

01-03-18

Judge Shaffer called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held at Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon. Present were Judge Steve Shaffer, Commissioner Michael Weimar and Commissioner Leslie Wetherell.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Judge Shaffer noted the following changes to the agenda:

- Dr. Miriam McDonell is not expected to be present for a discussion regarding appointment of a new medical examiner; however, the Court will discuss the appointment and Sheriff Bettencourt will offer comments. *(Note: McDonell was present for the 11:00 discussion.)*
- Judge Shaffer will provide background information regarding Soil and Water Conservation District's plans for a new building.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF DEC. 20 COURT MEETING MINUTES**

A misspelled name and a typographical error were corrected in the Dec. 20 regular Court meeting minutes.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve the Dec. 20, 2017 regular Court meeting minutes as corrected. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

#### **IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS PENDING REVIEW**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve December claims pending review. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

#### **IN THE MATTER OF HIRING COMMITTEE AUTHORITY**

The Court opened discussion on how much authority should be given to the Hiring Committee. Commissioner Weimar said the committee shouldn't be given blanket approval to make decisions and Judge Shaffer countered that the committee reviews application, conducts interviews and determines abilities, and thus should have authority to determine a new hire's salary in accordance with the County's salary schedule.

Commissioner Wetherell commented that the schedule appears to be set up so that all new hires would start at Step One. Commissioner Weimar agreed the salary schedule would be more effective if everybody automatically started at the base rate.

The Court agreed by consensus that new hires will begin at the base salary unless a request is brought before the Court and a decision is made to start a new hire at a higher step based on experience.

### **IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER**

Judge Shaffer noted that County Treasurer Nathan Hammer has been serving as Budget Officer and is willing to continue.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to appoint Nathan Hammer as Budget Officer for 2018. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY VOTING PRECINCTS**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to designate Gilliam County Voting Precincts as Arlington No. 1, East Condon No. 6 and West Condon No. 7. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ROADS DESIGNATION**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to designate County roads outside incorporated areas of Arlington, Condon and Lonerock as Road District No. 1. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY DEPOSITORIES**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to designate Bank of Eastern Oregon, Banner Bank and LGIP as Gilliam County Depositories. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF NEWSPAPERS OF RECORD**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to designate The Times-Journal and East Oregonian as County Newspapers of Record. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH PIONEER CDC**

Pioneer CDC Executive Director Rob Turrie was present for a discussion regarding a Memorandum of Agreement between Gilliam County and Pioneer CDC for the Gilliam County Attainable Housing Project. As the Court discussed the Memorandum section by section, a discussion arose regarding approval of project funds. Does each project need to come before the Court after it has been approved by PCDC, or should projects be handled between PCDC and the Treasurer?

Turrie noted that bringing each project to the Court for approval after it has already been reviewed and approved by PCDC would slow the process substantially. Commissioner Wetherell agreed that the Treasurer should be allowed to disburse funds for PCDC-approved projects.

The matter will be addressed at the Jan. 17 meeting.

In a related matter, K'Lynn Lane, Housing Solutions Co-Convenor /Condon Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, invited the Court to attend an Oregon Solutions and Gilliam County Attainable Housing Declaration of Cooperation signing ceremony at the Anderson Building, Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 5:30 p.m.

### **IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER**

Judge Shaffer reported that Dr. Bruce Carlson, former attending physician at South Gilliam Health Center, has rendered his resignation as County Medical Examiner. Dr. Miriam (Mimi) McDonell was recommended for the position.

Dr. McDonell was present and provided the Court with information regarding her experience, education, board certification and licensure, noting that she has been Health Officer for North Central Public Health District since 2013, and has served as Medical Examiner for Wasco and Sherman Counties since 2015. She also provided a description of Medical Examiner duties and requirements.

Judge Shaffer noted that the County hasn't paid for Medical Examiner services, and Dr. McDonell agreed to provide contracts with Sherman and Wasco Counties for review. He also said the Court needs input from North Central Public Health before making a decision.

Sheriff Bettencourt noted that some of the Sheriff's Department Deputies are Deputy Medical Examiners. He suggested that the Court should do more research and involve the District Attorney in the discussion before making a final decision.

### **IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER APPOINTMENTS**

The Court reviewed and made changes to last year's Court Member appointments to various committees.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve committee appointments for the 2018 calendar year as outlined below. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

#### **Judge Shaffer:**

Courthouse administration

NORCOR (Commissioner Wetherell alternate)

Gilliam County Court Security Committee

Frontier Regional 911

Frontier Telenet (Commissioner Weimar alternate)

Tri-County Community Corrections

Community Counseling Solutions Advisory Board

Gilliam County Coordinated Care Organization Community Advisory Council

Central Oregon Workforce Consortium (Commissioner Weimar alternate)

Gilliam County 911 Board  
Gilliam County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council  
CREA (Community Renewable Energy Association)  
AOC Legislative Committee  
AOC Transportation and Community Development  
AOC Veterans  
AOC Health and Human Services Steering Committee

**Commissioner Weimar:**

County Road Dept. and Weed Dept. Commissioner  
Mid-Columbia Council of Governments (Alternate Judge Shaffer)  
Lower John Day Area Commission on Transportation (Alternate Judge Shaffer)  
Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee  
CAPECO Board  
Board of Property Tax Appeals  
AOC Transportation and Community Development Steering Committee

**Commissioner Wetherell:**

Shutler Station Industrial Park Commissioner  
North Central Public Health Board  
Gilliam County Emergency Management Planning Council  
Gilliam County Investment Advisory Board  
Columbia Ridge Landfill Citizens Advisory Committee

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

The Court discussed job descriptions as presented by LGPI, and also addressed concerns presented by Sheriff Bettencourt at the previous Court meeting. The Court agreed that the job description should be approached differently for the Sheriff's Department, which is governed by State Statute. The matter will be discussed and potential finalizations of job descriptions at the Jan. 17 Court meeting.

**IN THE MATTER OF EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**

The Court agreed to discuss the updated Employee Handbook at the Jan. 17 Court meeting, with a goal of approval by the last meeting in March.

**IN THE MATTER OF SWCD BUILDING UPDATE**

Judge Shaffer provided background information on process and plans for the SWCD building. The Court briefly discussed two funding options presented by the SWCD board, including one that requires no payment for 10 years, (although interest accrues during that time); and one that requires payments of interest only for that 10-year

period. Judge Shaffer also noted that NRCS is willing to sign a 10-year lease agreement. SWCD representatives will be present for continued discussion at the Jan. 17 meeting.

## **IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS**

Judge Shaffer:

- noted that the county trapper has resigned. Various options for trapping services were discussed but no decisions were made.
- discussed a letter from the Wasco County Board of Commissioners accepting the Wasco County Department of Youth Services' recommendation to resume placement of youth in the NORCOR juvenile detention facility as of Dec. 27.
- acknowledged a similar letter of support submitted to NORCOR by Hood River County Board of Commissioners.
- announced that upcoming meetings include a North Central Public Health next week and Frontier Regional 911 on Jan. 22.
- said that Tri-County Court will meet Jan. 24 in Fossil.

Commissioner Wetherell:

- said a scheduled ride-along with the Sheriff's Department was postponed due to bad weather and will be rescheduled this spring.

Commissioner Weimar:

- will attend an upcoming Four-Rivers meeting where the dissolution of MCCOG will be addressed.
- said that next week's MCCOG meeting will focus primarily on review of AOC's proposal for management of MCCOG's asset liquidation.

## **IN THE MATTER OF DEC. 20 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve Dec. 20, 2017 Executive Session minutes. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING**

The next regular Gilliam County Court meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon.

It appearing to the Court that there was no further business to be conducted at this time and no additional matters to be considered, Judge Shaffer adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Shaffer, Judge

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Weimar, Commissioner

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

*Mary H. Dyer/Recorder* \_\_\_\_\_