

Morrow County Court
May 25, 2016
Heppner, Oregon
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room

Present

Judge Terry Tallman
Commissioner Leann Rea
Commissioner Don Russell
Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer
Justin Nelson, County Counsel/District Attorney
Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director
Roberta Lutchter, Court Executive Assistant

Call to Order: 9:02 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments – Heppner: No comments

Open Agenda: No items

Department Reports

Surveyor Update

Stephen Haddock, County Surveyor

- Attended the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors (OACES) Spring Conference May 9th-11th in Hood River. He said he learned the Bonneville Power Administration is in the process of providing much more detailed records than they have in the past related to right of way surveys made when establishing transmission line routes.
- Has been working with the U.S. Navy to assist another surveyor in obtaining survey records concerning part of the southern and eastern boundary of the Bombing Range.
- Mr. Haddock said he had several items for which he needed direction. He said recent contact with Matt Scrivner, Assistant Road Master and Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director, have led them to a realization that a County policy needs to be updated. It concerns the proper installation of public land corners in paved roadways. After discussion, it was decided Mr. Haddock will work with staff, particularly Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer, to determine if policy or ordinance will be the best path forward. On another procedural matter, the Court asked Mr. Haddock to again work Mr. Sorte to resolve an issue of proper notification to the Surveyor when road vacations occur.
- Commissioner Russell requested staff look into increasing funds in the Surveyor budget to cover expenses associated with attending County-related professional conferences, such as the recent OACES Conference.

Old Business

Unfunded Mandate Discussion

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Mr. Nelson said last week the Court asked him to draft a letter to Senator Bill Hansell and Representative Greg Smith explaining the Court's reasoning in deciding to participate in Linn County's unfunded mandate lawsuit. He said the letter should be sent after the lawsuit is filed or there is a notice of litigation; the Court concurred.

New Business

Surplus and Sale of Bus – The Loop, Morrow County Transportation (The Loop)

Mr. Sorte explained The Loop's Coordinator, Anita Pranger, is requesting a 20-passenger bus in Heppner be declared surplus to allow it to be sold. Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc., is interested in acquiring it for use in Union County. Community Connection oversees transportation programs for Baker, Union and Wallowa Counties. (Motion delayed while proper identifying information for the vehicle was obtained.)

County Court Transition Discussion

- Mr. Sorte asked Judge Tallman and the Commissioners to review the provided list of board and committee appointments to see what meetings incoming Commissioners may want to start attending.
- Mr. Sorte said he's working with County Counsel to present an order in the near future which formalizes the transition from the current Judge and Commissioners form of government to Commissioners only.

Discussion on Drafting County Comments on the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Jerry Rietmann, Wheatridge Wind Energy

Mr. Sorte began by asking the Court if the County wanted to provide comment to the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) during the current review process for the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility. After discussion, the Court agreed comment is necessary, and directed Ms. McLane to provide a final version for signature prior to the June 6th deadline.

Columbia Ethanol Project Request for Amendment #1

Ms. McLane reviewed correspondence with ODOE related to the Site Certificate for the Columbia Ethanol Project. She said staff will continue to follow this process, as they do with all projects.

New Business

Surplus and Sale of Bus – The Loop, Morrow County Transportation, continued

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the surplus of a 2005 Ford E 450 Super Duty Cargo Van, Vehicle Identification Number 1FDXE45S65HA40167, and proceed with the proposed sale amount of \$2,660 to Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. for use in Union County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Human Resources Business Items

The Loop - Dispatch Position

Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director

Ms. Wolff said funding for the position was approved during Budget Hearings and now needs Court approval.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve creating the Transportation Dispatcher position; approve the job description; assign it to Pay Range 3 of the General Employee Wage Scale; and authorize The Loop to advertise and fill the position immediately, if funds are available. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

County Counsel Report

Justin Nelson, County Counsel

Mr. Nelson reported the Office of County Counsel continues to conduct research on several pending contracts and agreements. In addition, efforts to finalize the County Court transition continues, as does work on the unfunded mandate litigation in which Morrow County will participate with Linn County.

Administrative Officer Report

Mr. Sorte provided the following update of activities:

- Has been working on facility-related projects throughout the County. Mr. Gorman then asked specifically about the heating and cooling project at the Courthouse. Mr. Sorte said Public Works is in the process of obtaining quotes, by state law, and a Purchasing Pre-Authorization Request will be brought forward. He said the estimated cost may be about \$80,000.
- Interviews for the Finance Director took place on May 24th, and he hopes to have a positive report very shortly.

Claims

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Payroll Payables, Immediates & Electronic, dated May 5th and 11th; and the Accounts Payable, dated May 26th, in the amount of \$150,723.54. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Minutes

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the minutes of May 18th, as presented. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Russell said he attended this morning's Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group meeting.
- Commissioner Rea said she attended the Wheatridge Wind Energy Public Hearing last week, which saw a good turnout. She said she also attended the Heppner Chamber of

Commerce meeting and the Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO) meeting.

- Judge Tallman said he attended the Mental Health Advisory Committee meeting and a forest tour related to the Kahler Project-Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group.
- Judge Tallman said he and Mr. Sorte attended a meeting with Portland General Electric (PGE) executives Maria Pope, Senior Vice President, and Jaisen Mody, General Manager, Generation Projects. Judge Tallman said the purpose was to provide an update on the Carty Generating Plant. According to PGE, the plant will be “fired-up” around June 10th-12th with a late July date anticipated to be online and selling power, he said. Commissioner Rea asked why she and Commissioner Russell were not notified of the meeting. Commissioner Russell said he knew of the meeting but could not attend. Mr. Sorte said it was likely a last minute idea, but he could request an update for the entire group.

Miscellaneous

Ms. McLane distributed copies of an update on the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project, as well as a flyer for an Agritourism Workshop on June 21st (Boardman) and 22nd (Hermiston).

Adjourned: 11:48 a.m.