

**BOARDMAN CITY COUNCIL
EMERGENCY MEETING – JUNE 2, 2020**

Mayor Sandy Toms called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilors Present: Katy Norton, David Jones, Art Kegler, Brandon Hammond, Roy Drago Jr., Leslie Pierson, Sandy Toms

Councilors Absent: None

Staff: Heather Baumgartner – City Recorder, Karen Pettigrew – City Manager, Marta Barajas – Finance Director, Rick Stokoe – Chief of Police.

Audience: Torrie Griggs, Don Russel, Citizen B (chose not to identify themselves after several requests)

Mayor Toms thanked everyone for being available on short notice. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was due to a severe wind storm that occurred in Boardman on Saturday, May 30, 2020 that caused extensive damage to the community. She asked if there were any questions.

Councilor Pierson asked for a status update on what the present need is and what has been addressed so far. Chief Stokoe responded that the reason for the request for a declaration of emergency is typically for infrastructure. For example, if the City would have had a road wash out or needed a new water tower due to damage from a natural disaster, they would be able to receive funding to address those issues. At this time, the City does not need funding nor does the County. He further explained that he had met with County Commissioners and spoke with the Emergency Manager. The purpose for requesting a state of emergency is for the homes and vehicles that have been damaged or destroyed. For those individuals that have insurance, they are covered. For those that do not have insurance, the declaration of emergency will allow those individuals to receive loans at a low interest rate to replace their homes and/or vehicles. Councilor Pierson asked if the declaration would only cover Wilson Road Trailer Park or other areas. Mayor Toms responded that it would cover the entire 97818 zip code.

Chief Stokoe reiterated that neither the City of Boardman nor Morrow County would be receiving any funds due to this declaration. It is only to allow citizens to apply for loans at a low interest rate to cover damages that insurance does not cover or for those that did not have insurance.

City Manager Pettigrew asked if she would be able to deliver the resolution to councilors this evening for signature.

OTHER BUSINESS

Declaration of Emergency with Morrow County

Councilor Jones moved to approve the Declaration of Emergency with Morrow County.

Councilor Norton seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Motion passed. 7-0-0 absent.

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ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 15-2020 – A Resolution Declaring an Emergency

Councilor Jones moved to approve Resolution 15-2020 – A Resolution Declaring an Emergency
Councilor Norton seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Motion passed. 7-0-0 absent.

Councilor Jones left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

REPORTS

Chief Stokoe communicated that Boardman, Oregon had a severe wind storm that caused severe damage throughout the community. The Emergency Service went into action immediately. The police, fire, and EMS responded to several situations. The Fire Chief and the Chief of Police enacted a command post and have a joint unification system set up. They have a command structure to ensure there is a process to follow. The Red Cross was contacted. There were 5 families on the first night that needed shelter. They were placed in motels in Boardman. The second night there were 137 individuals needing shelter. The command post worked with the Red Cross and several volunteers to put most of the citizens, that were in harms way, in shelters. There were 30 rooms in total reserved to provide shelter for those 137 individuals. As of June 1, 2020, there were 187 individuals that were provided shelter. The command post and community volunteers have been working together to provide food baskets and meals. Due to COVID-19, Red Cross has different requirements which does not allow them to set up temporary shelters in places such as school gyms, churches, etc. Due to this limitation, the Red Cross is unable to provide a central location to provide meals. This situation makes it more difficult to manage the provision of shelters and meals to those in need. Wilson Road Trailer Park has a total of 78 homes. 7 homes were completely destroyed. 20 were severely damaged. Power and water lines were uprooted. Wilson Road Trailer Park is currently without power. The first two days they did not have water. Without water and power, the residents were encouraged to seek shelter elsewhere. Several of the residents were reluctant to leave their properties for fear of what may happen to their property in their absence. The police department has provided 24-hour patrols in that area to help alleviate that fear. Water was restored early Tuesday morning with the exception of the trailers that were severely damaged or destroyed. Umatilla Electric Co-Op (UEC) communicated that power restoration could take between two to three weeks. UEC has been working through several different scenarios to try to restore power sooner. Even if UEC is able to restore power, the home owners will be required to hire an electrician to rewire the hook ups to their homes. This will be difficult due to the financial situation of some of the home owners. There are several different options being looked at to try to help these individuals.

Mayor Toms communicated that on Saturday the First Baptist Church hosted a potluck and took the food to the senior center. Due to COVID-19, they were unable to deliver it to Wilson Road Trailer Park. It went well and they set limitations to serve one family at a time. With coordination between the senior center and Red Cross, arrangements have been made to serve lunch and dinner through Thursday, June 4, 2020. 180 lunches and dinners are being made in advance. Red Cross is delivering those meals to the hotels. Some individuals are coming to the senior center and picking up meals, most are being delivered, but only to the motels. Mayor Toms is working through possible solutions to feed the individuals that are still at Wilson Road

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Trailer Park. One solution is to contact the taco trucks and have them deliver meals. The taco truck owners have been contacted and they are working out the details.

Chief Stokoe communicated that meals have been provided at Wilson Road Trailer Park for the last couple of days. He stated that he estimated between 50-60 meals have been provided to individuals at Wilson Road Trailer Park. Chief Stokoe explained that he had learned today that the individuals who chose not to get a motel room, were not being provided with meals. Due to COVID-19, the Red Cross is not allowed to deliver meals to Wilson Road Trailer Park. Lisa Mittelsdorf and Marcie Rodelo were contacted to initiate contact with the taco trucks to provide meals to Wilson Road Trailer Park this evening. Chief Stokoe commented that everyone in the community stepped up and worked together to help those in need. He said it made him proud to be a resident in Boardman.

Another concern with Wilson Road Trailer Park is the trees that are still standing, but in danger of falling. The tree service is currently onsite and it took an entire day to remove one tree. The weather forecast is projecting 40 mph wind gusts on Saturday, June 6, 2020 that could potentially result in additional trees falling and causing more damage.

Chief Stokoe and Mayor Toms thanked everyone for what they have personally done in the community in response to the damage done by the wind storm. Marcie Rodelo was recognized for her assistance. The Red Cross was grateful for how well the community stepped up and came together during this situation.

Chief Stokoe communicated that Councilor Hammond had provided up to 5 translators helping the Red Cross. Chief Stokoe asked if the school would continue to provide the lunch program. Councilor Hammond communicated that the Red Cross had asked them not to deliver meals due to a conflict. They were asked not to deliver to Wilson Road Trailer Park or motel. The school still has a scheduled route they deliver to. Mayor Toms communicated that the Red Cross had communicated to her that they were delivering meals. Chief Stokoe responded that Red Cross was not delivering meals to Wilson Road Trailer Park. Councilor Hammond said that Wilson Road Trailer Park was part of their route and they would deliver meals.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.



Sandy Toms – Mayor



Heather Baumgartner – Recorder