

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2020
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Darrell J. Green, Kate Knop, Roberta Lutcher, Justin Nelson

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Stephanie Case, Mike Gorman, Lindsay Grogan, Gayle Gutierrez, Katie Imes, Tamra Mabbott, Matt Scrivner, Linda Skendzel, LeAnn Wright, Gregg Zody; Non-Staff: Torrie Griggs, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Lori Roach, David Sykes

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 9:02 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda: No items

Consent Calendar:

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

- 1. Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
- 2. Minutes: November 4th*
- 3. Property Use License with Oregon State University for All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Youth Rider Endorsement Classes at the Morrow-Grant County Off-Highway Vehicle Park; effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*
- 4. Appointment of Debbie Radie to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Committee; term to be January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023*
- 5. Memorandum of Agreement with Oregon Social Learning Center; project period March 2021 to December 2024; County will submit invoices to OSLC for \$250 per participating Juvenile Probation Officers per year; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Columbia River Enterprise Zone II Funds Distribution

Greg Sweek, Enterprise Zone Manager

Mr. Sweek said \$9,231,524.29 was disbursed at the Monday CREZ II Board Meeting. He then reviewed the recipient list, which consisted of entities throughout the County (special districts, the five incorporated communities, three economic development entities, the Port of Morrow and Morrow County). He noted the most significant change was the allocation of \$200,000, each, for infrastructure development to Heppner, Ione, Irrigon and Lexington. He said the City of Boardman wasn't included in the infrastructure development list because it received other funds as a zone sponsor (\$1,145,035.21). CREZ II will continue to disburse tax abatement funds for another 15 years because two projects were approved before the expiration of CREZ II which have 15-year exemptions; they are ReKlaim Inc. (now known as Klean Industries Boardman, Inc.) and Vadata, Inc., he said. Various discussions.

Review Order No. OR-2020-6: An Order Declaring a Local State of Emergency

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Mr. Nelson explained Order No. OR-2020-6 was signed by the Board on June 24th and was effective for 180 days. He said he would prepare a new Order for next week's Consent Calendar that would extend the State of Emergency due to COVID for an additional 180 days.

Funding to Support Public Health Departments

Chair Lindsay said, historically, funding for county public health departments has been substantially underfunded. She said, based on what was expected by the Governor and the Oregon Health Authority, the top three underfunded counties would be Malheur, Morrow and Umatilla. She asked the other Commissioners if Morrow County should submit a letter in support of "bridge" funding to public health departments until federal relief funding was available. After discussion, the Board agreed to bring forward a letter next week.

Emergency Operations Center Update

- Chair Lindsay said the latest Executive Order from the Governor, No. 20-66, specifically called out government entities. She said she wanted to make sure that was clear, that there were exemptions for government entities.
- Administrator Darrell Green said the ability for schools to remain in-person, and vaccine distribution were some of the main topics at Monday morning's weekly EOC Meeting. Also discussed were options for keeping employees informed about COVID, and joint efforts underway with the hospital, clinics and pharmacies to coordinate vaccine points-of-distribution, or PODS. December 15th was slated to be the first round of vaccines to hospitals. Rural counties, including Morrow, will not see any vaccine doses until rounds two or three.
- Chair Lindsay expressed concern that the State of Oregon still had not released a plan for vaccine distribution (a recently appointed task force was formed to make recommendations to the Governor).

Irrigon Building Update

- Mr. Green said he hoped to have the building permit on December 21st, and that equipment should be mobilized on December 15th.
- Commissioner Russell said the project was not over budget. This was good news and might free up money to add things back in that were previously eliminated.

Business Assistance Grants Update

Gregg Zody, Community Development Director

Mr. Zody provided updates on three concurrent grants:

1. Tillamook County Creamery Association Grant – \$30,000 distributed to 12 recipients; average award amount \$2,500.
2. Morrow County Resiliency Fund Grant – \$360,000 distributed; 59 applications received; 10 not approved because they did not meet the criteria; average award amount \$5,910, ranging from \$5,628 to \$24,218.
3. CARES Fund Grant – application posted to the website last Friday; due date December 15th at 5:00 p.m.; 10 applications received to-date.

Discussion took place about the possibility of another round of grants and possibly changing some of the criteria to include people denied in these rounds or others “who fell through the cracks.”

Department Reports

Community Development Department Monthly Report

Mr. Zody reviewed his written report (included in the Agenda Packet on the website).

Planning Department Monthly Report

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott reviewed her written report (included in the Agenda Packet on the website).

Treasurer’s Monthly Report

Gayle Gutierrez, Treasurer

Ms. Gutierrez reviewed her report (included in the Agenda Packet on the website). She also included a letter requesting a half-day off on Christmas eve for employees. After discussion, the Commissioners requested the idea be brought back for consideration next week.

Correspondence

- Finance Department’s Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2021-22
- News release from PGE on the PGE/NextEra Energy Resources announcing the start of commercial power generation at the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility

Commissioner Reports

Provided by each Commissioner.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 11:25 a.m.