

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

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

Present Via Zoom

Staff: Stephanie Case, Lindsay Grogan, Katie Imes, Kate Knop, Linda Skendzel, Heidi Turrell, Gregg Zody; Non-Staff: Sarah Brown, Torrie Griggs, Lori Roach, David Sykes

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call: 9:01 a.m.

City & Citizen Comments: Veterans Services Officer, Linda Skendzel, reported there were 27 attendees at yesterday's roundtable meeting, and she thanked Chair Russell for attending.

Open Agenda: Commissioner Lindsay requested a discussion about the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the financing of the new Irrigon building.

Consent Calendar

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

- 1. Accounts Payable and Payroll Payables*
- 2. Twelfth and Thirteenth Amendments to Oregon Health Authority Intergovernmental Agreement #159175 for the Financing of Mental Health, Addiction Treatment, Recovery & Prevention and Problem Gambling Services; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County*
- 3. Review of Resolution No. R-2017-01: In the Matter of Establishing a Rotating Cycle of Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship of the Morrow County Board of Commissioners*
- 4. Three appointments to the Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee, all terms to be January 6, 2021 through December 31, 2024: John Gould representing Local Business; Robert Mahoney representing Livestock Producers; and Alan Scott representing Wolf Conservation*
- 5. Request to issue a Bank of Eastern Oregon credit card to the County Surveyor with a credit limit of \$3,000*
- 6. Letter of request to the Eastern Oregon Workforce Board to consider Morrow County's recommendation of Lori Roach to its Board*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

9:07 a.m. Public Hearing

Zoning Ordinance Amendment, AZ-133-20, Article 9: Adding Section 9.046, Administrative Review Process, and including a central location for permit expiration dates

After Chair Russell called for abstentions or conflicts of interest, each Commissioner declared, "No conflict." He asked everyone to sign-in, explained how to offer testimony and called for the Staff Report.

Stephanie Case, Planner II, said the applicant was the Morrow County Planning Department and the proposed amendment would add Section 9.046 to reflect the process of Administrative Review, as referenced in previous Ordinance updates but not incorporated into the

Administrative Provisions. Other changes, she said, included centralizing permit expiration dates into Article 9 from other areas of the Ordinance and making other minor grammatical edits throughout the Article. She said the Planning Commission recommended adoption and she then outlined three options for the Board.

It was noted one letter of support was added to the record from Brian Walsh of Avangrid Renewables. Chair Russell heard no response to calls for proponents and opponents to speak and closed the Public Hearing at 9:11 a.m.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to adopt the Zoning Ordinance Amendment, AZ-133-20, Article 9 Update. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Community Counseling Solutions Quarterly Update

Kimberly Lindsay, Executive Director

Sarah Brown, Crisis Outreach Team Leader

Ms. Lindsay discussed:

- The work within CCS for the Zero Suicide program.
- The organizational self-study implemented a year ago which has shown 33% improvement across the organization.
- A brochure CCS designed with a focus on assisting veterans.
- CCS plans to break ground on a facility in Boardman for kids (ages 6-11) who need a higher level of care. Currently, there is no resource on the east side of the State for this group of kids.
- Intensive In-Home Behavioral Health Treatment – a new level of care for youth and families who have complex and intensive behavioral health symptoms, multi-system needs, and/or are at-risk of placement disruption (quoted from the hand-out provided).

Ms. Brown then talked about the Crisis Outreach Program, which has been designed to help people rebuild after a disaster. She said everyone has been impacted by COVID and the program provides awareness of the symptoms of disaster-related stress. The program connects people with resources that can help, however, funding ends in August.

Morrow County, Umatilla County & the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Project Proposal: Hermiston-to-Boardman Connector and the Port of Morrow-to-Boardman Circular

Katie Imes, Coordinator, The Loop

Ms. Imes explained the three entities developed the routes through a joint Transit Development Strategy completed in 2018. In December 2020, a Request for Proposals for Planning Services was awarded to Kittelson and Associates to begin the process of analyzing the two potential routes. Kittelson will deliver the following in the next six months:

1. Project management and pre-planning
2. Design transit schedules
3. Operation projections for the transit schedules
4. Capital planning for the transit schedules
5. Future opportunities

Ms. Imes also wanted to make the Commissioners aware of Morrow County's portion of the costs associated with the analysis of the Hermiston-to-Boardman Connector - \$317,000.

Review Draft Comment Letter to the Oregon Department of Energy regarding the Notice of Intent for the Wheatridge Wagon Trail Solar Project

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Ms. Mabbott reviewed her draft letter. After receiving comments from the Commissioners for changes, it was decided to place the revised letter on next week's agenda.

Break: 10:30-10:41 a.m.

Report on the Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee Disbursement of Grant Funds

Commissioner Doherty provided a summary of the increased wolf activity in the County and region. He also talked about past grants that were returned to the State because no applications were received (livestock producers can apply for reimbursement of expenses associated with implementing approved wolf deterrent methods). However, this year saw seven applications come in for the \$16,000 in grant funds. Four applications were approved with an average disbursement of \$4,000.

Columbia River Enterprise Zone III Draft Intergovernmental Agreements

Various discussions took place, such as the voting configuration for each entity; the need for a resolution to take place; distribution of funds; and removal of wording about managing of boundary changes. Chair Russell said he would forward the revisions to the Port of Morrow for review.

BOC 2021 Committee & Board Assignments

This item was tabled until next week.

Emergency Operations Center Update

Administrator Darrell Green said Monday's meeting focused on three main topics: vaccine distribution, COVID testing and COVID messaging. He said the first vaccine POD (point-of-distribution) event in Heppner had 40 people, while the second event in Boardman had 30 people.

Commissioner Lindsay listed recent statistics for the County and said there was the potential to be in the Extreme Risk category in the near future. She said things were becoming "dire" for businesses in the County and that economics, mental health issues, suicides and other impacts of the COVID lockdown needed to be considered, as well. The State and the Oregon Health Authority remained solely focused on reducing the number of cases, she said. Commissioner Lindsay said the virus is deadly and following the science is important, but people are dying from these other things too.

Sheriff Station 2 Project Update

Commissioner Lindsay said she was working with a surveyor on the property partition. She also outlined the next steps in the process to get to a transfer of title on the property.

Irrigon Building Update

Darrell Green, Administrator

- A decision on subcontractors will be made soon.
- Some items originally excluded from the budget might be reconsidered for inclusion.
- Building permits might be approved by Friday, which means dirt moving equipment can come in next week.

RFP Discussion

Mr. Green said the original RFP was released around Thanksgiving and two non-responsive proposals were received. The RFP will be resubmitted and posted on the County website today, with a closing date of January 20th. He said he planned to report back with the results at the February 3rd BOC Meeting. Mr. Green proposed the review team consist of himself, Commissioner Lindsay and Ms. Knop, to which the Commissioners agreed.

Department Reports

The following reports were provided

- Administrator's Monthly Report by Mr. Green
- Sheriff's Office Monthly Report (written only)
- Fair Office Quarterly Report by Ann Jones, Fair Secretary

Correspondence

- Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials January 7th Town Hall meeting notice

Commissioner Reports

Reports of activity were provided by the Commissioners. Following the reports, a discussion took place on the status of vaccinations in the County. The Commissioners agreed by consensus for Public Health to move to Phase 2 distribution of the vaccine.

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:40 p.m.