

Gilliam County Court  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2020

Judge Farrar called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon. Present were Judge Elizabeth Farrar, Commissioner Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner Sherrie Wilkins, Chief of Staff Lisa Atkin and Court Administrative Assistant Teresa Aldrich.

**REVISIONS TO AGENDA**

Added 4.7 to Consent Agenda Approval of Oregon Department of Transportation; Technical Assessment Grant Submittal Request

Agenda item 6.2 Consider Approval of Medical Examiner Professional Services Agreement with Hood River County was pulled.

**IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

No Public Comment or Correspondence

**IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion** by Commissioner Wilkins, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve the Consent Agenda. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

The Consent Agenda included the following:

Approval of January 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Session Minutes

Approval of January 8<sup>th</sup> Work Session Meeting Minutes

Approval of January 15<sup>th</sup> Work Session Meeting Minutes

Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with Lane County for Ascend/Proval Software Support

Approval of Amended Transportation Vehicle Use Agreement with Coos County

Appointment of Sally Mann to the Gilliam County Local Community Advisory Council

**IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. R2020-03; A RESOLUTION DECLARING TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE AS SURPLUS**

During the January 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, the Court discussed the possibility of donating the vehicle locally or selling locally through a sealed bid auction. The vehicle was purchased with grant funds and on the recommendation from ODOT, the vehicle needs to be disposed of through public auction or sale/transfer to another public transit agency. The Court agreed the vehicle will be sold online, through the public auction site [publicsurplus.com](http://publicsurplus.com).

**Motion** by Commissioner Wilkins, seconded by Commissioner Wetherell, to adopt Resolution No. R2020-03 declaring the 2010 Scion XB as surplus equipment and

directing the vehicle be disposed of via online public auction at [publicsurplus.com](http://publicsurplus.com) with a minimum bid of \$3000. Farrar – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF DEATH INVESTIGATOR POSITION DESCRIPTION AND SALARY SCALE**

The Gilliam County District Attorney's office has requested formalizing the work of death investigations when undertaken by its office as presented in ORS Chapter 146. Judge Farrar explained Gilliam County has infrequent, low demand for such a professional, but when such an event does occur, the County is required to expediently investigate deaths. The Gilliam County Sheriff's Office more often than not handles death investigations, but on occasion the District Attorney's office investigates. After a discussion and clarification on the details of the position description, budgeting, hours, union, and hourly wage, the Court moved to adopt the position description and salary scale.

**Motion** by Commissioner Wetherell, seconded by Commissioner Wilkins, to adopt the Position Description and Salary Scale for the position of Death Investigator as presented. Farrar – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENT TO MEDICAL EXAMINER AGREEMENT WITH NORTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT**

The amendments to the agreement allow North Central Public Health District (NCPHD) to provide Medical Examiner Services as a backup for the Hood River Medical Examiner. The agreement also amends the hourly rate for the contracted Medical Examiner Services from \$80.00 per hour to \$100.00 per hour.

**Motion** by Commissioner Wilkins, seconded by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve the Amendment to Medical Examiner Services Agreement with North Central Public Health District as presented. Farrar – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. R2020-06; A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FY 2020-21 SPECIAL GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

On December 18, 2019 and January 8, 2020 the Court conducted work sessions to review the FY 2019-2020 Special Projects Grants Program and discuss changes to the program for FY 2020-2021. Those changes have been incorporated into the updated FY 2020-2021 Special Projects Grant Program Guidelines.

**Motion** by Commission Wetherell seconded by Commissioner Wilkins, to adopt Resolution No. R2020-06 and establish the FY 2020-2021 Special Grant Program

Guidelines as presented. Farrar – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF RRED ZONE DESIGNATION REQUEST**

On October 2, 2019 the Court held a work session to explore the option of designating a Rural Renewable Energy Development (RRED) Zone in Gilliam County. Judge Farrar is bringing this back to the Court looking for guidance moving forward. After a discussion it was the consensus of the Court, at this time, not to devote any more County time and resources toward researching and pursuing the RRED Zone designations. The Court would like the Judge to speak with legal counsel in regards to the current SIP Agreements for some clarification.

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

Commissioner Wetherell:

- Attended the North Central Public Health District meeting on January 14, 2020. Topics at the meeting included recruitment for the director position; a nurse has been hired; and, the addition of Commissioner Swartz. Commissioner Wetherell will coordinate with Treasurer Nathan Hammer to schedule a time for NCPHD to appear before the Budget Committee.
- Reported that last night, January 21, 2020 Waste Management employees were stopped for approximately 50 minutes at the rail crossing. Commissioner Wetherell asked if the Courthouse had received any complaints. Judge Farrar reported to her knowledge no complaints have been received. Commissioner Wetherell asked the Court where we are in the process of addressing the rail crossing issues at Waste Management. Commissioner Wilkins stated she has been working with Waste Management and will give an update during her report.

Commissioner Wilkins:

- Attending NORCOR Meeting January 23, 2020
- Reported she has been working with John Borghese from Waste Management to address the issue at the rail crossing. At this time John Borghese will be researching and speaking to Road Master Dewey Kennedy to discuss the issue. Commissioner Wilkins will speak with John Borghese and let him know about the incident last night and continue to work on a solution.
- Attending the Tri County Court Meeting and Frontier Telenet Meeting on January 29, 2020.

Judge Farrar:

- Attended Community Renewable Energy Association (CREA) meeting. Reported that a portion of the SIP monies goes to them; \$90,000 this year and next year the amount will increase to \$120,000. The Judge questioned CREA on what is the return on investment for Gilliam County. The Judge along with other members agreed that CREA needs to start focusing on the counties' needs instead of industry needs. CREA is working on developing a new strategic plan and the Judge will keep the Court informed of new developments.
- Attended the AOC meeting, with Cap and Trade being the hot topic. The Court discussed county priorities at the state level and Judge Farrar will be relaying the county interests to AOC.
- The Judge reported the small jail facilities legislation is not there yet, but she will keep on tracking the progress. By the second week in February we will know what bills have moved forward and which have not gained traction.
- The Court turned over the regulating water temperature for the John Day River reporting to the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). The Judge asked the Court to consider an IGA with SWCD similar to the one the County has with Community Counseling Services (CCS) for services the state requires, but the County does not staff.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Judge Farrar noted the following:

- Next County Court meeting will be held February 5, 2020 in Condon.
- Tri County Court Meeting followed by Frontier Telenet on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 in Sherman County.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT**

It appearing to the Court that there was no further business to be conducted at this time, Judge Farrar adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By \_\_\_\_\_

Elizabeth Farrar, Judge

By \_\_\_\_\_

Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

By \_\_\_\_\_

Sherrie Wilkins, Commissioner

Teresa Aldrich \_\_\_\_\_

Court Administrative Assistant