

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2018
Irrigon Branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, Community Room
Irrigon, Oregon

Present

Chair Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Commissioner Melissa Lindsay
Darrell J. Green, Administrator
Kate Knop, Finance Director
Richard Tovey, County Counsel
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

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

City and Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda: Commissioner Lindsay asked to add a discussion to Business Items regarding a request from the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG).

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Doherty requested to remove the Accounts Payable and December 20th minutes. Commissioner Lindsay requested to remove the Planning Commission Appointment Request since there are two parties interested in the vacant position, not one.

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

- 1. Chevron & Texaco Card Services manual check dated January 4th in the amount of \$166.13; January 2018 Retirement Taxes dated January 4th in the amount of \$18,643.19; Payroll Payables Monthlies dated December 22nd in the amount of \$179,986.98; Payroll Payables Immediates & Electronic dated January 3rd in the amount of \$15,971.51; Payroll Payables Immediates & Electronic HRA VEBA dated January 3rd in the amount of \$3,000*
- 2. Minutes of December 27, 2017*
- 3. Reappointment of Pat Tolar to the Fair Board, term to be January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2021*
- 4. Purchase Pre-Authorization Request from The Loop – Morrow County Transportation for a 2018 Dodge Grand Caravan with side-entry ramp (ADA accessible) from Creative Bus Sales in the amount of \$45,377 using Federal 5310 Discretionary Grant Funds; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County*
- 5. Purchase Pre-Authorization Request from the Finance Department for Tyler Technologies Accrual Program Software in the amount of \$6,250; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County*

Accounts Payable

Commissioner Doherty asked for additional information on the invoice from the Oregon Department of Forestry for tree clearing in the amount of \$9,860.79. Commissioner Lindsay said she believed it may have involved work done by the Department of Forestry past Coal Mine Hill using grant funds. However, the funds were exhausted before the last few miles were completed, so the Road Department may have decided the work needed to be completed. She asked that her explanation be verified.

Commissioner Doherty asked why invoices are being processed for cabin rentals when County Parks are closed for the season. Finance Director Kate Knop said it could be they are billed on a quarterly basis.

Commissioner Lindsay asked about three invoices for advertising of the OHV Park's Landing restaurant totaling \$1,087.53. She wanted to know if advertising was part of the contract. Ms. Knop said she didn't see it in the contract but it has been past practice.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the Accounts Payable dated January 11th in the amount of \$82,885.57. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

December 20th Minutes

The Commissioners asked to modify the paragraph regarding membership of the Budget Committee (page 2). They asked that it reflect the Board agreed to reach out to Jill Parker about her residency status.

Final Public Hearing on Formation of Oregon State University Extension Service District
Chair Russell called for abstentions, conflicts of interest, or any ex parte contact. All Commissioners replied they had none.

Richard Tovey, County Counsel, outlined the process to date and said this is the final public hearing for the Board to order the matter be set for election. He continued, the Order sets forth the questions to be put to the electors, such as shall the district be formed; the permanent tax rate limit of \$0.33 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation; and the boundaries of the proposed district.

Commissioner Lindsay voiced concern over the following sentence in the Ballot Title: "Declining federal and state funding to counties has resulted in cuts to local programs, including Extension." Chair Russell said it concerned him as well, because it could encourage the State to decrease funding if "we agree to tax ourselves."

Chair Russell called for proponents to speak:

Vern Frederickson, Hermiston

Mr. Frederickson said he owns irrigated farmland in the Boardman/Irrigon area and his operation has received many benefits because of the work done at the OSU Experiment Stations. He said he believed this should be put to the voters, and he urged the Board to support the Order.

Anna Browne, 4-H Latino Outreach

Ms. Browne discussed the college readiness programs for Latino families in Morrow and Umatilla Counties. She also noted Morrow County is set to be the first minority majority county in the State of Oregon by 2020 based on the most recent Oregon Latino research study. Ms. Browne said support for her program area will continue to grow and reach many more people through these non-traditional 4-H activities.

Chair Russell asked for opponents to speak: No response.

Closed Public Hearing: 9:17 a.m.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve Order No. OR-2018-2 Order for Election: In the Matter of an Election for Formation of an Extension Service District for Morrow County, Oregon. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Cutsforth Park Vault Restroom Purchase Request

Greg Close, Parks General Manager

Mr. Close explained the dual vault restroom for the upper campground area at Cutsforth Park will be purchased using County Opportunity Grant funds from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. To meet the County's match requirement, the County will be responsible for preparing the ground for the structure, he said.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve the Purchase Pre-Authorization Request from the Parks Department for a dual vault restroom from CXT Incorporated, Spokane, Washington, in the amount of \$40,745. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Contingency Fund Allocation Request

Justin Nelson, District Attorney

Undersheriff John Bowles

Mr. Nelson explained the District Attorney (D.A.) Office and the Sheriff's Office received a \$6,000 grant that can be used to help cover the costs of cell phone extraction software and hardware. The remaining \$8,995 would need to be allocated from the County's Contingency Fund, he added.

Mr. Nelson and Undersheriff Bowles explained Morrow County does not have the ability to extract data from cell phones that have been seized, but instead have to request the services of the Oregon State Police in Pendleton. The disadvantages of this were discussed, as were the advantages of having the capability in-County. Discussion.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the allocation of \$8,9995 from the Contingency Fund to be used to pay the remaining amount due to Susteen, Inc. for the purchase of mobile phone forensic software and hardware. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Emergency Management Performance Grant No. 17-525

Undersheriff John Bowles

Undersheriff Bowles explained the grant application process began in May but he did not receive the contract from the Office of Emergency Management until December. He said he's been filing the necessary reports with the State to stay on track while he waited for the grant application itself.

Commissioner Doherty moved to accept the Oregon Military Department, Office of Emergency Management, Emergency Management Performance Grant CFDA #97.042, Morrow County Grant No. 17-525 in the amount of \$38,525; effective July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018; and authorize Chair Russell to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Lindsay seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

Justice Court Quarterly Report

Judge Ann Spicer

Judge Spicer reviewed her report, which consisted of spreadsheets showing the Distribution of Fines and Assessments during the period of October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

Break: 10:07 a.m.

Resumed: 10:11 a.m.

Business Items

Budget Calendar

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Ms. Knop reviewed the proposed Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2018-19. Discussion then turned to Budget Committee membership, specifically the status of Jill Parker's residency. County Counsel Richard Tovey referred to Oregon Revised Statute when he said eligibility for membership comes down to whether or not someone is a "qualified voter" of the district appointed by the governing body. After additional discussion, both Chair Russell and Commissioner Doherty said they would contact Ms. Parker and report back next week.

WCVEDG Request

Commissioner Lindsay explained WCVEDG is preparing a Request for Application (RFA) for a Workforce Housing Project through Business Oregon. However, there is a requirement that funds be sent to an authorized entity, such as the County. WCVEDG's request is that the County act as the pass-through fiscal agent.

Commissioner Lindsay moved to approve Morrow County acting as the fiscal agent should Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group receive funding on this RFA, or any others for which they are applying regarding housing. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Planning Commission Appointment Request

Carla McLane Planning Director

Ms. McLane explained two letters of interest were received for the vacancy on the Planning Commission. After discussion, Ms. McLane said she or Planning Commission Chair Jeff Wenholz would informally interview the candidates. Following that, she said she will return with a recommendation for the Board.

Planning Department Update

Carla McLane, Planning Director

Ms. McLane's report covered the following:

- Update on the Port of Morrow's application to annex up to 180 acres into the city limits of Boardman (property currently in the Boardman Urban Growth Boundary).
- Buildable Lands Inventory and Housing Analysis
- Planning Director's Letter of support for the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries' Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment proposal.
- Ms. McLane received approval from the Board to move forward with a draft letter to the Navy outlining the County's concerns that the Navy is extending the timeline for a Record of Decision and easement for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Doherty asked Assessor/Tax Collector, Mike Gorman, (in attendance at the meeting) why Business Oregon is inquiring when the County will hold meetings with taxing districts concerning the Community Service Fee for the Wheatridge/NextEra Energy, Inc. Strategic Investment Program (SIP) agreement. Mr. Gorman said there is typically a substantial lag between the signing of a SIP agreement and the convening of meetings with taxing districts. However, Business Oregon is asking when the meetings will take place because there may be a new administrative rule impacting these timelines. He added the County cannot determine the affected taxing districts because NextEra has not provided the plot plans, but he will continue to attempt to get that information. He explained Business Oregon basically "rubber stamps" the SIP agreement and has no authority to approve or deny it. Ms. McLane said NextEra submitted an application for a local conditional use permit, but has not yet released a transmission route.
- Commissioner Russell discussed a meeting with Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) President Camille Preus; Port of Morrow (POM) General Manager Gary Neal; and POM Workforce Training Coordinator Kalie Davis to review the statistics for technical training at the BMCC Workforce Training Center in Boardman. He said the first nine-month course had about 20 students and most found jobs upon completion. The second course was compressed to six months, at Amazon's request, but that change was not communicated to BMCC and the results were not as successful upon completion. The parties involved are working to remedy this, he said.
- Commissioners Russell and Doherty discussed the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Legislative Committee meetings they attended. Commissioner Russell discussed a proposed increase to fees for real estate transactions (including a fee to file a lien

against a property) that the State's County Clerks oppose. He said the funds from the increase would be directed toward housing programs, but there is no clear path on how the money will be spent. Commissioner Russell also discussed a Carbon Cap and Invest panel discussion where representatives from the Forest Products Council and PGE said carbon payments would negatively impact the economy, despite what the Portland area legislators on the panel said. Commissioner Doherty said both issues (fee opposed by the Clerks and the carbon payment) were contentious issues.

Adjourned: 11:54 a.m.