

Gilliam County Court
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2020

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

IN THE MATTER OF REVISIONS TO AGENDA

None

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Judge Farrar reviewed correspondence received from the Port of Arlington regarding the joint meeting to discuss resolving the Willow Creek Intergovernmental Agreements.

IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Consent Agenda included the following:

Approval of August 5th Regular Meeting Minutes

Approval of USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Agreement

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization

Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Intergovernmental Agreement #5841 with Oregon Department of Corrections

IN THE MATTER OF POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR GILLIAM COUNTY LIBRARY DIRECTOR

During the July 22nd meeting, the County Court approved a request from the Gilliam County Public Library Board to move the Library Director position from 29.5 hours per week to 37.5 hours per week. The position description memorializes this previously approved change.

Motion by Commissioner Wilkins, second by Judge Farrar, to approve the position description for Library Director as presented. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Absent; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DRIVER

During the February 5th meeting, the County Court expressed interest in hiring part-time drivers to support the creation of designated transportation routes to The Dalles and Hermiston. The two part-time positions were included in the FY 2020-2021 Budget and

would be funded by State Transportation Grants. Although the designated routes have not yet been created, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a shortage of volunteer drivers and the part-time drivers would help fill current community demand. The Public Transportation Director and Chief of Staff have drafted a position description, which, once approved, will enable the County to commence the recruitment process.

Motion by Judge Farrar, second by Commissioner Wilkins to approve the position description for Public Transportation Driver as amended, striking the word “On Call” under Type. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Absent; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

Environmental Manager Leah Shannon provided the Court statistics, site updates, compliance, hiring, projects and community engagement for Columbia Ridge Landfill and Chemical Waste Management (CWM). For Columbia Ridge, volumes were down for 2020 Q2; however, year to date volumes were up 4%. Host fees paid to Gilliam County for 2020 Q2 are \$1,089,210; year to date host fees paid are \$2,179,923. For CWM, volumes were down for 2020 Q2, as well as year to date. Host fees paid to Gilliam County for 2020 Q2 are \$13,858; year to date host fees paid are \$28,282. CWM continues to work cooperatively with Oregon regulatory agencies regarding the Notice of Violation received in February. On April 30, CWM provided Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) a series of technical reports prepared by an independent radiation and risk analysis expert. These reports are available on the CWM website. The ODOE initial assessment of the reports stated no current threat to employees, the public or the environment. Waste Management will be donating school supplies in Condon and Arlington and will be supporting local 4-H members in the 2020 Gilliam County Livestock Auction.

IN THE MATTER OF DONATION TO GILLIAM COUNTY AUCTION COMMITTEE

The Gilliam County Auction Committee requested a donation to support the 2020 Gilliam County Livestock Auction. The auction will take place on September 5, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Wilkins, seconded by Judge Farrar to approve a \$400 donation to the Gilliam County Auction Committee for the 2020 Gilliam County Livestock Auction. Funds to come from the County Court’s Donations line item. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Absent; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. R2020-24; A RESOLUTION TO CANCEL OLD AND UNCOLLECTIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES PER ORS 311.790

Tax Collector, Nathan Hammer, and District Attorney, Marion Weatherford, requested in writing the Court authorize and direct a list of taxes, contained in the proposed resolution, be canceled for the Tax Years 2011 through 2019 per ORS 311.790.

Cancellation of the taxes would clear up the tax roll. The total financial impact would be a reduction of taxes receivable in the amount of \$3,392.61. Deputy Treasurer, Kelly

Smith, requested the proposed resolution be amended to correct a typo in the years referenced.

Motion by Judge Farrar, second by Commissioner Wilkins, to approve Resolution No. R2020-24 as amended, the amendments being change references from 2015 to 2019 in the title and section 1. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Absent; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried**

IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY COUNSELING SOLUTIONS REPORT

Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) Director, Kimberly Lindsay updated the Court on a partnership with the State of Oregon in pursuing an immediate crisis counseling program through the FEMA-CCP opportunity. The opportunity compliments several of their COVID-19 strategic response goals and will assist the State in rolling out a statewide response plan. CCS will be hiring six full-time crisis counselors, as well as a crisis counselor team leader to serve the Eastern Oregon Region. All counselors and team leaders would be home/community-based allowing for optimal flexibility in providing services.

Of the \$75,000 emergency funds that were distributed to CCS, \$25,000 will be sent to North Central Public Health District (NCPHD). Lindsay will contact Commissioner Wetherell, who serves on the NCPDH Board, to update her on the use of the funds.

Lindsay also highlighted the Officer Wellness Program, which the Gilliam County Sheriff's Office is taking part in, and the new Frontline Program, which offers free counseling services to front line medical staff and first responders that work in the counties served by CCS during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, Lindsay presented an update on the Zero Suicide Initiative and asked the Court to consider supporting the Zero Suicide Pledge. Both Judge Farrar and Commissioner Wilkins agreed on the importance of suicide prevention and to bring the pledge back to the Court at the September 2nd meeting for consideration. This will also provide Commissioner Wetherell an opportunity to weigh-in on the Pledge.

IN THE MATTER OF ROAD DEPARTMENT REQUEST TO ISSUE FINAL PAYMENT FOR 2015 CATERPILLAR FRONT END LOADER

In September 2016, the Court purchased a 2015 Caterpillar 966 M Front End Loader as equipment to be used at the crusher site. The Road Department has made 4 payments of \$44,500 and now has a balloon payment of \$258,757.92 due September 30, 2020. The Road Department plans to keep this loader for 4 to 5 more years before replacing it, and plans to pay off the bank note from Road Equipment Replacement Fund 200-223. Because the expenditure was approved by a previous Court, and there are sufficient funds in the budget, the Court determined no additional action was required.

IN THE MATTER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Court meeting will be held September 2nd via the Zoom platform.
- Judge Farrar reported the City/County Fiber Council will be meeting August 20th. The meeting will be held at Memorial Hall and will be available via Zoom
- Judge Farrar reminded the Court members their SWOT analysis is due to the Chief of Staff by Friday, August 21st.
- Commissioner Wilkins will be attending the NORCOR meeting August 20th.
- Commissioner Wilkins will be attending the Extension Community Advisory Network (ECAN) meeting August 21st.
- On Tuesday, August 25th Commissioner Wilkins will be meeting the CAPECO team and will attend her first CAPECO Board meeting later that day.
- Commissioner Wilkins reported she is working on procurement policy, and continuing discussions regarding Shutler Station and leasing the grain lab.
- Judge Farrar is working on updating the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Condon for the Condon Swimming Pool. Specifically, extending the agreement three years and possibly increasing the funding available.
- Judge Farrar is working with Treasurer Nathan Hammer and Assessor Chet Wilkins to review the Economic Enhancement Ordinance. The County Court will likely need to update the Ordinance to provide clarity related to implementation of the Homestead Rebate Program and other administrative fixes.
- Judge Farrar is in discussions with the Barnett Family/Radar Holdings regarding housing development at the Air Base in exchange for the County repairing/paving the road there.
- Judge Farrar would like to accelerate the grant program review this year, scheduling works sessions before the end of the year, so applicants know the requirements and dates before she goes on maternity leave in December.

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 11:12 a.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Elizabeth Farrar, Judge

By _____

Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

By _____

Sherrie Wilkins, Commissioner

Teresa Aldrich _____

Court Administrative Assistant