

Gilliam County Court
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 5, 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

Judge Farrar reviewed correspondence received from the Port of Arlington. The Court and the Port had scheduled a meeting for August 12th, to discuss issues related to the Willow Creek Memorandums of Understanding. However, in an email dated July 31, 2020 received from Kelly Margheim, the Port of Arlington cancelled the meeting, due to three Port of Arlington Board members not able to attend.

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 July 22nd Regular Meeting Minutes

Approval of July Bills Pending Review

Approval of Amendment to the Blanket Purchase Agreement with GOBHI

Approval of Amendment 3 to the Water Purchase Agreement with Keven Haguewood

Approval of FY 2020-2021 CAPECO Services Agreement for Senior Meal Sites

Approval of Engagement Letter from Sussman Shank, LLP

IN THE MATTER OF FRONTIER TELENET UPDATE

Judge Farrar reported she attended a Frontier Telenet meeting last week via phone. Both the Roosevelt and Cottonwood projects are moving forward. The Roosevelt project is potentially scheduled to begin work at the end of August. The Cottonwood project is still seeking RFP's and will discuss any bids received at the September meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

No report was available and will be rescheduled for the next meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF WASTE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL FOR CHAMBER DONATIONS IN LIEU OF COUNTY ENERGY PAYMENTS

Judge Farrar opened the discussion regarding the proposal received from Dave Lowe, Director of Disposal Operations for Waste Management. After the introduction, Commissioner Wetherell declared a conflict of interest as per ORS 244.120, and recused herself from the discussion, as her husband is employed at Waste Management. Waste Management is currently using methane gas, generated at Columbia Ridge Landfill, to produce and sell energy to the City of Seattle Light Department, with Gilliam County's approval. Waste Management does not pay the County any fees on this activity, however Section 8 of the Host Fee and Road Maintenance Agreement states, if Columbia Ridge generates or will generate methane gas in an adequate quantity and quality that Waste Management determines has the potential to generate electricity using that gas as the fuel, Waste Management agrees to provide notice to the County and, if the County desires, to meet with the County to discuss in good faith, the economics of generating electricity, and the benefits that would occur for the County and Waste Management from generating electricity. Mr. Lowe is proposing providing \$25,000 annually (\$12,500 to each Chamber) for the length of the current Metro Contract (10 years). Commissioner Wilkins expressed she would like to see information from Columbia Ridge documenting how much energy is being produced, how much is being sold and the cost City of Seattle Light Department is paying. Commissioner Wilkins suggested reaching out to Waste Management and have someone from senior management attend the next meeting. Judge Farrar agreed with Commissioner Wilkins. Judge Farrar will be reaching out to Mr. Lowe about members of senior management attending the August 19th Court meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Judge Farrar presented the Court a proposed strategic planning process and timeline for discussion. The Court will be receiving a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) Analysis framework to provide input to the Chief of Staff; responses will be used to shape employee and community surveys. The strategic planning process will take place over the next few months, allowing time to compile survey responses, hold town halls, and work sessions. The final Strategic Plan will go before the Court for consideration in November 2020.

IN THE MATTER OF MODIFICATION OF CONDON SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT

The Condon Scholarship Foundation was awarded a FY 2020-2021 Special Projects Grant in the amount of \$3,500 for expenses associated with the annual dinner. At the July 22nd Foundation Board Meeting, the Board made the decision to cancel the annual

fundraising dinner and auction, due to COVID-19 social gathering restrictions. The Court received a letter from the Foundation requesting to expend the funds directly as scholarships.

Motion by Commissioner Wilkins, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to amend the FY 2020-2021 Special Projects Grant Award to the Condon Scholarship Foundation allowing the grant funds to be expended directly as scholarships, 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 GILLIAM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICTS RADIO PURCHASE

Emergency Management Coordinator, Chris Fitzsimmons, requested the purchase of 15 portable radios for the North and South Gilliam Fire Districts. A sole source provider bid from NASPO ValuePoint was received through Motorola Solutions for \$53,714.23. There was discussion around the 911 Funds being depleted soon and the possibility of providing a permanent fund within the County budget for emergency services districts.

Motion by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Wilkins, to accept the bid of \$53,714.23 from Motorola Solutions for the purchase of 15 portable, single band, 700 radios as per the bid dated July 28, 2020 with funds to come from the Revolving Law Enforcement line item in the Economic Enhancement Fund. Farrar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Wilkins – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chris Fitzsimmons reported the Gilliam County Fair has been cancelled. The Fair Board will be holding a Livestock Auction on September 5th at the Fairgrounds. Social distancing requirements will be followed. Fitzsimmons also reported, due to a reduction in state lottery funds, the amount of funding the Fair may receive from the state could be cut in half next year.
- Commissioner Wetherell will attend the North Central Public Health Meeting on August 11; interviews for the Director position will be held at the end of the month.
- Commissioner Wetherell reported the Road Master had contacted her regarding the purchase of a 966 Front End Loader. The Road Master will be gathering more information to present to the Court at the August 19th meeting.
- Commissioner Wilkins reported she has been selected to serve on the CAPECO Board.
- Commissioner Wilkins is working with the EDA regarding the Wheat Lab responsibilities regarding grants funds.
- Commissioner Wilkins is visiting with Jason Seager from WATCO about the rail crossing at Cedar Springs Road.

- The next Court meeting will be held August 19th via the Zoom platform.
- Judge Farrar reported the City/County Fiber Council will be meeting August 20th. The Council will be brainstorming on how to encourage providers to provide fiber outside city limits.
- Judge Farrar informed the Court, over the next few months the office will be working on many policies to be presented to the Court for approval.

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 10:43 a.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____
Elizabeth Farrar, Judge

By _____
Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

By _____
Sherrie Wilkins, Commissioner

Teresa Aldrich _____
Court Administrative Assistant