

12.19.20

Judge Shaffer called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the North Gilliam County RFPD building, Arlington, Oregon. Present were Judge Steve Shaffer, Commissioner Michael Weimar, Commissioner Leslie Wetherell, Court Administrator Sandy McKay, Recorder Mary Dyer, and County Legal Counsel Ruben Cleaveland.

IN THE MATTER OF CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ROADMASTER QUARTERLY REPORT

Roadmaster Dewey Kennedy reported the following:

- The second year of armoring eroded road shoulders on the banks of Rock Creek has been completed. The project should be finished in the next two years.
- Participation in fires during the summer involved over 300 man hours and equipment hours.
- Robinson Bros. Construction was asked to make repairs to Wolf Hollow Lane, which have been completed. Zayo has agreed to pay the county to make repairs to ditches and road surfaces where needed.
- Kennedy has also discussed fiber placement and potential obstacles with WindWave for the fiber build from Blalock to Condon.
- In order to protect county roads, Kennedy continues to keep an eye on work involved with the two fiber projects, the new Montague Wind Farm, the I-84 paving project and the re-power project on Rattlesnake.
- Fall grading has been completed, although conditions were very dry. Re-grading is ongoing following the recent rainfall.
- The road department will help with the reconstruction of the Mountain Identifier, including pouring of new concrete and installation of steel markers. The red rock will be replaced with basalt. ODOT will install new signs and keep the area clear of snow. A local 4-H club will provide basic maintenance and keep the site free of garbage.

Kennedy thanked Judge Shaffer and Commissioner Weimar for their support of the road department.

IN THE MATTER OF LONEROCK BRIDGE PROJECT DESIGN PROPOSAL

The court discussed a proposal for design engineering services associated with the Lonerock Bridge replacement project, submitted by Anderson Perry & Associates. Ruben Cleaveland explained that the county used an informal bidding process that requires a \$250,000 cap. Anderson Perry's initial bid came in at \$260,000, but the company has subsequently revised the bid to \$250,000 to remain under the cap. Cleaveland also explained that Anderson Perry was provided with a sample (master) contract providing general terms and scope of work, and that the submitted agreement from Anderson Perry did not include that required language. The submitted agreement does serve well as a work plan but the document shouldn't be considered a final contract and isn't ready for final approval. Cleaveland will use the Anderson Perry draft agreement to craft a final County service agreement.

Commissioner Weimar asked what would happen in the event that change orders could bring the total in excess of the \$250,000 cap. Cleaveland said that a process is in place to deal with change orders.

It was also noted that the bid, at approximately 20 percent of the total cost of the bridge, is much higher than the amount expected at approximately 10 percent of total costs.

Commissioner Weimar commented that demand is pushing construction costs up.

The court agreed that Kennedy will discuss the matter with Anderson Perry, and will ask them to provide justification for the expense.

IN THE MATTER OF PORT OF ARLINGTON REQUEST

Sandy McKay noted that this request brings the total amount funded to \$16,508.07 of the \$17,000 allocated for the project.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve a request for release of budgeted funds in the amount of \$5,383.82 for the Port of Arlington irrigation feasibility project, to come from SIP discretionary funds. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

THE MATTER OF FIBER BUILD INVOICE

The court briefly discussed an invoice for the county's share of the Milestone 1 of the fiber build. The City of Condon and the Gilliam County will each pay their shares separately, 32.5 % and 67.5% respectively.

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve payment to Inland Development Corporation in the amount of \$337.803.03 for installation of fiber. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve committee appointments as listed in a handout provided to court members and

presented and read by Judge Shaffer (see below). Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

Budget Committee: Gary Miller (3 years)

Compensation Board: Gary Miller, Walter Powell, John Qualls (1-year terms)

Cultural Coalition: Leslee Hammer, Jude Berray (3-year terms)

Fair Board: Chris Fitzsimmons (3-year term)

Planning Commission: Wayde Johnson (4-year term)

STF Advisory Committee: Dave Klein, John David Deen, Dawn Parm (2-year terms)

STIF Advisory Committee: John David Deen (2), Ann Deen (2), Riley Bennet (2), Dave Klein (2), Dawn Parm (2), Jerilyn Bennett (1), Thomas Romer (1), Mike Cronk (1), Crystal Holmes (1), Shirley Ludlow (1).

North Central Public Health District Board: Leslie Wetherell (3-year term)

CCO Community Advisory Committee: Jennifer Bold, Lisa Helms (3-year terms)

NORCOR Budget Committee: Donald Jamieson (1-year term)

North Central Public Health Budget Committee: Lori Anderson (1-year term)

CCS Advisory Board: Sabrina Wagenaar (3-year term)

LJDACT Cities Representative: Kathryn Greiner (1-year term) Bill Rosenbalm - alternate

IN THE MATTER OF PORT OF ARLINGTON QUARTERLY REPORT

Port Manager/Economic Development Director Peter Mitchell provided a slideshow highlighting accomplishments of the past 12 years, including marina boat ramp and fuel dock, A-Town launch site, golf course, fishing tournament, paddleboard, windsurfing, and other recreational opportunities; removal of asbestos at Condon AFB, Columbia Manor Community Center, Insitu hangar, several small business assistance projects, support of Arlington and Condon Chambers of Commerce, installation of first-level EV car charging station in Arlington, cooperation with Waste Management and Union Pacific resulting in expanded rail capacity, waste contracts with Portland Metro and Seattle, investment in water and sewer, Arlington TV Cooperative fiber project, and development of an affordable housing program, among others.

Slides also included a graph provided by PSU indicating that a downward population spiral in Gilliam County has turned a corner with yearly population growth.

Negatives included loss of the dock at Willow Creek and failure of the Grain Lab.

Lastly, Mitchell thanked Judge Shaffer and Commissioner Weimar for their years of service and efforts to make Gilliam County a great place to live, work and visit.

IN THE MATTER OF DECEMBER 5 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Two corrections were made, as suggested by Commissioner Wetherell and Ruben Cleaveland.

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve Dec. 5 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

The court received:

- a note of thanks from the Condon Scholarship Foundation for fundraising support.
- a note of thanks from Young Life for financial support.
- a letter from South Gilliam Health Center requesting the donation of a vehicle declared as surplus property. Ruben Cleaveland explained that bids for the surplus vehicles had already been received when the letter arrived. He said that legally, a vehicle could only be offered in the event that a bid didn't meet the minimum reserve of \$4,000 for each vehicle. (The bids had not yet been opened at this point).

IN THE MATTER OF GIFTS OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of all people of the county, Sandy McKay presented Commissioner Weimar and Judge Shaffer with gifts of appreciation for their years of service -- an engraved clock for Commissioner Weimar and an engraved plaque for Judge Shaffer.

IN THE MATTER OF FRONTIER TELENET

Judge Shaffer provided a packet of information regarding a situation in which Frontier Telenet is unable to pay its current bills, including an outline of expenses and resources. He explained that E-Rate funding, which provides financial support to schools for telecommunications, has been delayed for the past two years. The FT board of directors has hired a private firm and an attorney to help with the process with the funder -- the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), under the direction of the FCC. Currently, the application is under review.

Judge Shaffer reported that by the end of the fiscal year, FT will have a funding shortage estimated at \$400,000, and that \$86,000 is needed to get to the end of this calendar year. He asked for consideration of a loan of \$100,000 now and an additional \$100,000 to be set aside for the future, noting that the loan may actually be a grant if E-Rate funding doesn't come through. The same requests are before the Sherman County Court. Wheeler County has not been asked for additional financial support at this time. Les Ruark noted that he felt the matter should be considered an emergency appropriation, and asked Ruben Cleaveland what paperwork will be placed on the record regarding the process for allocation of the funds in order to protect the county if the matter is challenged. He advised the court to think carefully how to proceed. Ruben Cleaveland responded that there is a record of the proceedings and that nothing can be

written until the court decides how to move forward. Commissioner Weimar said the matter is now in the discovery phase and no final decisions have been made.

IN THE MATTER OF SURPLUS VEHICLE BIDS

Sealed bid envelopes were opened for two surplus vehicles, both 2013 Toyota Siennas: VIN ending in 8072: Bids received by Guy Whatley, \$4,600; and Cheryl Baker, \$4,501.

VIN ending in 1323: Bid received by Guy Whatley, \$4,150.

No bids were received for a 2005 Dodge Caravan.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to accept bids from Guy Whatley for VIN ending in 8072 in the amount of \$4,600 and VIN ending in 1323 in the amount of \$4,150. A bid Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes;

Motion Carried.

At this time Judge Shaffer had to leave and Commissioner Weimar took over running the meeting for the session.

IN THE MATTER OF JUSTICE COURT REPORT

Justice of the Peace Cris Patnode informed the court about administrative changes for citation offenses dated on or after Jan. 1, 2019. She explained that the changes, involving location, dates and time, addresses, contact information and hours of operation would have no negative impact to the public being served, and in fact will allow the justice court to provide better service. The changes were made in connection with a 1997 court order in which the organization was modified to encompass the entire county rather than two separate branches.

Patnode also outlined legislative changes since she assumed the position in 2003, including changes in laws regarding use of marijuana, stronger laws regarding distracted driving and serious penalties for speeds in excess of 100 mph. She also noted changes associated with increased security and advances in technology, as well as an increase in mental health cases.

IN THE MATTER OF FAMILY SERVICES COORDINATOR SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Family Services Coordinator Teddy Fennern reported on recent activities, including the Veggie RX Program, which provides vouchers for the purchase of produce from local merchants. Fennern said the program is providing 112 voucher booklets for 61 households, (126 people) per month. She said 12 additional families have requested funds, although money is running out and the new grant won't take effect until March. Energy assistance is provided through the Condon Food Pantry. Since Oct. 1, the program has provided assistance to 13 families at a total of \$4,825. The program is funded through the county court.

Commissioner Weimar asked about other energy assistance programs, including CAPECO. Fennern said CAPECO provides assistance for seniors, disabled and others. Fennern also reported that the Condon Food Pantry serves an average of 41 households (71 people) per month. Families who need assistance should contact Fennern in Condon and Kay West or Kari Keown in Arlington. Fennern said the Condon Food Pantry has received a \$2,500 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, administered through CAPECO. The grant is used to purchase additional food and help cover the cost of transportation. Beginning in 2019, every volunteer is now required to attend training and earn food handler permits.

Summer work experience jobs were provided for seventeen youth in various places throughout the county, as well as six OYCC jobs and one adult crew leader. Two internships were funded by the county, with payroll provided by the Family Services office.

Other projects include holiday assistance (Holiday Giving Tree) for 65 to 70 kids, in partnership with DHS and local food pantries. Fennern also continues to serve on several boards and committees, including regional and local Early Childhood Teams and Four Rivers Early Learning Hub, among others. The Family Services Program is also involved in colorectal cancer education and screening program.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR REQUEST

Community Development Coordinator Rachel Weinstein asked the court to provide a letter of support for the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association (EOVA) to remain as the Regional Destination Management Organization for Eastern Oregon and program manager for the Regional Cooperative Tourism Program. Weinstein also reported that funding for tourism has changed substantially since 2015, and that Gilliam County and the John Day River Territory actively coordinate with EOVA in several areas, including facilitation of tour opportunities, marketing of sub-regions and strategic planning.

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve the request for a letter of support for the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association. Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Commissioner Wetherell:

- attended a Columbia Ridge Landfill Community Advisory Committee meeting on Dec. 5. Several topics were discussed, including a suggestion to limit cell phone usage by Waste Management employees while on the job, the number of recent rollovers and whether the 35 MPH speed limit is being enforced, a comment about littering by employees at Blalock, concern about lack of cleanup around the

dumpster used by the community on Saturdays and possible leakage of gondolas. The group was also introduced to the new hydrogeologist.

- attended a Dec. 11 board meeting of the North Central Public Health District. Recent activities were discussed, including a recent audit and positive feedback from Oregon Health Authority.

Commissioner Weimar:

- has been working on the Lonerock Bridge project.
- continues to attend CAPECO meetings. His position is still in question, but he is willing to fill the position if the new court requests. His current term continues until June, 2019.
- noted the new court has a lot of deal with -- much more than when he began. He said the most difficult aspect is how to spend the money coming in, which will continue to be a challenge for the next court. He advised that the court take time to consider the resources provided, and offered encouragement to carry on.
- Commissioner Wetherell thanked Commissioner Weimar, and wished him good luck in his future endeavors.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING

The next regular Gilliam County Court meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon. A swearing-in ceremony will be held at 10 a.m., followed by an informal reception for elected officials.

It appearing to the court that there was no further business to be conducted at this time and no additional matters to be considered, Commissioner Weimar adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____
Elizabeth Farrar, Judge

By _____
Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

By _____

Sherrie Wilkins, Commissioner

Mary H. Dyer/Recorder _____