

Gilliam County Court
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 19, 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

Pulled 5.1 Consider Approval of Drive-In Loan Modification Promissory Note and Trust Deed Addendum

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 February 5th Regular Meeting Minutes

Approval of Letter Opposing HB 4065

IN THE MATTER OF AUDIT PRESENTATION AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Cameron Anderson representing Barnett & Moro, P. C. Certified Public Accountants presented the audit findings for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. This is the first year Barnett & Moro, P. C. have audited Gilliam County. They encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing the audit. Cameron Anderson highlighted for the Court, the auditors reports, the balance sheet, general fund balance, statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances.

IN THE MATTER OF WASTE MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE

Senior District Manager, Alan Anderson presented a report on Columbia Ridge and Chemical Waste Management 2019 Full Year and 2020 to date volumes and host fees. 2019 total host fees paid were \$4,242,223 for Columbia Ridge and \$121,884 for Chemical Waste Management. Year to date Columbia Ridge has paid Gilliam County \$377,484 in host fees and Chemical Waste Management has paid \$4,553 in host fees. The site updates were as follows: no safety accidents, hiring, looking at constructing leachate impoundment and possible train by-pass projects. Anderson also stated the Oregon Department of Energy has issued a Notice of Violation to Chemical Waste

Management for accepting low level, naturally occurring radioactive waste. The waste included filters, pipe scale and debris from oilfield operations in North Dakota. Controls are now in place to ensure this doesn't happen again, and there is no indication that the waste has created risk to human health or the environment. Judge Farrar added she has been in contact with Oregon Department of Energy and is in the process of scheduling public meetings in Arlington and Condon to address the Notice of Violation. The meetings are tentatively scheduled for March 4th.

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR AIRBASE ROAD REPAIRS

Radar Holding, LLC has requested the Gilliam County Road Department assist the community there in replacing the road. Road Master, Dewey Kennedy, is open to performing the work. The Court discussed the fact that the road in question is a public access road and it is not likely it will become a county road. Radar Holding, LLC owner John Barnett informed the court that currently 16 houses are occupied, with plans to remodel at least 8 more to sell or put in the rental market. With the shortage of housing in the area, the Court discussed the road repairs, along with the newly remodeled homes could possibly become an Economic Development Project budget expenditure. Road Master, Dewey Kennedy, estimated the cost of the repairs would be \$70,000. Judge Farrar recommended the next step would be to present the project to the budget committee the first of April. If the budget committee shows interest the Court will discuss further.

IN THE MATTER OF LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT WITH CABLE HUSTON, LLP

Cable Huston, LLP submitted a Letter of Engagement to Provide Legal Services. The Court previously discussed it would be in the best interest of the County to retain legal counsel specializing in energy issues to review current SIP agreements and to represent the County in future SIP-related negotiations. Judge Farrar went on the record to inform the Court that Cable Huston, LLP represented Amerititle a number of years ago in a law suit against Gilliam County. The Court agreed to move forward with entering into the agreement with Cable Huston, LLP on an as needed basis.

Motion by Commissioner Wetherell, seconded by Commissioner Wilkins, to approve the Letter of Engagement with Cable Huston, LLC for energy-related legal services. Farrar – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF AWARD BID FOR INSTALLATION OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM FOR BURNS PARK

Buildings and Maintenance Coordinator, Darryl Houghtelling, presented the Court with bids from two landscape companies for the installation of a new irrigation system at Burns Park. A third company declined to bid due to travel distance. The current system is over 20 years old and does not cover the entire lawn area, creating dry spots. The

Court agreed that Burns Park is a focal point when arriving into town and should be well maintained. Green Thumb Industries, Inc. presented a bid of \$9,995.00 and FLI Landscape presented a bid of \$9,369.32.

Motion by Commissioner Wilkins, seconded by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve the bid received from FLI Landscape for the installation of an irrigation system at Burns Park in the amount of up to \$9,369.32.” Farrar – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; Wetherell – Yes;
Motion Carried.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Commissioner Wetherell:

- Attended the North Central Public Health District Special Meeting, on February 5th and a Regular Meeting on February 11th to discuss the director hiring search, budget and a Plan B if the search for the director is not successful before June 30th.
- Attended a North End road tour with the Road Master on February 12th.
- Attended the Condon Chamber Mixer, February 13th.
- Attended the Bank of Eastern Oregon 75th Anniversary Celebration in Arlington on February 14th.
- Attending the Arlington Chamber meeting next week.

Commissioner Wilkins:

- Attended NORCOR Special Meeting on February 13th and Regular Meeting February 20th.
- Attended the Condon Chamber Mixer, February 13th and shared the Chamber announced the Bank of Eastern Oregon will be the Grand Marshalls for Condon’s Fabulous 4th of July.
- Attending the Port of Arlington budget workshop February 19th.
- Attending the Arlington Chamber meeting next week.

Judge Farrar:

- Met with Waste Management regarding the Notice of Violation from Oregon Department of Energy.
- Attended legislative sessions in Salem.
- Ongoing communication with Legal Counsel regarding the Arlington Library IGA.

IN THE MATTER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judge Farrar noted the following:

- Next County Court meeting will be held March 4, 2020 in Condon.
- Suggested the possibility of a workshop tour of the High School prior to Court on March 4th. Time and date will be verified with Michelle Geer and the Court will be notified.
- North End Road Tour scheduled for March 11th. Start time in Arlington will be verified and the Court will be notified.

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 10:59 a.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____
Elizabeth Farrar, Judge

By _____
Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

By _____
Sherrie Wilkins, Commissioner

Teresa Aldrich _____
Court Administrative Assistant