

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2020
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Commissioner Jim Doherty, Darrell J. Green, Mike Gorman, Roberta Lutcher

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Ronda Fox, Lindsay Grogan, Gayle Gutierrez, Katie Imes, Kate Knop, Tamra Mabbott, Linda Skendzel. Non-Staff: J.R. Cook, David Sykes, one unidentified participant

Call to Order: 9:00 a.m.

Color Guard Ceremony by Ione American Legion Post 95 and Auxiliary

A video paying tribute to all military veterans was shown, followed by a brief statement from Morrow County's Veterans Services Officer, Linda Skendzel.

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 and Payroll Payables*
2. *Tenth Amendment to Oregon Health Authority Intergovernmental Agreement #159175 for the Financing of Mental Health, Addiction Treatment, Recovery & Prevention, and Problem Gambling Services; and authorize Chair Lindsay to sign on behalf of the County*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Oregon State University – Morrow County Extension Updates

In-person updates were provided by Erin Heideman (4-H Educator), Anna Browne (4-H/Juntos Latino Outreach Coordinator) and Julie Baker (Administrative Office Manager). Zoom updates were provided by Chris Schachtschneider (Animal & Rangeland Sciences) and Nicole Strong (Regional Director, Central Region). Some topics covered by each:

Mr. Schachtschneider

- Conducting online workshops for livestock producers since in-person visits have not been possible due to COVID.
- A needs-assessment survey was sent to livestock producers but the return rate was low.
- Work continues on various projects, such as a vegetation monitoring program and applying for grants.

Ms. Browne

- Even though 2020 has not been a good year, positive and fun events are being planned for the future.
- Ms. Browne took over the Umatilla County 4-H program when the person in that position left in December. The Umatilla County position has not yet been filled.

Ms. Baker

- Gradual resumption of in-person programming and on-site work activities has begun at the local office.
- The current status of employees is posted on the door of the office, on the website, listed in the outgoing phone message, and published in the local papers.
- During the time away from the office, OSU has been supportive of professional development trainings and courses for employees.

Ms. Strong

- Expressed gratitude to the Morrow County Extension faculty and staff for their responsiveness and resilience this year while still safely serving the community.
- A search has begun for a statewide 4-H Program Leader.

Larry Lutchter

- Dr. Lutchter provided a BOC update earlier in the year but offered to take the Commissioners and Administrator on a field demonstration tour of one of his research plots, when weather permits.

The Loop's Drug and Alcohol Policy

Katie Imes, Coordinator

Ms. Imes reviewed the draft policy. It was noted it only will apply to employees of The Loop. Discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Drug and Alcohol Policy for Transportation Services, The Loop – Morrow County Transportation; to be adopted December 7, 2020 and implemented after 30 days, January 4, 2021. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Eastern Oregon Workforce Board Appointment

Chair Lindsay presented the letter from Lori Roach, Executive Director of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, asking to be considered for appointment to EOWB. After a brief discussion, the Commissioners determined that for the sake of consistency, a recruitment effort should take place for the vacant Morrow County position on that Board.

Break: 10:48-11:00 a.m.

11:04 a.m. Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(g) – To consider preliminary negotiations involving matters of trade or commerce in which the governing body is in competition with governing bodies in other states or nations

11:31 a.m. Closed Executive Session

Business Items, continued

Irrigon Building Update

Mr. Green provided an update on the latest activities associated with the new building in Irrigon.

Emergency Operations Center Update

- Chair Lindsay reported five counties were designated as being on “pause” by the Governor’s Office, and while Morrow County wasn’t one of them, she feared it could be.

She recommended County residents do their best to slow the spread. She also said the 20 positive cases in the last week can be attributed to one family event. Chair Lindsay said she would meet in the near future with Bob Houser, Morrow County Health District Chief Executive Officer, to discuss providing more testing opportunities for residents.

Discuss Process for County Administrator's Annual Review

Lindsay Grogan, Human Resources Manager

Ms. Grogan presented the results of her inquiries of other counties as to how they perform evaluations for administrators.

It was agreed Chair Lindsay would work with Ms. Grogan to develop a survey for directors to fill out, which would be submitted to Chair Lindsay.

Letter Regarding Petition to Oregon Water Resources Department for Rulemaking

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Last week, the Board requested two letters be drafted to submit to OWRD in opposition to a request for rulemaking from Stand Up to Factory Farms. J.R. Cook, Director, Northeast Oregon Water Association, drafted a regional letter, while Ms. Mabbott drafted a letter specifically reflecting Morrow County's reasons for opposition. Discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the letter crafted by NOWA. Commissioner Russell seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Doherty said he didn't necessarily agree with everything in the regional letter, such as some of the land use references, and he felt Mr. Cook was using the letter to "shake loose" the Columbia River-Umatilla Solutions Task Force (CRUST) Declaration of Cooperation, but he would be happy to sign it. Chair Lindsay said she agreed. The Commissioners said if minor changes were made later today to the letter, they requested a second review. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Doherty moved to sign the letter crafted by Ms. Mabbott. Commissioner Russell seconded. Chair Lindsay said there was one correction made (remove the words "is biased and unfairly" in the first paragraph). Commissioner Russell seconded the correction. Unanimous approval of the correction. Unanimous approval of the original motion.

Department Reports

Planning Department Monthly Report

Ms. Mabbott briefly reviewed her written report.

Community Development Department Monthly Report

As Director Gregg Zody was unavailable, Chair Lindsay asked that his report be moved to next week.

Assessment & Tax Quarterly Report

Mike Gorman reviewed his written report and provided a PowerPoint presentation on:

- 2020-21 Values - Taxable, Market, and Exemptions (Strategic Investment Program and Enterprise Zone)
- 2020-21 Tax Amounts

- 2019-20 Taxable Value and Tax Amounts
- Status and payments of all SIP and Enterprise Zone Agreements
- List of Top 20 Tax Payors

Letter of Intent, Oregon Community Paths Grant Program – Project Update

The Board reviewed the written information provided by Mr. Zody, who was unable to attend.

Update on Resiliency Grants

The Board decided to move Mr. Zody's Resiliency Grants Update to next week.

Correspondence

- Schedule of listening sessions for local government representatives with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Materials Management Program
- Letter from Senator Jeff Merkley marking Veterans Day

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:45 p.m.