner Doherty moved to appoint Commissioner Lindsay to the CREZ II Board, term to be January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020. Chair Russell seconded. Discussion took place on the growth that is taking place in the County, despite the PSU estimates. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

Planning Department Monthly Report

Ms. McLane

Ms. McLane provided an update on the status of the 25 Code Enforcement cases throughout the County, most pertaining to the use of RVs as dwellings. She said 12 cases were brought into

compliance, two had citations issued, and 13 are in-progress with action plans in place. A discussion then took place on the history of the Code Enforcement position in the County. Ms. McLane said code enforcement was a Planning function until about 1998 when her predecessor decided the person doing code enforcement should be in uniform. At that time, the funding shifted to the Sheriff's Office where, until about 1 ½ years ago, there were two positions in the Sheriff's Office working code enforcement, both on a half-time basis. Currently, the Sheriff's Office has all deputies working code enforcement, however she said, the nature of shift work makes it difficult. There are a few officers who are working cooperatively on cases with Planning, she said. Ms. McLane described the process both departments are developing to better track cases. She said in some cases, the occupant is one letter away from being homeless, so Planning staff members are trying to help them transition and access services. After additional discussion, the Commissioners encouraged a collaborative discussion with Planning and the Sheriff's Office to talk about how and where code enforcement would be best served.

Other topics in Ms. McLane's Planning Report included status updates on: Morrow County Planning Commission; Solar Rulemaking; Community Wildfire Protection Plan Committee; Energy Facility Siting Council meetings; Northeast Oregon Water Association; Ellis Integrated Vegetation Project; and current and proposed partnerships with Umatilla County Public Health.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Doherty mentioned an article on "County Branding," saying it's an important goal to him, and that Mr. Green's efforts to create a brand, or identity for Morrow County should be supported. Commissioner Lindsay commented Mr. Green's efforts in that arena are evident during in-house meetings he guides, such as the Leadership Team and other policy team meetings.
- Commissioner Lindsay discussed a meeting of the CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operation) Workgroup she attended for Ms. McLane. She said there are current statutes and rules in-place but they lack "teeth," and there is a lack of inter-departmental interaction at the State level. Despite all this, she said she believed real changes will result. Discussion. Commissioner Lindsay also discussed the most recent Military Economic Advisory Committee (MEAC) meeting where "exciting conversations" are taking place with a developer and the Navy on how to get to incentive or mitigation dollars for economic losses. She also reported on the Basalt Meeting she attended with Chair Russell.
- Chair Russell discussed upcoming meetings and an agreement just approved by the CREZ II Board and Vadata Inc. that will come to the County for sign-off in the near future.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:05 a.m.