Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2017 - CORRECTED
Irrigon Branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, Community Room
Irrigon, Oregon

Present
Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Darrell J. Green, Administrator
Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director
Richard Tovey, County Counsel
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:  9:00 a.m.
City and Citizen Comments:  Irrigon City Manager Aaron Palmquist welcomed the County’s newly hired Administrator, Darrell Green, to Irrigon.
Open Agenda:  Commissioner Doherty requested a discussion regarding Morrow County’s representatives on the North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT).

Consent Calendar
Commissioner Russell moved to approve the following items in the Consent Calendar:
1.  Accounts Payable dated December 14th in the amount of $236,374.94; manual check dated December 1st in the amount of $39; December 2017 Retirement Taxes dated December 4th in the amount of $17,571.15; December 2017 One-Time Retirement Tax Federal Withholding dated December 4th in the amount of $556.50; Five Payroll Payables:  Monthlies dated November 29th in the amount of $163,441.97; HRA VEBA dated December 6th in the amount of $3,000; Two Employee Finals dated December 1st in the amount of $11,137.46; Immediates & Electronic dated December 5th in the amount of $162,263.91; Immediates & Electronic dated November 21st in the amount of $151,438.29
2.  Minutes:  November 29th Business Meeting; and Work Session
3.  Request to re-issue Bank of Eastern Oregon credit card for the Administrative Officer to the County Administrator with a credit limit of $3,000

Business Items
Transitional Housing Discussion
Undersheriff John Bowles
Dan Robbins, Corrections Lieutenant
Due to an emergency, Sheriff Ken Matlack could not attend the meeting so Undersheriff Bowles presented on his behalf.  He said the Sheriff’s idea is to offer transitional housing for males just released from jail or prison but still on parole or probation.  These individuals are required to be released back to the county of conviction.
Lt. Robbins explained the Oregon Department of Corrections is releasing inmates early to reduce the prison population. This shifts the burden to the counties to find a place for them to stay for the up to 90 days they are under the County’s supervision.

Undersheriff Bowles said these individuals are already in our communities, often times moving from place-to-place if they have no family or residence. This makes it harder for Parole & Probation to monitor them, he added. In the past, Morrow County Parole & Probation’s only housing option was motels in the region. The Sheriff’s proposal is to fix a foreclosed property in Irrigon owned by the County for use as transitional housing, with the possible stipulation no sex offenders could reside there. Discussion.

Because there were still several unanswered questions surrounding this topic, Chair Lindsay requested the Sheriff vet the proposal through the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council with possible action by that group.

Draft Road Committee Bylaws
Matt Scrivner, Public Works Director
Mr. Scrivner said the Road Committee forwarded the Bylaws to the Board for consideration.

Commissioner Doherty directed County Counsel to draft a resolution to adopt the Bylaws of the Morrow County Road Committee. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Morrow County Representatives to the North East Area Commission on Transportation
According to NEACT’s Bylaws, one of its missions is to collaborate on the development process and application of criteria for determining transportation infrastructure, capital investments and project prioritization in the northeast Oregon region.

NEACT is comprised of:
- Three voting members from each of the five eastern Oregon Counties (Baker, Wallowa, Union, Umatilla, Morrow)
- Three voting members from the Bike/Pedestrian Transit & Freight Group
- Two voting members from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- One voting member from Oregon Department of Transportation

Commissioner Doherty said in light of the millions of dollars from the 2017 Transportation Package that are at stake, the County’s votes are extremely important. He said the Port of Morrow’s representative and alternate have not been attending the meetings and active participation is needed.

Commissioner Russell asked Rick Stokoe, who was in the audience and is a Port of Morrow Commissioner, to please follow up as to the status of its representatives.
Commissioner Doherty moved to appoint Public Works Director Matt Scrivner as his Alternate on NEACT. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Board of Commissioners Committee & Board Assignments 2018
The Commissioners reviewed the 2017 list and suggested changes. It will be reviewed again next week and finalized.

Resolution Number R-2017-31: Approving an Agreement between the Sponsors of the Columbia River Enterprise Zone and Vadata, Inc.

Columbia River Enterprise Zone II Board Appointments
Commissioner Doherty moved to reappoint Commissioner Don Russell to the CREZ II Board; and Greg Sweek as the Alternate; both terms to be January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Planning Commission Appointment Recommendations
Carla McLane, Planning Director
Ms. McLane explained three positions will end on December 31, 2017. They are as follows, with interest indicated:
- Position 1 Boardman, Mifflin Devin: interested in reappointment
- Position 4 Ione, Rod Taylor: interested in reappointment
- Position 9 Boardman, Kathy Neal: resigned
Ms. McLane said recruitment occurred which resulted in one letter of interest for Ione Position 4 from Bobbi Childers. The Board discussed ways to use the At-Large position and/or shift representation for current members. Ms. McLane mentioned a current Planning Commissioner might resign midterm resulting in a south County opening, which could be considered for Ms. Childers.

Commissioner Doherty moved to reappoint Mifflin Devin to Position 1 on the Planning Commission with the term to be January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2021. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Doherty moved to reappoint Rod Taylor to Position 4 on the Planning Commission with the term to be January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2021. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Ms. McLane said the Boardman position vacated by Ms. Neal remains open and no parties have expressed interest.

Break: 10:30 a.m. Resume: 10:36 a.m.
Staff Reports
Planning Department Monthly Report
Carla McLane, Planning Director

- Undersheriff Bowles joined Ms. McLane to discuss holding a tabletop disaster response exercise sometime between March and May next year. It would be related to a fire emergency since the 2017 fire season was so significant. Ms. McLane said the intent is to follow-up with community outreach concerning appropriate fire protection and implementation of defensible spaces.

- Code Enforcement Ordinance – tentative schedule is to have the final draft ready to discuss with the Board at its January 10th meeting, with public hearings to take place February 7th in Heppner and February 14th in Irrigon.

- Planning Commission Work Plan – Planning Department staff will be drafting a Five Year Work Plan that will be discussed at Planning Commission meetings in January and February. After that, the Planning Commission would like to hold a work session with the Board of Commissioners. The Board agreed to meet sometime in March.

- Navy Record of Decision (ROD) for the Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Transmission Line Project – Ms. McLane asked the Board if the County should comment directly to the Navy or request our Congressional delegation to comment on the delay and confusion in the timeline for the release of the ROD now being used by the Navy. The Navy’s timeline should be six to nine months, she said, but they currently are presenting timelines as long as 18 months. The Commissioners expressed frustration with the Navy over several matters. Commissioner Russell said they are not a good partner in Morrow County because of their poor emergency management which leads to large fires. They also want the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to move the transmission line off Navy ground, which will result in the public being asked to pay for that through increased rates. Chair Lindsay said the Navy is on a mission to get everything off its ground and has been meeting with the BPA behind closed doors. Commissioner Doherty said the Navy needs to live up to the agreement it made to Morrow County and its residents over 75 years ago. The Navy no longer allows livestock grazing on the land but fuel load studies show it would be compatible and improve the land. He said he’s a huge supporter of the military but the Navy no longer drop ordnance on the Bombing Range so they should move to the Yakima Training Center. He added it perplexes him as to why we have not been at the table for meetings the Navy has been holding. Frustration was also registered over the Navy’s Community Plans and Liaison Officer Kimberly Peacher and her lack of attendance at meetings. The Board agreed a draft comment letter will be generated.

- Boardman Solar Energy Draft Proposed Order Comment Letter – the Board agreed by consensus to Ms. McLane sending the letter to the Oregon Department of Energy.

City and Citizen Comments, continued
Rick Stokoe, Boardman Chief of Police
Chief Stokoe discussed the current situation regarding people with mental health issues, possibly under the influence of controlled substances, who find themselves incarcerated. He said they are
often out of control but can’t be treated because they are under the influence. In most cases, they do not belong in jail but because there are no other alternatives, that is where they end up. Furthermore, they cannot be housed with the general jail population but jails do not have the staff to deal with their issues. They often end up being transferred to the Umatilla County jail where they are housed in the pre-booking unit. As a result, when someone who has committed a crime needs to be housed there, no space is available. This same problem repeats itself nationwide, he said. He explained in the past there were facilities for detoxification and then treatment but those went away many years ago. He said he met with Representative Greg Smith who plans to convene a meeting between law enforcement and legislators to address these issues. He asked the Commissioners to consider drafting a letter of support if the need arises.

Commissioner Doherty said he would support Chief Stokoe’s efforts to find funds at the state level.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Doherty discussed a transit summit he is working to put together in mid-January. He also discussed the NEACT meeting in La Grande earlier in the week.
- Commissioner Russell attended an Association of Oregon Counties meeting where he had an opportunity to talk to Judge Steve Shaffer, Gilliam County, about the recent news articles on NORCOR (Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facilities) in The Dalles regarding the treatment of juvenile detainees. He said Judge Shafer’s assessment was it was not as big an issues as the news outlets portrayed and could possibly be attributed to some personality conflicts between NORCOR Board members and the manager of the facility. Commissioner Russell also attended a CREZ II Board meeting and a Columbia Development Association meeting.

Administrator’s Report

Darrell J. Green, Administrator

Mr. Green reviewed the structure for the afternoon Work Session with Milliman and McGee Wealth Management.

Adjourned: 12:04 p.m.