

Gilliam County Court  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 1, 2020

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

**REVISIONS TO AGENDA**

None

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

None

**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 March 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes

Approval of March Bills Pending Review

Approval of Grant Application for County Assessment Function Funding Assessment Program (CAFFA) and Resolution No. R2020-09

Approval of Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Agreement with LogistiCare Solutions

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

Judge Farrar opened the Public Hearing at 10:08 am. This second public 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. No public comment was given. Judge Farrar recessed the hearing. The Court proceeded with the first reading of the Ordinance. **Motion** by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Wilkins, to have the first reading of Ordinance No. 2020-01 by title only. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.** Judge Farrar read Ordinance No. 2020-01 an Ordinance for Special Weed Assessment within Gilliam County by title only. **Motion** by Commissioner Wetherell, seconded by Commissioner Wilkins, to accept the first reading of Ordinance No. 2020-01 by title only. **Motion Carried.**

## **IN THE MATTER OF THE MODIFICATION OF EXISTING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT LOANS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

Over the past two weeks, Governor Kate Brown has issued multiple Executive Orders requiring local communities and businesses to enact social distancing measures to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. These social distancing measures have had an immediate financial impact on many small businesses, several of which have existing Business Development Loans with Gilliam County. Some of these business owners have requested a temporary reprieve from their loan payments. Judge Farrar is recommending the Court grant a minimum 6 month reprieve for local businesses impacted by the Stay Home, Save Lives Executive Orders. The Court discussed the suggested 6 month reprieve, whether it was long enough and who would be the contact for businesses wishing to apply. It was the consensus of the Court to grant a 6 month reprieve and Judge Farrar will reach out and follow up. The amended loan documents will come back to the Court for final approval.

## **IN THE MATTER OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WITH CONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR SMALL BUSINESS STABILIZATION PROGRAMS**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic Gilliam County Court created the Small Business Stabilization Program to assist small businesses in creating and implementing a recovery plan. The MOA outlines the partnership between Gilliam County and the Condon Chamber of Commerce to administer the program in accordance with guidelines established by the County Court. After a discussion on program details and expressing thanks to the Condon Chamber of Commerce, it was the consensus of the Court to approve the MOA. **Motion** by Commissioner Wilkins, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for Small Business Stabilization Programs in response to COVID-19 pandemic as presented. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

## **IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. R2020-10, A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE SMALL BUSINESS STABILIZATION GRANT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING FUNDING**

The Small Business Stabilization Grant Program is intended to provide short-term financial support to local small businesses and organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants are intended to serve as a funding bridge to cover essential business expenses until state and federal stabilization and recovery resources can be fully accessed. The grants are not intended to address long-term recovery needs nor to fully replace lost income associated with the pandemic. Funding of the program would come from host fees currently dedicated to the dormant Business Development Loan

Program. The proposed funding level is \$150,000 for business grants plus up to \$15,000 to the Chamber for administration of the program.

**Motion** by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Wilkins, to adopt Resolution No. R2020-10, A Resolution Establishing the Small Business Stabilization Grant Program and Authorizing Funding as presented. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS AND UPDATES**

Judge Farrar gave an update on changes to essential services provided by the County in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Count has placed a full page ad in the Times-Journal outlining all the changes in services and will continue to push out new information; the County is also sharing information via social media outlets. The Gilliam County website has a dedicated COVID-19 webpage to help citizens with questions from school closures to unemployment benefits, and will be updating information as it becomes available. Gilliam, Sherman and Wasco Counties have established a Unified Command to share information surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **IN THE MATTER OF MORMON CRICKET FUNDING**

OSU Extension Service, on behalf of Arlington area residents, is asking Gilliam County to provide up to \$105,360 for Mormon Cricket control efforts to be conducted this spring. Funding would be used to purchase insecticide and to contract for aerial spraying. The Court has previously funded this effort and there is no cost increase from last year.

**Motion** by Commissioner Wilkins, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve funding in the amount of up to \$105,360 for materials and aerial spraying costs needed for Mormon Cricket control efforts. Funds to be distributed, on either a reimbursable or direct invoicing basis, from the SIP Discretionary Line Item 235-100-5-50-5120. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

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

Judge Farrar noted the following:

- Gilliam County Court meeting scheduled on April 15 has been cancelled. The Court may call a special meeting if needed.
- Budget Committee meeting scheduled on April 1 has been postponed. Currently different meeting platforms are being researched in order to comply with the social distancing guidelines.

### **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 10:39 a.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By \_\_\_\_\_

Elizabeth Farrar, Judge

By \_\_\_\_\_

Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

By \_\_\_\_\_

Sherrie Wilkins, Commissioner

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

Court Administrative Assistant