

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2017
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, Wells Springs Room
Boardman, Oregon

Present

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Kim Cutsforth, Interim Administrative Officer
Richard Tovey, County Counsel
Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director
Roberta Lutchter, Executive Assistant

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 9:00 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments: None

Open Agenda Requests: Add to Consent Calendar: 2017 Fair Premiums to Claims; October 4th Minutes; Request to Increase Visa Limit – Assessor's Office

Consent Calendar

Chair Lindsay asked to remove the October 4th minutes for additional clarification on the U.S. Forest Service 21 Road Discussion. They will be added to next week's agenda. Chair Lindsay also asked to move the OLCC Liquor License Application to Business Items.

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

- 1. Accounts Payable dated October 19th in the amount of \$216,479.57; Mid-Columbia Title manual check dated October 12th; 2017 Fair Premiums dated October 5th; Two Payroll Payables Immediates & Electronic dated October 11th*
- 2. Request to permanently increase the credit limit on the Visa card for the Assessor's Office to \$5,000*
- 3. 2017-2018 Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas Grant Agreement*
- 4. Purchase Pre-Authorization Request from the Sheriff's Office for six in-vehicle computers in the amount of \$15,437.40*
- 5. Morrow and Gilliam County Intergovernmental Agreements for the Exchange of Independent Appraiser Services for each County's Board of Property Tax Appeals*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

OLCC Liquor License Application – Irv & Millie's Spirits and Mead

Since Planning Director Carla McLane was in attendance, Chair Lindsay said she had a few questions about Chris and Kathy Rauch's Conditional Use Permit that was recently approved. Ms. McLane responded to her questions but said she did not know the specifics of the OLCC application process. Commissioner Russell said past practice with OLCC license renewals has

been to take no action, thereby allowing an application to continue through the OLCC approval process, and that would be his recommendation in this case. After discussion, no action was taken for or against.

Consideration of an Order to form an Oregon State University Extension Service District

Mary Corp, OSU Extension Regional Administrator

Julie Baker, Co-County Leader, Morrow County Extension Office

Richard Tovey, County Counsel

Mr. Tovey reviewed the events to date, and said the next step is an Order from the Board to start the process, if that is the intention, so it can ultimately appear on the ballot in May 2018. Brief discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to direct staff to draft the first Order to set public hearings for comment on the formation of the OSU Extension Service Taxing District. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Northeast Oregon Water Association Update and Review of Dues Invoice

J.R. Cook, Director, NOWA

Mr. Cook reviewed his PowerPoint presentation and provided a comprehensive review of activities by NOWA, past, present, and future. The dues invoice was also discussed.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the NOWA invoice in the amount of \$5,000. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Break: 10:14 a.m.

Resumed: 10:26 a.m.

Youth Elk Hunt Draw

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Mr. Close explained the Special Youth Hunt - Elk Second Season (spike only) allows up to six participants to hunt a special closed section of the Morrow/Grant County OHV Park. Six applications were received and opened by Mr. Close:

1. Kaden Combe, Heppner
2. Tiffany Hollis, Heppner
3. Jonathan Brannon, Heppner
4. Logan Namitz, John Day
5. Preslie Bowles, Irrigon
6. Zabrana Masterson, Heppner

Announcement of Retirement of Public Works Director

Kim Cutsforth, Interim Administrative Officer

Ms. Cutsforth said she just received notification from Human Resources Director Karen Wolff that it is can now be made public that Burke O'Brien, Public Works Director, will retire effective November 30th. Ms. Wolff further inquired if the Board would like to review the current job

description for Public Works Director and the organizational structure of the Public Works Department. The Commissioners were in favor of both and requested discussions take place at upcoming BOC meetings.

Staff Reports

The Loop Quarterly Report

Anita Pranger, Coordinator, The Loop

Ms. Pranger reviewed her report and noted the new bus that was due to arrive September 27th has not yet been delivered; she will continue to follow-up. She also discussed a new local committee that will need to be formed in order to start receiving grant dollars beginning in 2019 from House Bill 2017, also known as Keep Oregon Moving.

Emergency Management Quarterly Report

Undersheriff John Bowles

Undersheriff Bowles reviewed his report of activities related to Emergency Management during the time period of July 20th through October 10th. He mentioned he is working on a mass alert system and is obtaining cost estimates.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Doherty reported on the most recent meeting pertaining to the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision. U.S. Representative Greg Walden attended, along with numerous County Commissioners from eastern Oregon. Commissioner Doherty said the group “put its foot down” and told the Forest Service this is the last and best chance for them to work with the Counties. The Forest Service representatives were receptive, he said. Commissioner Doherty also attended the Heppner Junior/Senior High School Booster Club Auction.
- Commissioner Russell said he attended the groundbreaking ceremony for a new apartment complex in Boardman. Construction will begin on the first 120 units, with an option to build another 120 units, if successful. There are no income restrictions on these units, he said.
- Chair Lindsay said she attended the Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force Meeting in Ione. Robust discussion took place on housing stock inventory analysis. She also attended the Ione Community Agri-Business Organization (ICABO) Meeting where the many hurdles faced by Ione regarding its sewer and water systems were discussed. Chair Lindsay attended a Rural Skill Builder training offered by Rural Development Initiatives, and a separate training concerning the operations of non-profit boards. At the Regional Solutions Committee Meeting, Chair Lindsay said three main focuses for Regional Solutions and Business Oregon emerged – 1.) Workforce housing, 2.) Workforce Training, and 3.) Infrastructure.

New Wage Information for Morrow County

Commissioner Russell said new average wage information by county was released that showed Morrow County retains its third-place position in the State. Morrow County is just ahead of

Benton County, and just behind Multnomah and Washington Counties. In addition, Morrow County is significantly higher than other counties in the region. He said when people complain about giving tax deferred status to industries, this is proof the program is working because wages are up.

Chair Lindsay said the State's lack of commitment to help with the housing situation in any form means Morrow County has to figure it out on its own. She explained Regional Solutions has seen its funding cut considerably by the State, so much so that it is unable to help with infrastructure and project funding as much as it has in the past, or would wish to. She referred to the joint meeting with the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners where it was mentioned Pendleton and Hermiston struggle to attract building contractors. Given that fact, how can we bring contractors to the smaller communities in Morrow County, she asked.

Adjourned: 11:14 a.m.