

POM cuts check to DEQ and reassess their responsibility of golf course

In the November Port of Morrow Commissioners meeting, several updates and discussions were held regarding various matters.

In old business - CDA update – Lisa Mittelsdorf provided an update on the Community Development Agency (CDA). During the previous CDA meeting, she requested the purchase of a 640-acre property for \$1 million, using the appraised value from 1998. However, there has been no action taken yet on the 648 acres. The commissioners discussed the next steps to acquire the property and decided to continue moving forward. IRZ is responsible for the master planning, which is being expedited due to the requirement of a master plan by Umatilla County Planning. Due to time constraints, the section will likely be divided into parcels. Lisa mentioned that additional discussion will be held during an executive session.

WIFIA Application Update – Mark Patton provided an update on the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) application. The financial portion of the process is being worked on, and the application is almost complete. However, the S&P rating, which was recently discovered as a requirement, may take longer to obtain.

Flood Plain Mitigation – Mark mentioned that he has received the documents from Sam regarding the flood plain mitigation. He anticipates completing the process within a couple of weeks.

Road Dedication/Naming – Lisa discussed the need to name three or possibly four roads. A list of past and present commissioners was provided at the front of the meeting packet. Jacob Cain raised a concern about the official documentation for Boardman Airport Lane. John Murray motioned to approve the names of four new airport roads: Boeing, Dallas, Krebs, and Bristow, and to include Boardman Airport Lane. Joel Peterson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DEQ Update – Lisa informed the commissioners that the check for 20% of the fine has been sent to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The first payment to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is due by the end of the year.

Executive Session Policy – The new policy on executive sessions was included in the meeting packet. Joe Taylor suggested forming a committee to discuss the policy and explore options. Sam Tucker expressed the need to address and resolve the distinction between policy and legality.

Other Business – Lisa presented Sam's recommendation to approve a resolution regarding meeting notices, which would require changes to the by-laws. The proposed changes were read aloud, including the publishing of notices and agendas on the Port of Morrow website. The commission agreed on the necessity of the change and scheduled a special meeting for tomorrow afternoon, November 9, 2023, at 4:30 PM, to approve the resolution, which was not available at the current meeting.

In new business - audit report – Chelsea provided an overview of the audit

report, expressing gratitude to the audit committee, Kelly, and Joe, for their work. She explained that both a State of Oregon and federal audit are required based on spending. Joe mentioned that he and Kelly had some questions, and Jason made the necessary changes. Jason elaborated on the amendments. Rick Stokoe motioned to approve the audit report with the changes proposed by the audit committee. Kelly Doherty seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Golf Course – John raised concerns about the golf course and whether it aligns with the port's mission. He suggested it may be time for others to assume responsibility for running the golf course. The commissioners engaged in a lengthy discussion about the past, present, and future of the golf course. Rick suggested conducting a financial assessment of the golf course and developing a proper business plan. He reminded everyone that the initial \$2.5 million investment was intended to preserve the golf course from being developed into something other than what it currently is. Joe requested Lisa to research the questions raised by the commissioners.

Sensitive Document Policy – Brandy addressed John's request from the previous meeting regarding the need for secure materials if a commissioner is unable to attend a meeting or requires more time to review sensitive documents beforehand. Various options were discussed, but no final decisions were made.

Families First OBI Award – Patrick Maag shared information about the OBI Award received by Families First Childcare Center. The commission watched a video of the award presentation. Lisa added remarks concerning the funding, building, and expansion of the facility, and praised Families First for their willingness to operate it.

Staff Reports - Project Updates – Jacob provided an update on the progress of the BUILD Grant. The intersection has been paved, but the remaining roadwork will not be completed until next spring. The road to Marker 40 Beach will remain closed throughout the winter until paving can be done in the spring. The rail project will be finished by early January, with the construction of switches from the UP Mainline. All utility improvements have already been completed.

Commissioners Present: Rick Stokoe, Joe Taylor, John Murray, Kelly Doherty, and Joel Peterson
Staff Present: Lisa Mittelsdorf, Eileen Hendricks, Mark Patton, Jacob Cain, Jason Hendricks, Erika Lasater, and Brandy Warburton

Visitors Present (By Zoom Meeting): Brandon Hammond, Karen Pettigrew, Chelsea Hewitt (CPA)
Other Attendees (Staff): Tim Patton, Anna Browne, Marcine Brangham

Guests (Zoom Meeting): Veronica Ferguson, Theresa Rehak, David, Sam Tucker, Katie Imes Family, John Doherty, Ryann Gleason, Kirby Garrett, Morrow County Blog, Lisa Pratt, Dale Penn, Torrie Griggs, Tami Sinor, Aaron Palmquist, Patrick Maag

Bellamy anniversary trip across the U.S.A.

-Continued from PAGE ONE



Sam Bellamy poses in front of the night lights at Niagara Falls. - Photo by Mary Kay Bellamy



Mary Kay and Sam having dinner at the Tower of the Americas. - Contributed Photo



Sam and Mary Kay - Contributed Photo

16, while MaryKay has been a lifelong resident of Heppner, except for her college years at BMCC where she earned her two-year degree in accounting. Sam played college baseball for Northwest Nazarene and BMCC. They were blessed with twin sons, Cody and Clint, in 1981, followed by their youngest son, Travis, in 1983.

During their journey, they made a special stop at the Bellamy Mansion on Bellamy Drive in Wilmington, NC, to explore their namesake landmark. They also had the chance to visit numerous historic churches along the way, marveling at their architectural beauty and rich history.

As their month-and-a-half-long adventure across the USA ended, Sam and MaryKay felt incredibly grateful for the unforgettable experiences and cherished moments they had shared while celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in style.

When I asked Mary Kay for advice on achieving a long-lasting and fulfilling marriage, she emphasized the importance of commitment and never giving up. Just like life, she said, marriages have ups and downs, hardships, and good times.

Morrow County Fair Board Open Seats

Morrow County is seeking applications from individuals interested in serving on the County's Fair Board. The Fair Board oversees and administers the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo. The Fair and Rodeo are a tradition of over 100 years and are major events that bring people from around the County and surrounding areas. This past year's Fair livestock auction raised nearly \$800,000 for youth in the community. Membership on the board includes reviewing and adopting standards and policies governing the conduct of the Fair and Rodeo; and other entities associated with the operation of such, review,

and input on the annual budget for these events and assisting with the successful execution of Fair and Rodeo events. Regular meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Meeting locations alternate between Heppner and Boardman. The committee term length is four years. Letters of interest must be received by Thursday, December 28. Please submit letters to Valerie Ballard, vballard@co.morrow.or.us or by regular mail, Morrow County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 788, Heppner, OR 97836. For additional information or questions, please contact Sue Gibbs, at (541) 256-6036.

The Heppner Elks Lodge #358 invites you to join us for a Memorial Service on Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 8:00 pm

HEPPNER ELKS 358

"WHERE FRIENDS MEET"

Members & their Guest



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We Wish All of You a Joyous Holiday Season and a Merry Christmas!

Together, let's make 2024 a Year of Plentiful Harvests and Thriving Community Growth.

From All of Us in

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IONE 280 Main Street 541-422-7466

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EMPLOYMENT TYPE: HOME CARE AIDES NEEDED

Working Day- 5 DAYS IN A WEEK
Working Hour - DAYS FLEXIBLE
Salary is \$24 per Hour.

JOB DUTIES : Administering oral and topical medication under the supervision of medical personnel. Preparing and serving meals at the appropriate time.

For more details about the position, email me (emsaysanchez@gmail.com).