

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Jim Doherty, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner Don Russell, Darrell Green, Eric Imes, Roberta Lutchter, Tamra Mabbott

Present Via Zoom

Sandi Pointer, Karen Pettigrew, Mike Gorman, Jonathan Tallman, David Sykes, Linda Skendzel, Carla McLane, Kirsti Cason, Mike Lees, Justin Nelson, Ronda Fox, Bobbi Childers, Jaylene Papineau, George Nairns, SaBrina Bailey-Cave, Heidi Turrell, Aaron Moss, Christy Kenny, Yvonne Morter, Patrick Collins, Chris Crean, JoAnna Lamb

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

City & Citizen Comments: Justin Nelson, District Attorney/County Counsel talked about an incident in Boardman early this morning that resulted in a large law enforcement presence and the individuals being successfully taken into custody.

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: March 2nd*
- 3. Law Enforcement Services Agreement with Morrow County School District – School Resource Officers; effective August 1, 2022 until the end of the 2022-2023 school year; District shall pay \$50,000 for the SRO serving Irrigon schools and \$25,000 for the SRO serving Heppner schools*

Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

9:17 a.m. Public Hearing: Land Use Legislative Hearing to Amend the Transportation System Plan (TSP); Ordinance No. ORD-2022-1

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

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

Tamra Mabbott said the following: This was the second Public Hearing and there was discussion about a month ago. The purpose of this TSP update is to update what was previously a pretty lean reference to public transit and that she was trying to keep up with Katie Imes' work on transit. Based on the Hermiston-Boardman Connector Plan she worked on, it made sense to update the TSP, which is the land use complement to what an actual land use plan would look like.

Chair Doherty called for proponents to speak, no response; opponents, no response; those with general comments, no response. He said the Board would forego rebuttal and cross examination and close the Public Hearing at 9:21 a.m. to deliberate to a decision.

Chair Doherty said it was clearly in the earlier version of the document that citizens were desirous of a Greyhound bus stop and the County built on that a little more, and some of our partners in Boardman were maybe amenable to it but not in the town proper, if you will. Is it still in there, he asked?

Ms. Mabbott replied it was not site specific.

Chair Doherty added there wasn't testimony in favor or in opposition but if it was in the original TSP without vocal opposition, then he thought it was something that should be considered for the citizenry, maybe located at Love's Travel Stop. Greyhound is, by and large, used by minority groups...and Nel Norte came in and made a stop so there was no moratorium on them coming into town and stopping. He said he wouldn't want to be restrictive to the folks who need to get around.

Commissioner Russell said leaving the option in the TSP was a good idea. People's opinions change over time, he added.

Ms. Mabbott said it was still in the TSP (Chapter 6, pages 6-13 and 6-14).

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Findings and Adopt Ordinance No. ORD-2022-1: An Ordinance Amending the Morrow County Transportation System Plan to Update the Transit Section. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Request to Increase Hourly Wage for Transfer Station Attendant Position

Eric Imes, Public Works Director

Sandi Pointer, Management Assistant

Ms. Pointer said the wage for the Attendants had not been updated since 2015. During the ensuing discussion, the Commissioners suggested the request be presented to the Budget Committee in May.

Finance Director Interview Team

Darrell Green, Administrator

Mr. Green reviewed the Commissioner rotation for past interview teams and provided a recommendation on who should be on this interview team.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to have the team as Mr. Green, Ronda Fox, Interim Human Resources Director, Jaylene Papineau, Treasurer, Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector and Chair Doherty. Chair Doherty said he wouldn't second this but would second the notion of Commissioner Russell and for the team to have a broader discussion about departments and the parts and pieces that need to be filled in. Commissioner Lindsay said every time the Board makes these teams we should give them that latitude. A lot of discussions have to happen around the hiring besides the interview itself, she said. Chair Doherty said he would wait for the next one and was comfortable with Commissioner Russell and the rest of the team.

Chair Doherty moved to move forward with that committee (Mr. Green, Ms. Fox, Ms. Papineau, Mr. Gorman and Commissioner Russell). Commissioner Lindsay said she didn't think a motion was necessary and she was happy with the two of them making the call. Commissioner Russell seconded. Vote: Aye: Chair Doherty and Commissioner Russell. Commissioner Lindsay - no response. Motion carried.

Discussion – Public Access Roads

During the discussion, Commissioner Russell clarified what a Public Access road is – it's a street that goes to multiple residences but does not connect two County roads, it goes to residential driveways only.

Chair Doherty said it was a throwback to when a housing development could be built without bringing the roads up to a standard. He continued, the residents have options, for example, forming road improvement districts. These roads will plague commissioners twenty years down the road. People have commented the County does a horrible job on these roads but they are not County roads, he explained. He asked if the road improvement districts would be funded by all of the County's constituents.

Commissioner Lindsay said it would be nice to know the number of such roads in the County and the number of constituents served by them.

Chair Doherty said he would keep moving forward with staff, including the Road Department and the Planning Department, to look at the possibilities and bring information back to the Board.

Amazon Distribution Question

Commissioner Lindsay requested to withhold the funds that would have been sent to Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) pending further analysis that they will be used for the benefit of Morrow County residents.

Commissioner Russell said it was overreach and had the state not erred, the funds would have been distributed to BMCC. He said BMCC has a Board of Directors and they spend where they think and to have Morrow County weigh in and say we don't like how you manage your budget, that's wrong.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to withhold the BMCC portion of Amazon dollars until research can be done how it will benefit Morrow County. Chair Doherty seconded. Vote: Aye: Chair Doherty, Commissioner Lindsay. Nay: Commissioner Russell. Motion carried.

Discuss Potential Meeting at the OHV Park – June 15th

The Board agreed by consensus to hold the June 15th BOC Meeting at the OHV Park.

Review Permit Application Numbers 297, 298 and OTD – To Build in County Right-of-Way from the City of Boardman

Eric Imes, Public Works Director

Mr. Imes explained two permits were for approaches connecting new City streets to a County road. The third was for a sewer line crossing the same County road. The new roads are to the east of Laurel Lane. Discussion.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Public Works Director to sign Permit Applications 297, 298 and OTD. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Lindsay said it is Laurel Lane so let's stay on that. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

- The Juvenile Department Quarterly Report was provided by Christy Kenny.
- The Loop/Public Transit Quarterly Report was provided by Katie Imes.
- The Emergency Management Quarterly Report was reviewed in Paul Gray's absence.

Correspondence

- Notice from Blue Mountain Faculty Association – “Cuts Threaten BMCC”
- Article from Stateline (an initiative of the Pew Charitable Trusts) – “States Look to Community Colleges to Fill Labor Gap”
- City of Boardman Notice of Decision – Approval of Zoning Permit #ZP21-068

Commissioner Reports

Reports were provided by the Commissioners.

Executive Sessions

Chair Doherty read both Executive Citations and said decisions were not anticipated.

Break: 11:10-11:19 a.m.

11:19 a.m.: Executive Session #1 – To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions

11:37 a.m.: Closed Executive Session #1

11:40 a.m.: Executive Session #2 – To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed

11:48 a.m.: Closed Executive Session #2

Signing of documents

Adjourned: 12:00 p.m.