

**Morrow County Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2019
Irrigon Branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, Community Room
Irrigon, Oregon**

Present

Commissioner Jim Doherty
Commissioner Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Kim Cutsforth, Budget Committee
Linda LaRue, Budget Committee
Jeff Wenholz, Budget Committee

Darrell J. Green, Administrator
Kate Knop, Finance Director
Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director
Ronda Fox, Finance Management Assistant
Roberta Lutchter, Executive Assistant

Call to Order: 2:02 p.m.

Introduction of New Budget Committee Member

Chair Doherty introduced Kim Cutsforth, current Executive Director of the Howard & Beth Bryant Foundation. Prior to that, Ms. Cutsforth served as the County's Interim Administrator, and before that, as Heppner City Manager.

Opening Comments by Chair Doherty

Chair Doherty said the Budget Committee was reconvened for two reasons:

1. Review the Justice of the Peace salary – In recent years, the Compensation Board increased Judge Ann Spicer's salary because she holds a juris doctorate in law. The Compensation Board recognized it was not a requirement of the job and upon her retirement, that increase needed to be reevaluated. (The new Justice of the Peace appointed by Governor Kate Brown will take office at the beginning of January 2020.)
2. The Board has discussed the Treasurer position in recent years and determined that an election cycle would be the appropriate time to consider any potential adjustments or changes.

Change in Compensation of Elective Officers per 2017 ORS 204.126

Justice of the Peace Position

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop reviewed the Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) that allows a Budget Committee to approve a change in compensation of an elected official (2017 ORS 204.126). She also reviewed the process that would take place if a decision was made by the Budget Committee.

Ms. Knop, Administrator Darrell Green, County Counsel Justin Nelson, Finance Management Assistant Ronda Fox, and Human Resources Director Karmen Carlson fielded questions from the members of the Budget Committee.

Ms. Cutsforth moved that the County Budget Committee accept the recommendation of the Compensation Board and that the compensation, salary and benefits would follow the no law degree appointment and include health and dental family coverage based on #C (total compensation for the annual fiscal year would be \$124,205), effective January 1, 2020.

Commissioner Lindsay asked Ms. Knop if it should be referenced as a total number or salary only. Ms. Knop said salary only. Ms. Cutsforth commented that would be better and said we would accept the recommendation for the appointed Justice of the Peace position to be \$74,820 and to include the County's current benefit package. Ms. LaRue seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Treasurer Position

Ms. Knop reviewed the information relative to the Treasurer position provided in the public Agenda Packet for the meeting. She also said it would be beneficial to hear from the public. Various discussions.

Because all of the questions posed by the Budget Committee members were not definitively answered, it was determined to take no action at this time. Delaying action also allows time for the Committee to request and evaluate new information regarding Morrow County's Treasurer compensation as compared to other entities. Chair Doherty stated the Budget Committee needed to reconvene prior to the next Compensation Board meeting.

Adjourned: 2:54 p.m.