

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2019
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, Port Commission Room
Boardman, Oregon

Present

Chair Jim Doherty
Commissioner Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Darrell J. Green, Administrator

Kate Knop, Finance Director
Richard Tovey, County Counsel
Karmen Carlson, Human Resources Director
Roberta Lutchter, Executive Assistant

Call to Order: 9:00 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable, October 17th, \$90,413.35; Retirement Taxes, October 8th, \$20,563.41; Fair Premiums, October 17th, \$5,089.98*
- 2. Minutes: September 4th & 11th*
- 3. Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs 2019-20 Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas Grant Agreement – Morrow County; effective September 15, 2019 through September 14, 2020; \$45,000 to be used for the transportation of County veterans to VA-approved medical appointments and for the advertisement/promotion of this program; and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County*
- 4. Oregon Health & Science University Subaward Agreement #B04MC31511, Title V, Maternal & Child Services (CaCoon home visiting services for children with special healthcare needs); effective October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2024; \$9,192 to be received each year for a total of \$45,960; and authorize Chair Doherty to sign on behalf of the County*
- 5. Department of Land Conservation and Development 2019-2021 Grant Young Memorial Planning Assistance Grant Agreement #GY-21-151, \$4,000, and authorize the Planning Director to sign on behalf of the County*
- 6. Resolution No. R-2019-20: In the Matter of Authorizing Morrow County Public Works Department to Apply for an All-Terrain Vehicle Grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for operations and Maintenance Equipment Purchase for the Morrow-Grant County OHV Park*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

9:02 a.m. Public Hearing – To consider the renaming of Laurel Road

Carla McLane, Planning Director
Stephen Wrecksics, GIS Planning Tech

Chair Doherty called for abstentions or conflicts of interest. Hearing none, he outlined how to offer testimony and called for the Staff Report.

Mr. Wrecsics said Morrow County is the applicant on the request to change the name of Laurel Road to Laurel Lane Road. It is a paved County road located south of the Port of Morrow Interchange to Wilson Lane. On August 7, 2019, the Board of Commissioners approved a motion to change the name to Laurel Lane Road and for the County to be responsible for that process. He reviewed the list of agencies notified and a discussion took place on landowners notified. He said notice went to property owners in a larger, buffer area around Laurel Road, not just those abutting it.

Ms. McLane provided the history of the road and how it came to be known as Laurel Lane, Laurel Road and Laurel Lane Road.

Chair Doherty called for proponents to speak.

Ed Glenn said he wanted to acknowledge a mistake he made. He recently read the dedication of the road to the public and saw where a former County Judge marked out “lane” and put in “road.” That dedication had a recording number in the Clerk’s Office, as does the current tax assessor map. He said he assumed that number also included the reference to Laurel Road but that was wrong...It did not change as a result of the former County Judge and he apologized, adding he should not have disparaged him or the County Court. He continued, in 1996 a blanket ordinance adopted by the County changed the names of dozens of roads, including Laurel Lane. He said he was unaware of that until Ms. McLane recently pointed it out. He apologized to her for not consulting her earlier. He said for more than 10 years it was Laurel Lane, then it became Laurel Road but that was unbeknownst to map makers from far and wide. He then referenced a number of maps that currently list it as Laurel Lane. He said he knew it could be renamed to Laurel Lane without doing any injustice to the road naming/addressing ordinance because it can still have addresses assigned according to the direction the road runs. He said he believed there were nine reasons why the Board can name the road Laurel Lane rather than Laurel Lane Road (referencing the memo he provided for the record). He then said he didn’t have any idea where the distinction arose other than at one time he had a conversation with a County Judge in which the Judge asked as a matter of compromise, if the road could be named Laurel Lane Road. He said he was of the opinion yes, that can be done, but has changed his mind. He cited two of the reasons in his memo: 1.) It would destroy the poetic ring of Laurel Lane, and, 2.) The road is less than one mile long and is highly unlikely to be extended via future development. The northern terminus is a T-intersection with Boardman Avenue and the southern terminus at Wilson Lane abuts a property line unlikely to be extended. He also said it is well known in the neighborhood and to emergency personnel that it’s Laurel Lane. He concluded by saying he and his neighbors urged the County to rename it to Laurel Lane.

Commissioner Russell said in the past, he owned property at the intersection of Yates and Laurel Road and also thought it was Laurel Lane, which is what one street sign indicates.

Mr. Glenn said the other sign indicates it's Laurel Lane Road but it's currently in the ditch due to construction. He went on to review the history of the road, the right-of-way for which he and Dewey West gave the County in lieu of any monetary consideration, but with the condition it be named Laurel Lane.

J. Fletcher Hobbs said he had property close to Laurel Lane or Road, adding he thought it was called Laurel Lane. He said he talked to other neighbors and they all were of the understanding it's Laurel Lane. He said they like the name Laurel Lane and if there's a way to make that permanent, it would be good for them.

Chair Doherty called for opponents to speak. Hearing none, he asked for additional staff comment.

Undersheriff John Bowles said the Sheriff's Office staff member who does mapping through the CAD 911 system (Computer Aided Dispatch), Erik Patton, recommended it be Laurel Lane or Laurel Road but not a combination of the two. Undersheriff Bowles added he always referred to it as Laurel Lane.

Chair Doherty asked if there were any further comments or questions; no response.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Commissioner Russell moved to name the road Laurel Lane, as originally intended. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Ms. McLane said to clarify, the change will be at a cost. The Planning Department will engage Public Works to change signs and would also do its best to inform map makers, such as Google. Commissioner Russell noted one of the signs belongs to the City of Boardman. He said he independently asked representatives of the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District, the ambulance service, and the Police Department about the name and each one said it was Laurel Lane. He said this is an opportunity to correct something that should not have happened. When the road was given to the County, the request was to name it after Mr. Glenn's daughter and we should honor that. Commissioner Lindsay said at the August 7th meeting, she leaned toward the ordinance but as she listened today, especially to Emergency Management, and after reading the road dedication and hearing it was dedicated without dollars, other than wanting the name, she defaulted to not many people do that anymore but it's how things were done back in the day. She said she wanted to honor that dedication because there was nothing else done in writing. Vote: Aye: Commissioner Lindsay and Commissioner Russell. Chair Doherty said a deal was a deal and he wished Mr. Glenn would have stuck to his guns back then (when he verbally agreed to Laurel Lane Road), but he was going to go against what he said before about a deal is a deal. Vote: Aye: Chair Doherty. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Draw Applicant Names for 2019 Youth Hunt – Spike Elk

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Mr. Close outlined how the Parks Department made the public aware of this special hunt opportunity that is held annually at the OHV Park. He said ads were placed in newspapers in both Morrow and Grant Counties, the schools were informed, and they had a presence at both County Fairs. He said there were six slots available and five applications. The envelopes were opened and the names read aloud:

1. Kassadie Griffin, Irrigon
2. David Rietmann, Ione
3. Preslie Bowles, Irrigon
4. Zackariah Jones, Irrigon
5. Katie Spivey, Ione

Mr. Close said the hunts take place in the second season and applicants have to obtain their own tags.

Chair Doherty said there is an individual who is working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for additional tags for veterans and then asked Mr. Close if there might be a similar opportunity at a County park.

Mr. Close replied they would absolutely consider it as it's something they want to do.

Undersheriff Bowles said there is a Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy involved with wounded warriors by taking them hunting and fishing. He said he would put these individuals in contact with each other.

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green said the old Public Works shop is being dismantled by Public Works staff, General Maintenance staff and Parks employees. The roll-up doors and gas tank will be reused by the Parks Department. He said the site walk took place October 10th with representatives from all four Design-Build teams. He then reviewed the next few steps in the Request for Proposals process.

Overview of Sheriff's Office Accounts

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Sheriff Ken Matlack

Ms. Knop said the Board requested information on several Sheriff's Office accounts. She said she met with Sheriff Matlack and Undersheriff Bowles to gather more information about the purpose and dollar amount of each account. They are:

1. Sheriff's Trustee Account – Purpose: to receive Civil Service Fees. Balance as of June 30th: \$142.50
2. Sheriff's Reserve Deputy Account – Purpose: to receive all reserve deputy and service detail revenue for reserve deputy expenditures. Balance as of June 30th: \$1,557.49

3. Sheriff's Special Account – Purpose: to receive donations. Balance as of June 30th: \$10,340.11

Each account was discussed in greater detail but the majority of the discussion centered on the Sheriff's Special Account and whether or not it is structured in such a way to allow people to take a tax deduction for a charitable contribution.

There was also discussion about the need for a list showing all accounts under the County's Employer Identification Number, or EIN. This was specifically requested by Chair Doherty, with Commissioners Lindsay and Russell in agreement.

Bringing the discussion back to the Sheriff's Office accounts, Ms. Knop said the governing body could decide to have a special reserve fund to receive dollars. The fund could have lines to track donations, to specify the purpose or designation of the donation, and then how the funds were expended. This allows full transparency, she said. The same thing could take place for the Sheriff's Reserve Deputy Account. These ending fund balances would roll to the beginning fund balance, not the General Fund, she said.

Chair Doherty said the Budget Officer needs to work on bringing this forward.

Commissioner Russell commented people could then donate for specific reasons to the Sheriff's Office, the funds would be remitted to the Finance Department where a notation would be made as to the purpose and then the Sheriff's Office could request a check.

Chair Doherty said there needs to be the ability to make donations fully deductible.

Ms. Knop said that would be the end result.

Break: 10:43-10:50 a.m.

Chair Doherty said they would allow time for Sheriff Matlack to provide an update on several topics.

Sheriff Matlack provided an overview of the Hold Their Feet to the Fire event in September hosted by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) in Washington, D.C. He also talked about his 40-year law enforcement career and that illegal immigration wasn't as significant a problem then as it is now in Morrow County.

Code Enforcement Task Force Report

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Ms. McLane read from her report, which summarized the events leading up to the formation of the 15-person Code Enforcement Task Force and its purpose. She said a key piece that emerged from the meetings was the need for a communication network to be created and used in support

of the Code Enforcement program. She said there was consensus there should be full dedication to this program. However, how and when that happens was not fully vetted by the Task Force because of budgetary considerations, which would be a Board decision. As to what department should oversee Code Enforcement, she said there was not full agreement. The majority voted for it to be in the Planning Department but the Sheriff cast his vote for his department, she explained. The Task Force also agreed the current complaint-driven process should be reevaluated. Ms. McLane said a decision was not expected today and this was likely the first of several discussions before the Board. She said the Task Force members were looking for direction on the next steps, what department to place it in, what is the fiscal commitment, and what is the timeline for implementation. She encouraged the Commissioners contact other Task Force members for additional input. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Commissioner Russell said the Board needs to figure out three things: What emphasis to place on Code Enforcement; whether or not to fund a full-time position; and what department to place it under.

Lunch Break: 12:15-1:10 p.m.

Request for Proposals – Port of Morrow Interchange Area Management Plan (IAMP)

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Representatives from the Port of Morrow, City of Boardman, Morrow County and the Oregon Department of Transportation have been meeting to discuss the challenges to the current Port of Morrow IAMP. It was determined that the IAMP needs to be updated because it does not anticipate the types of changes to the Interchange infrastructure that are being contemplated.

Ms. McLane said the Port, City and County each contributed \$5,000 to update the IAMP, which is estimated to be around \$10,000. The County will lead the process and release the Request for Proposals (RFP).

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Request for Proposals to update the Port of Morrow Interchange Area Management Plan, originally adopted in November 2011, and authorize the Planning Department to initiate the process as outlined in the RFP. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

Juvenile Department

Christy Kenny, Juvenile Department Director

Ms. Kenny, whose first day with the County was September 3rd, reviewed her report. It included such things as the number of youth in detention, the number of youth referred to other agencies for a service, and the type of offenses committed. She also provided an update on staff activity (trainings, meetings, etc.) in her office. She said she and her staff are reevaluating where they are as an office and how to serve the kids. They are targeting risk factors for kids and what the

office is doing to address those factors instead of just supervising a court order. She said her goal moving forward is to determine how the Juvenile Department can do more for kids.

The Loop Quarterly Report

Anita Pranger, Coordinator

Ms. Pranger reviewed her report. She informed the Board The Loop's Port of Morrow/Hermiston fixed bus route previously give the green light by the Oregon Department of Transportation is now on hold because similar route plans were submitted by Umatilla County and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). She said duplicate routes are not allowed and the County cannot change the plan that was approved by ODOT. It can, however, opt to move forward with a different project that was on the list already approved by ODOT. It was noted Morrow County is much further along in the planning process than the other two entities and would like to continue with the proposed route.

Ms. Pranger also discussed vacancies on both the Special Transportation Fund (STF) Advisory Committee and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Advisory Committee.

Emergency Management Quarterly Report

Undersheriff John Bowles

Undersheriff Bowles reviewed Emergency Management activity from July-September. Following his report, Chair Doherty commented on the early morning bumper-to-bumper traffic on I-84 and Highway 730 going to Boardman, mostly due to harvest season. Brief discussion.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Russell attended Association of Oregon Counties' meetings in Salem regarding the search for an Executive Director. Locally, he attended the Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting, which did not have a quorum and was unable to consider a request from Miller and Sons for a rate increase.
- Chair Doherty mentioned Ms. McLane's upcoming retirement and suggested an exit interview take place, to which she agreed. Chair Doherty attended the same AOC meetings as Commissioner Russell, as well as The Loop meetings, and the Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee meeting.

2:13 p.m. Executive Session – Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) – To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions

2:54 p.m. Closed Executive Session

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

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 2:58 p.m.