

Gilliam County Court
Regular Meeting
3/6/2019

Judge Farrar called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 1 p.m. at the Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon. Present were Judge Elizabeth Farrar, Commissioner Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner Sherrie Wilkins, Sandy McKay, Court Administrator; and Mary Dyer, Recorder.

IN THE MATTER OF CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

From Carol Greenfield: Letter regarding the importance of keeping Frontier 911 dispatch in Condon, citing her concern about the potential loss of jobs if dispatch services are combined with Wasco County.

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.**

Consent Agenda included the following:

- February bills pending review.
- February 20 work session minutes
- February 20 regular meeting minutes
- Service agreement with Waste Management for NORCOR litter pick-up work crew
- Amendment to justice court intergovernmental agreement with the City of Condon
- Joint resolution for Community Dispute Resolution: funding activities.
- Extension of fairgrounds lease agreement with Robinson Bros. Construction
- Approval of PCDC request for release of budgeted funds, \$750,000
- Approval of Summit Springs Village request for budgeted funds, \$8,000
- Appointment of John Anderson/Wheatland Insurance as Workers Comp agent of record

IN THE MATTER OF FRONTIER TELENET UPDATE

Judge Farrar told the court that FTN's scheduled meeting was canceled due to inclement weather, but a brief meeting was held via phone to approve a supplemental

budget resolution. The board agreed that funds of \$200,000 from Sherman and Wheeler Counties will be used only for those uses specified in the budget resolution. She also said that the bookkeeper is still on staff as no written resignation has been provided.

IN THE MATTER OF ALTERNATE LEGAL COUNSEL FOR WILLOW CREEK IGA

In summary, Judge Farrar noted that earlier this year, the court determined it is appropriate to seek alternate legal counsel for the process of resolving a dispute with the Port of Arlington surrounding a 2006 intergovernmental agreement. This determination was based on a conflict presented by Annala Carey's representation of the Port of Arlington. She also pointed out there may be other situations in which alternate legal counsel will be needed.

Judge Farrar said that she has contacted three firms to request proposals, thus meeting procurement requirements. However, the only proposal returned was from Local Government Law Group, a member of Speer Hoyt LLC of Eugene. She indicated that Bryant Lovlien and Jarvis, based in Bend, indicated interest but weren't able to provide the proposals in time.

The court agreed to table selection of alternate legal counsel until the March 20 court meeting to give Bryant Lovlien and Jarvis an opportunity to provide a proposal. The court will request that a joint meeting with the Arlington Port Commission be postponed until early April.

IN THE MATTER OF CONCRETE BATCH PLANT

Sandy McKay noted the Arlington Port Commission will meet March 12 to discuss the county's offer to donate the concrete batch plant. Commissioner Wilkins plans to attend.

MOTION by Commissioner Wilkins, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve the amendment to lease of business property with Thompson Bros. Construction for the batch plant. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Wilkins, to approve the sublease from Thompson Bros. Construction to Hood River Sand and Gravel for the batch plant. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MOTION by Judge Farrar, second by Commissioner Wilkins, to appoint the following to the Gilliam County Road Advisory Committee:

- Les Ruark: Zone 1: Northwest quadrant
- James Wright: Zone 2: Northeast quadrant
- Kent Anderson: Zone 3: Southwest quadrant
- Eric Harrison: Zone 4: Southeast quadrant

Frank Bettencourt: At-large
Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF SPECIAL GRANTS PROGRAM UPDATES

Motion by Judge Farrar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve Special Project Grant Program guidelines as worked on in today's work session. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF FIRE SERVICES COORDINATOR

The court discussed the Gilliam County Fire Services Board's request that the county consider making the fire services coordinator a county employee. Board member Gary Bettencourt and Fire Services Coordinator Shannon Coppock were present for the discussion, noting that the aim of the request is to alleviate risks presented when the fire services coordinator is also responsible for payroll, workers comp, quarterly taxes, etc. Another concern is the likelihood that they will not find an applicant who is qualified in fire services duties and also in accounting and payroll tasks. After addressing various concerns and possible solutions, the court asked Bettencourt and Coppock to discuss the matter with the clerk and treasurer, and to bring a proposal back to the court for consideration. The issue will also be discussed with county counsel, particularly in regards to the need for an updated intergovernmental agreement between the county and the fire services board.

IN THE MATTER OF CCO CONTRACTING OPTIONS

Regarding a possible future choice between Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization and the Pacific Source - Columbia Gorge, Judge Farrar told the court that the CCO region must be contiguous. Sherman County has opted to remain with EOCCO, which means Gilliam County is locked into the partnership.

IN THE MATTER OF JUVENILE COURT FUNCTIONS

In summary, Judge Farrar noted that since taking office in January, she has used her judicial authority to sign individual court orders transferring juvenile court cases to the circuit court, thus ensuring that a trained judge hears cases while the county court makes decisions regarding the future of the juvenile court in Gilliam County. She recommended that the court schedule a series of listening sessions to receive information and public input regarding the current operation and future of the juvenile court.

The court scheduled work sessions/listening sessions as follows:

Wednesday, March 20, Gronquist Building, Arlington, 9 a.m.

Thursday, April 4: Gronquist Building, Arlington, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17: Gilliam County Courthouse, Arlington, 5 p.m.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Commissioner Wetherell:

- attended Waste Management's thank you gathering at Arlington Deli.
- attended a brief meeting of the North Central Public Health District via phone, called for the sole purpose of passing a supplemental budget resolution. Funds will be used to purchase medical equipment that will be shared with other entities.
- said she has been approached by Arlington residents regarding the creation of an ordinance to deal with trains blocking the track near Waste Management. However, she noted that Dave Lowe, WM District Manager, indicated he has an idea for a possible solution, which may negate the need for an ordinance.
- said she has found an individual who is interested in serving on the North Central Public Health District Board. The appointment will be on the agenda for the March 20 court meeting.

Commissioner Wilkins:

- attended a meeting of the NORCOR Board of Directors, via phone, on Feb. 28. Donald Jamieson was appointed to the budget committee, and Kathy Schwartz of Wasco County was elected vice chair. She plans to attend the next budget meeting on March 21.
- attended a meeting of the Port of Arlington regarding the Willow Creek Irrigation Project feasibility study.

Judge Farrar:

- informed commissioners of staff concerns regarding IT problems at the courthouse, including issues with the servers, etc. She said it might be necessary to acquire a different IT provider, as the county's IT needs are becoming more advanced and complicated, possibly beyond ESD's capabilities.
- Commissioners agreed that Judge Farrar should continue the process of looking for a new county vehicle, as approved by the previous court.
- noted she has identified a telecom legal firm in Portland, but more information is needed to determine if the firm can provide guidance the county needs in terms of the middle mile fiber project, Frontier Telenet, etc. She hopes to have proposals for consideration at the March 20 court meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 7 - Informational session, Grant Program updates, Arlington, 5 p.m. (Not a Court Meeting)
- March 13 - Facilitated goal-setting session, Condon, 1 p.m.
- March 20 - Juvenile Court work session, Arlington, 9 a.m.
- April 3 - Budget Committee, 8 a.m.
- April 4 - Listening Session, Juvenile Court Operations, Arlington, 6 p.m.
- March 27 meeting with the Port Commission will be rescheduled.

IN THE MATTER OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Gilliam County Court will be Wednesday, March 20, 11 a.m., at the Gronquist Building in Arlington. The meeting will follow a work session regarding juvenile court operations at 9 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

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 Farrar adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____
Elizabeth Farrar, Judge

By _____
Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

By _____
Sherrie Wilkins, Commissioner

Mary H. Dyer/Recorder _____