

Gilliam County Court
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 6, 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

The Court received a letter from Bishop Cary, of the Diocese of Baker, explaining the churches wishes and steps for re-opening religious services in Oregon.

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 April 22nd Special Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Revised FY 2020-21 Budget Calendar

IN THE MATTER OF CEDAR SPRINGS LANE RELOCATION PROJECT UPDATE

Road Master, Dewey Kennedy, and Judge Farrar have participated in talks with Waste Management regarding the possible relocation of Cedar Springs Lane. The project would include a complete rebuild of the road on the south side of the Union Pacific tracks and would address traffic wait times at the railroad crossings. A lengthy discussion took place regarding if the County decides to move forward with the project, there are a number of pre and post construction steps required. With the assistance of the Planning Director, Chief of Staff Lisa Atkin has created a scope of the pre and post construction plan. The current agreement the County has with Waste Management for road maintenance states the payment percentages as 80% Waste Management and 20% County. Next steps will involve Judge Farrar continuing talks with Waste Management, additional project research, and different scenarios for payment.

IN THE MATTER OF AWARD BID FOR LONEROCK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The bid opening for the Lonerock Bridge Replacement Project was held on April 29, 2020. Five bids were received. The apparent lowest bid for the project is Waldron & Sons, Inc. at \$882,477.04; the engineer's estimate was \$918,000. Road Master Kennedy recommended awarding the bid to the lowest bidder, Waldron & Sons, Inc. whose license is in good standing and are qualified to perform the work.

Motion by Commissioner Wetherell second by Commissioner Wilkins, to issue a notice of intent-to-award the contract for the Lonerock Bridge Replacement Project to Waldron & Sons, Inc. per their bid dated April 29, 2020 in the amount of \$882,477.04. The intent-to-award will become an award of the contract on May 13, 2020 contingent on no challenges to the intent-to-award being received by the County prior to May 13, 2020. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF FRONTIER TELENET UPDATE

Judge Farrar updated the Court on the light COVID-19 has shed on the current divide on internet connectivity in rural communities. Currently the work and learn from home strategies have enhanced the divide for the employees and families who live outside the City. Judge Farrar shared there is the possibility of stimulus money for existing entities to improve the connectivity in underserved areas. Frontier Telenet is continuing to work on strategies to improve the availability in our community.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. R2020-14; A RESOLUTION EXTENDING A DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY IN GILLIAM COUNTY

On March 18, 2020, Gilliam County adopted Resolution No. R2020-08 declaring a state of emergency, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The resolution is scheduled to expire on May 15, 2020 and needs to be extended to allow the County to continue its response efforts to this public health threat. The purpose of extending the state of emergency is to allow the County to re-coop COVID-19 related expenses through FEMA reimbursement funds. Resolution No. R2020-08 will be extended until such time as it is formally rescinded by the Court.

Motion by Commissioner Wilkins second by Commissioner Wetherell, to adopt Resolution No. R2020-14 as presented. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF MODIFICATION OF TUMBLEWEED TOURNAMENT SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT AWARD

The Tumbleweed Tournament was a recipient of a Special Projects Grant for the FY 2019-20. The yearly tournament was cancelled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tournament organizer Joe Colby contacted the Treasurer's office asking how the County would like him to address the unexpended funds. After a discussion, the Court decided to modify the grant award and authorize the Judge to prepare and signed an amended grant agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Wilkins second by Commissioner Wetherell, to amend the FY 2019-20 Special Projects Grant Award to the Condon School District for the Tumbleweed Tournament by extending the deadline for expending the grant funds to June 30, 2021, and to authorize the County Judge to prepare and execute an amended grant agreement reflecting the same. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. R2020-13; A RESOLUTION DECLARING COUNTY VEHICLE AS SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

The Gilliam County Family Services Department requested the 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe be declared as surplus. The Safety Committee identified safety concerns with the vehicle and recommended it either be repaired or replaced.

Motion by Commissioner Wilkins second by Commissioner Wetherell, to adopt Resolution No. R2020-13 declaring the 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe as surplus equipment and directing the vehicle be disposed of via online auction with a minimum bid of \$800. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF IN-HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRUCTURE

During the meeting on April 22, 2020, the Court received correspondence from the City of Condon requesting an opportunity to work directly with the County on future economic development projects. As a follow-up to the request, the Commissioners requested the Judge put together an initial staffing structure proposal for handling economic development initiatives in-house going forward. The Judge is recommending the Judge would serve as the Economic Development Officer for the County. Existing staff, Chief of Staff and Administrative Assistant, would support the Judge in this role. The role of Community Development Coordinator would be reclassified as Administrative Assistant – Development. The position would be structured to provide additional administrative and research capacity to support both economic and community development functions.

Currently, the roles and responsibilities of local entities related to economic development are unclear. The Port of Arlington has asserted, at times, that it functions

as the County's Economic Development Agency; however, a thorough review of County records has turned up zero documentation that previous Courts have ever authorized a formal delegation of this responsibility. Peter Mitchell, Port Manager of the Port of Arlington agreed there has not been a formal agreement with the Court, however he has collaborated with previous Courts on projects with some success. Pat Shannon added the County needs to address the housing problems and currently Waste Management has 7 buses transporting employees to other communities and it would benefit local businesses if those people were able to live locally. Commissioner Wetherell stated she has received emails from citizens regarding this approach and requested more time to research before making a decision. Next steps will involve creating a new job description, working with the current Community Development Coordinator position holder and the Union.

IN THE MATTER OF COVID-19 REOPENING PLAN

On Friday, May 1, 2020, Governor Brown released a list of prerequisites for beginning the phased reopening of Oregon. As many of the prerequisites are related to regional medical capacity, there is a regional effort underway, led by North Central Public Health and Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, to develop a regional plan. As part of the plan submission, Gilliam County may also need to include a letter attesting that it has met the County specific prerequisites and will be ready to begin Phase 1 Reopening once the regional plan has been finalized. Before the Court is the recommendation to authorize the Judge to prepare and submit any documentation necessary to formally request Phase 1 Reopening for the County; in coordination with the development and submission of the regional reopening plan.

Motion by Commissioner Wetherell second by Commissioner Wilkins, to authorize the County Judge to prepare and submit any documentation necessary to request Phase 1 Reopening Status for Gilliam County; in coordination with the submission of a regional reopening plan as outlined in the Governor's Prerequisites for Phased Reopening of Oregon Plan. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judge Farrar noted the following:

- Next Gilliam County Court meeting will be held Tuesday, May 19th.
- Commissioner Wilkins will be attending the City of Arlington Budget Committee Meeting next week in Arlington.
- Condon Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Business Adaptions Seminar led by the Regional Economic Resilience Team, May 14 from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

- Budget Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 19th at 8:00 a.m., prior to the Regular Gilliam County Court Meeting.
- Judge Farrar praised K'Lynn Lane Executive Director of the Condon Chamber of Commerce for her phenomenal work, steady voice and support to local businesses during these uncertain times.

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 11:40 a.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____
Elizabeth Farrar, Judge

By _____
Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

By _____
Sherrie Wilkins, Commissioner

Teresa Aldrich _____
Court Administrative Assistant