

Gilliam County Court  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2020

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

**IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2020-21 GILLIAM COUNTY WEED CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT**

Judge Farrar opened the Public Hearing at 10:05 am. The hearing is for the purpose of gathering evidence as to the need for; identifying who will benefit from; and to take public input on the special weed assessment rate. Don Farrar, Gilliam County Weed Officer, was present to give an update on projects currently under way. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has implemented some changes in the federal grant applications. Moving forward the applications will be in place for three years for \$50,000 per year. No public comment was given. Judge Farrar recessed the hearing. The hearing will be continued on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:05 a.m. at the Gilliam County Courthouse.

**REVISIONS TO AGENDA**

None

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

Dave Anderson, Arlington Health Center District Administrator, addressed the Court regarding the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic and reminded everyone to please follow the guidelines put in place by the Oregon Health Authority. Gilliam County Sheriff Bettencourt was present to address the seriousness of COVID-19 and has spoken with restaurants in Condon on the importance of following the restaurant dine in restrictions and take out guidelines. Sheriff Bettencourt will also be speaking with the City of Condon and City of Arlington reinforcing the seriousness of COVID-19.

The Court received two correspondence items. The first was a note from Jennifer Kalez, Communications Director from Oregon Department of Energy, thanking the Court for inviting ODOE to the Town Hall meetings regarding the Notice of Violation issued to Chemical Waste Management. The second item was an email from Sandy McKay formally requesting that the budget committee meetings be video recorded and posted to the County website.

### **IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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

The Consent Agenda included the following:

Approval of March 4<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes

Approval of March 4<sup>th</sup> Work Session Minutes

Approval of March 11<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes

Approval of March 11<sup>th</sup> Executive Session Minutes

Re-Appointment of Daniel Perry to the Gilliam County Fair Board

Approval of IGA Regarding MCCOG Building Codes Reserves Disbursement

Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Arlington HELP Center

Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Condon Food Pantry

### **IN THE MATTER OF AWARD BID FOR PURCHASE OF GILLIAM COUNTY TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE**

The County Court has previously authorized the purchase of a new transportation vehicle, which will be used to support a new designated route. Three requests for bids were sent out as required by Gilliam County and ODOT procurement policies. Two bids were received and one message was received stating the company was unable to provide a bid to meet the arrival deadline. NW Bus Sales provided a range of \$74,506 - \$75,406 and Schetky Bus Sales' bid was \$85,604. Although Schetky Bus Sales provided the higher bid, Kathy Holmes, ODOT Procurement Manager, has approved the purchase for the higher priced vehicle as it provided the equipment and options requested. ODOT has approved the amount of \$58,325 of 5310 Federal Grant Funds for the purchase. Gilliam County Transportation has the funds to pay the additional match amount of \$27,279 needed to complete the purchase.

**Motion** by Commissioner Wilkins, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to award the bid for purchase of a new transportation vehicle to Schetky Bus Sales in the amount of \$85,604 as per the bid dated February 7, 2020. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION R2020-08; A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN GILLIAM COUNTY**

This declaration is in response to the COVID-19 public health pandemic. Formally passing Resolution R2020-08 effective March 18<sup>th</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, declaring a state of emergency allows the County Judge to assume centralized control of and have authority over all departments and offices of the County, and further the County Department of Emergency Management is empowered to carry out appropriate functions and duties during times of emergency. Declaring a state of emergency allows

the County to begin the tracking process for emergency expenses, and unlock Federal funds for expense reimbursement. The consensus of the Court was to remain proactive and pass the resolution.

**Motion** by Commissioner Wetherell, seconded by Commissioner Wilkins, to adopt Resolution R2020-08; A Resolution Declaring a State of Emergency in Gilliam County as presented. Farrar – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

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

Judge Farrar noted the following:

- Next County Court meeting will be held April 1<sup>st</sup>, in Condon.
- Judge Farrar reminded everyone present that the Courthouse would be closed to the public effective at noon today. The public will still be able to conduct essential business by phone, online or by appointment only. At this time staff will continue to work on site. Chris Fitzsimmons, Gilliam County Emergency Management Coordinator will also be sending out COVID-19 alerts.
- The Budget Committee meeting scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>, has been cancelled.
- Any updates in County closures and disclosures regarding the COVID-19 guidelines will be posted on the Gilliam County website, The Times-Journal, and Gilliam County Sheriff's Facebook page. Sheriff Bettencourt asked the Court to start thinking about the long term effects the pandemic will have on businesses and the employees, and suggested weekly meetings to include community leaders to share new information, ideas and the utilization of local services. Dave Anderson expressed concerns and the difficulty with the different medical COVID-19 testing requirements between the Federal Government and the State of Oregon. Anderson also stated Arlington Health Center had a possible case of COVID-19 and the recommendation to the patient at this time to self-quarantine.

### **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 10:42 a.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By \_\_\_\_\_

Elizabeth Farrar, Judge

By \_\_\_\_\_

Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

By \_\_\_\_\_

Sherrie Wilkins, Commissioner

Teresa Aldrich \_\_\_\_\_  
Court Administrative Assistant