

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Work Session Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2022
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Chair Jim Doherty
Commissioner Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Darrell Green, Administrator
Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director
George Nairns, Planning Office Manager
Katie Imes, Transit Manager

ZOOM – No roll call taken

Christy Kenny, Juvenile Director
Kelsey Greenup, Appraiser
Aaron Moss, Broadband Project Coordinator
Sabrina Bailey-Cave, Accounting Clerk
Stephanie Case, Planner II
Gabby Perches, Justice Court Clerk
Robin Jones, Justice Court Clerk

Start 1:30 PM

TOPIC: Inflation Impacts

Commissioner Doherty introduced the work session around recognizing the struggles of everyone and thinking outside of the box in the short term to accommodate the folks who are making this County click in regards to the cost of fuel and current inflation.

Commissioner Russell discussed how other Counties had been dealing with this with increases. He acknowledged our current 3% COLA. He suggested a one-time 5% adjustment over two pay periods, than new Commission will start in January and could decide what they want to do based on inflation numbers then. He referenced the pay and pay equity study is being worked on. Letting our employees know we care about them and the situation was the focus.

Work from home discussion in regards to the cost of fuel.

Commissioner Lindsay was in agreement of the things discussed and the 5% and liked the idea of splitting between two pay periods. She stated that the COLA's negotiated were done at a different time and the CPI was much lower than it is now.

Discussion regarding office space available for rent and being cost conscious.

Discussion around the budget and availability of funds, budget adjustments if they would be needed. Administrator Green advised we would have to figure it out, how much and where it would come from and where we need to cut or if we need to cut.

Commissioner Lindsay noted that retention is in the ARPA (American Rescue Plan) Federal funds and it has a deadline to spend it so it could come from there.

Tamra Mabbott said she and her staff had discussed this and appreciated the conversation and that the topic was even being taken up.

Work from home policy, commuting and home base office vs where one lives was discussed and efforts to make a level playing field and be consistent. Ms. Kenny weighed in on her circumstance.

Relocation of the Loop Dept to the Lexington Public Works building came up. Commissioner Lindsay was surprised and thought it should have been a Board policy decision since it was an entire department. This was done due to space needs according to Mr. Green.

Discussion; work from home, van pools for employees, use of open desks where not in use in different locations, change in home base work space and accommodating employees with the price of fuel and thinking outside of the box to the benefit of employees and County during these hard, expensive times.

Wrap up was to start with a case by case with a lot of input from Dept heads to consider and work with Darrell Green to get some feedback from them as to their needs in their departments.

COLA analysis to come forward to a Board meeting in the near future.

Adjourn 2:06 p.m.