

02-07-18

Judge Shaffer called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held at Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon. Present were Judge Steve Shaffer, Commissioner Michael Weimar, Commissioner Leslie Wetherell and Mary Dyer, Recorder.

IN THE MATTER OF CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Judge Shaffer noted the following changes to the agenda:

- Error in agenda action item 2.8: “Resolution No. 2018-01” should be corrected to “Resolution No. 2018-04”.
- In response to a question from Commissioner Weimar regarding the death of County legal counsel Will Carey, Judge Shaffer noted that attorney Ruben Cleaveland will be present during the fiber discussion, and that the law firm is working to redistribute Carey’s caseload.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Judge Shaffer announced that the agenda for each Court meeting will include time set aside for public comment on non-agenda items. Brief discussion followed with the Court noting that although there will be a specific agenda item at the beginning of the meetings, they will continue the past practice of taking public comment during the meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF REGULAR MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Approval of the Jan. 17 regular Court meeting minutes and Jan. 17 Executive session Court minutes were tabled.

IN THE MATTER OF JANUARY CLAIMS PENDING REVIEW

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve January claims pending review. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENT TO GILLIAM COUNTY FAIR BOARD

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to appoint Daniel Perry to the Gilliam County Fair Board as recommended by the Fair Board. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**
Amanda Wilson also submitted a letter of application.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING: SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Judge Shaffer opened a public hearing at 10:15 a.m. to receive public comments and consider approval of Supplemental Budget Resolution No. 2018-02 for Fiscal Year 2017-18.

With no public comments, Judge Shaffer closed the Public Hearing at 10:20 and opened the matter to discussion by Court members.

County Treasurer Nathan Hammer noted that Coordinated Care Organization and VOCA both received more money than expected. He also explained that Gilliam County Library purchased a desk that exceeded the amount budgeted; adjustments were made by increasing the beginning fund balance by \$1,000 and increasing the Equipment Replacement line item by \$1,000.

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve Budget Resolution No. 2018-02 adopting a supplemental budget and making appropriations for Fiscal Year 2017-18. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF NORTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Judge Shaffer, to appoint Lori Anderson to the North Central Public Health District Budget Committee, Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF MEDICAL EXAMINER APPOINTMENT

The Court discussed the process for appointment of Dr. Miriam McDonald as Gilliam County Medical Examiner. Judge Shaffer explained that the potential appointment has been approved by the Sheriff and District Attorney and the next step is the Court submits a recommendation to the Oregon Chief Medical Examiner, who makes the appointment.

Commissioner Wetherell recounted Sheriff Bettencourt's concern at a previous meeting that the County hasn't paid for medical examiner services in the past, and that certain Sheriff's Department deputies are trained to serve as deputy medical examiners. In response to a question from Commissioner Weimar, Judge Shaffer confirmed that the County would be contracting with North Central Public Health for Dr. McDonald's services, and the cost would be in addition to public health services currently provided. He also clarified that the County only pays when services are needed. The decision to use the services of a Medical Examiner is at the discretion of the Sheriff and District Attorney.

County Emergency Management Coordinator Chris Fitzsimmons said that Dr. McDonald recently had a conversation with Fitzsimmons and Sheriff Bettencourt, in which Dr. McDonald explained that she performs no more work than is necessary to complete a death certificate. Fitzsimmons also said that Sherman County budgeted \$1,000 for the service but has only expended \$560.

District Attorney Marion Weatherford explained that in the past, services were provided at no cost by Dr. Bruce Carlson, then supervising physician at South Gilliam Medical Clinic. Dr. Carlson continued to perform the service after he was no longer supervising physician, but he has become less available in recent months. Commissioner Wetherell suggested that services of Deputy Medical Examiners from the Sheriff's Department should be utilized whenever possible.

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve a recommendation to the Oregon Chief Medical Examiner that Dr. Miriam McDonald be appointed Gilliam County's Medical Examiner. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT

In a semi-annual staff report, Daryl Houghtelling of the Gilliam County Maintenance Department reported on recent activities at the Courthouse and grounds, Burns Park, Shutler Industrial Park and the Library. He also noted that he continues to drive sporadically for Gilliam County Senior Transportation.

Houghtelling requested the Court's approval to enter into an Agreement with ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corporation. The Agreement, at a cost of \$85 per month, includes two annual inspections required by the State of Oregon. A technician will service the equipment twice per year when he is in Condon, and any repairs or trouble calls outside that would be billable. Houghtelling explained that the elevator failed a recent inspection and the County was given 90 days to get it up to code, although the elevator has continued to operate during that time. Court Administrator Leanne Durfey commented that the contract appears straightforward, and has been reviewed and approved by John Anderson of Wheatland Insurance.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve a service agreement with ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corporation in the amount of \$85 per month to perform maintenance services for the Courthouse elevator, pending legal counsel review. Houghtelling explained that the agreement renews yearly unless the County notifies otherwise. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

Houghtelling also discussed the sidewalk next to the warehouse building behind the Library, which has become a significant safety issue. Any decisions regarding the sidewalk are limited until the situation with the warehouse is resolved. Judge Shaffer said State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has given approval for the County to move forward regarding the future of the warehouse building, but the matter must first come before the City Planning Commission. Commissioner Weimar suggested that for

now, it might be safer to remove the concrete and replace it with gravel. He will discuss the matter with the Roadmaster.

IN THE MATTER OF FAIRGROUND CARETAKER HOUSE DEMOLITION

Jeff Schott of Pillar Consulting reported that he solicited bids from four contactors for demolition of the Gilliam County Fairgrounds caretaker house and subsequently received bids from Bloom Construction for \$8,606 and Rutherford Construction for \$11,200. Schott recommended that the Court accept the bid from Bloom Construction.

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to accept Schott's recommendation to award the bid for demolition of the Gilliam County Fairgrounds caretaker's house to Bloom Construction in the amount of \$8,606. Judge Shaffer commented that he prefers to support local companies rather than seeing the money go out of the County, but Commissioner Weimar noted that local companies had the opportunity to submit bids. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF SUMMIT SPRINGS VILLAGE REQUEST FOR FUNDS

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve disbursement of funds to Summit Springs Village Corporation in the amount of \$150,000 as earmarked in the 2017-18 budget. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF 2016-17 AUDIT REPORT

County auditor Mitch Saul, CPA with Oster Professional Group, provided an overview of the FY 2016-17 Audit Report noting several violations in the County's records. Saul explained that according to State statutes, Counties with budgets of over \$500,000 per year must have a yearly audit.

Commissioner Wetherell asked how often such violations occur. Saul said errors like this happen regularly and aren't an abnormality, even in Counties with a financial director, and that certain things can be difficult to forecast. Commissioner Wetherell asked if staff training is needed, and Saul suggested that training isn't necessary, but discussions need to take place. He recommended that the Court establish policies in order to comply with public contracting laws and reminded that it's the Court's responsibility to ask questions about purchasing decisions and financial statements. He advised that matters can be addressed and the budget changed by the end of June. Commissioner Weimar commented that the letter of notification from the Secretary of State Audits Division dated December 7, 2017 should have been received sooner so that corrective actions could be enacted in a more timely manner.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve Resolution No. 2018-03 in the matter of setting forth a proposed Plan of Action

pertaining to deficiencies noted in the annual audit report. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF BID FOR DARK FIBER IRU AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Fiber Consultant Joe Franell reported that the Notice of Intent to Award Goods and Services Procurement expires at noon today. The next step is to finalize the agreement for Dark Fiber Indefeasible Right of Use and Maintenance Services. He said the County's response to Inland Development's bid is nearly complete and should be finalized this week or early next week at the latest, with no action needed today.

Fiber Attorney Jim Deason explained that the number of pairs doesn't affect nonrecurring costs but does alter monthly recurring costs. The County has tentatively agreed on six pairs, but the monthly cost will increase if the County determines that more fibers are needed.

The Court agreed that a special meeting will be needed to finalize the Agreement with Inland.

IN THE MATTER OF LEASE OF CONCRETE BATCH PLANT

Brad Thompson and Justin Thompson of Thompson Bros. Excavating, Inc., were present to discuss lease of the concrete batch plant.

Judge Shaffer asked Brad Thompson if he reviewed the County's previous lease for the batch plant with WI Construction, and Thompson said his proposal is similar. Thompson said everything at the plant appears to be in order and he hopes to begin batching and hauling March 1. Judge Shaffer noted there are no trucks at the plant and Thompson indicated he will provide his own trucks.

Commissioner Wetherell noted that an RFP for lease of the plant was issued last year with no responses and asked attorney Ruben Cleaveland if the Court can enter into an agreement without a new public bidding process. Attorney Ruben Cleaveland said he thinks it is appropriate to proceed because there was no response to the previous RFP, but he will verify that the process is in compliance with public contracting rules. Judge Shaffer said that in an earlier discussion, County Attorney Will Carey advised that as long as the Court went through the entire process, sole source is appropriate.

Port of Arlington Manager/Economic Development Director Peter Mitchell was present and commented that the matter involves industrial property available for lease, not a procurement. He said that because there was no response to the original RFP, the property would be available to the first entity that expressed interest.

Judge Shaffer asked if the next portion of the discussion should be carried into Executive Session and Cleaveland responded that because nobody else has expressed interest, the negotiation can occur in either open session or executive session. Judge Shaffer asked the Court if they were ready to enter an agreement now, or if more discussion is needed. Cleaveland advised that the Court can go ahead and determine

terms of the lease now, and he will then ensure that sure no public notice is required. Judge Shaffer explained that cost of lease of the first acre is \$750, plus an additional \$400 for each additional acre. Judge Shaffer also told Thompson that in the past, the per-yard price that had been offered was approximately \$7 per cubic yard. Thompson indicated he was satisfied with the prices. Judge Shaffer said the Court prefers a one-year lease rather than month-to-month, and Thompson agreed.

At this point, Judge Shaffer disclosed that he went to school with Brad Thompson's older brother. No concern was expressed about any potential conflict.

Discussion of details also included renewal of the lease, liability insurance, availability of concrete forms and maintenance of the plant. Judge Shaffer said he would ask Roadmaster Dewey Kennedy where the concrete forms are located, and will also ask him to ensure everything at the plant is in good condition and operating correctly.

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell that the Court enter into a lease with Thompson Bros. Excavation Inc., but Cleaveland advised that the Court wait until the lease is in hand. The motion died for lack of a second. The Court agreed that Cleaveland should draft the necessary documents.

IN THE MATTER OF COST SHARE PROGRAM

OSU Extension Agent Jordan Maley requested that the Court consider funding a landowner's cost share program for Mormon cricket infestation. He provided minutes of a Dec. 12, 2017 meeting of large area landowners, in which cricket origins and movement patterns were discussed, as well as 2017 control measures and 2018 control framework and timeline. Residents of the City of Arlington have also been involved in discussions.

Maley said monitoring the outbreak will involve weekly reports from landowners used to generate maps that will be provided to the public via an email list and the County's web page. He said the goal is to control the crickets before they start moving, using an insect growth regulator that affects the crickets' ability to grow protective exoskeletons. The cost is based on worst case conditions but may be lower. The product (Dimilin) will be applied to 2,000 acres up to six times at two- to three-week intervals. Cost of materials is estimated at \$33,360, with aerial application costs estimated at \$72,000. Maley commented that use of technology will provide information on the most critical areas and that a map would be uploaded into avionics so the aerial applicator will know the location and number of acres to be sprayed.

Maley explained the proposal, in which the County is asked to set aside funds in the form of a line of credit but will not be asked to appropriate until funds are needed. The chemical company would bill the County after Maley certifies the acreage.

In response to a question by Commissioner Weimar, Maley said that spraying will begin as soon as firm data is collected. He said the primary focus is a large area in the north end of the county, but control will also involve a buffer next to the City of Arlington.

However, an individual who owns critical property adjacent to the city limits hasn't agreed to participate. Maley also said there must be a 150-foot buffer from any sensitive crops, including vineyards.

Judge Shaffer commented that the infestation has been devastating and that there have already been sightings of crickets. Maley said that hatching will occur quickly when weather is warmer than normal and the soil may already be at a temperature conducive for hatching. He said the infestation is originating from Blalock and Ladd Canyon and moving east to Arlington, which is considered "ground zero." He said the cost of control will be much higher down the road if the crickets aren't controlled now.

Commissioner Weimar commented that spraying isn't designated in the budget and Judge Shaffer suggested that funds are available in the Contingency fund and Project Development fund. Commissioner Weimar suggested that the money should be taken from the Project Development fund so that Contingency funds remain for other situations that may arise.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to appropriate up to \$105,360 to control the Mormon cricket infestation in the north end of the County. Maley clarified that the funds will be in the form of a line of credit. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

Commissioner Weimar asked about possible violation of public contracting rules, and Maley said that at this point, the amounts presented are only estimates and explained that he sought bids from at least two aviation groups and spoke to Inland Chemical about chemical prices. He also noted that certain rules can be modified if the Governor's office declares the situation is a health exigency.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2018-04

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve Resolution No. 2018-04 declaring 1992 Cat 140 G 3 grader VIN #72V15059 as surplus equipment to be disposed of by sale of sealed bids or public auction. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF GRAIN ELEVATOR REMOVAL

Landowner Kevin Haguewood asked the Court's assistance with removal of a grain elevator located on Union Pacific property adjacent to Shutler Industrial Park. He said he acquired the elevator when he purchased Plateau Farms, and that the elevator, built in the 1930s or '40s, has become an eyesore and should be removed before somebody is injured. Hague said he will hire a contractor to tear down the building and requested that the County Road Department assist with cleanup. He will provide an excavator and two men to assist. Marion Weatherford, owner of an adjacent elevator, will share the cost of removal.

Weatherford said the structures are liabilities and nuisances, and noted that a child was killed in one of the elevators years ago. He explained that although the elevators aren't functional, he continues to pay \$2,500 to Union Pacific every year, and the lease could increase anytime. Haguewood said he pays \$3,200 per year.

Weatherford noted that many landowners have historic elevators that may be retained for their historic significance, but landowners have the option to remove and burn the structures if they choose. However, that isn't an option in this situation because the structures are on property owned by Union Pacific.

Michael Goss, Watco employee and also representing Union Pacific Road was present and said the railroad has no objection to removal of the elevators. Haguewood asked if the wood could be burned on the site and Goss said that any burning must be done outside UP property.

County Roadmaster Dewey Kennedy said he has equipment in the area and estimated that the job would take a few days. He also suggested an appropriate area for burning that wouldn't necessitate crossing the highway.

Commissioner Weimar commented that there is no benefit to the County for using public equipment for a private project. Haguewood countered that when tin blows off the elevators it could damage buildings at the industrial park. He also commented that the buildings may be a hindrance if Waste Management chooses to put in additional railroad tracks. In that event, removal of the elevators will be even more difficult.

Commissioner Weimar said that the decision would be easier if the County purchased the property. Goss said the property is available to purchase, and that although he doesn't know the asking price, it would be fair and reasonable. Jeff Schott said he discussed the matter with Commissioner Dennis Gronquist a few years ago, and at that time, Union Pacific was approached about purchase of a portion of the property. Schott said it makes sense to utilize the property for railroad expansion and Judge Shaffer said that Waste Management will need additional area at the industrial park due to the increase in solid waste from Seattle.

Weatherford commented that any development will require the elevators to come down and that removal at that time will be difficult and more expensive.

Commissioner Weimar indicated he is still hesitant about the Road Department assisting with removal and that it's time for the road department to begin grading, not excavating. Kennedy said he is watching the weather, but the Department has never graded in February.

MOTION by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve the Road Department's participation in the cleanup aspect of bringing down two grain elevators located at Shutler Station Industrial Park. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – No; Wetherell – Yes;
Motion Carried.

IN THE MATTER OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Pioneer CDC Director Rob Turrie was present to finalize a Memorandum of Agreement between Gilliam County and Pioneer CDC, in which the County will make available \$500,000 in fiscal year 2017-18, and \$750,000 in fiscal year 2018-19 for loans for new construction or rehabilitation of residential properties located in Gilliam County.

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve a Memorandum of Agreement between Gilliam County and Pioneer CDC for Gilliam County's Affordable Housing Project. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes;
Motion Carried

IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

County Transportation Director Marla Davies brought three matters before the Court.

1. Davies asked the Court to approve a Blanket purchase agreement with Greater Oregon Behavioral Health to provide non-emergency medical transportation services. Commissioner Weimar asked if the agreement has been approved by City County Insurance. Judge Shaffer said it hasn't, but it is similar to other agreements previously signed with MCCOG.

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve a Blanket Purchase Agreement with Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

2. Davies asked the Court to approve Amendment No. 1, ODOT Grant Agreement No. 32393; and Amendment No. 1, ODOT Grant Agreement 31430. Approval allows the Transportation Department to use grant funds to purchase an ADA vehicle that meets ODOT requirements. Although the agreements were previously signed, the amendments, which allow the two documents to be merged, requires that they must be signed again.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to agree to Amendment No. 1 ODOT Grant Agreement No. 32393 and to agree to Amendment No. 1 ODOT grant 31430 and a merger of documents for vehicle purchase, in the amount of \$97,902 with a grant match of \$10,054. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

Davies indicated she hopes the vehicle will be in operation by June 30. She also reported that a recent grant was used to purchase radios for all the Department's vehicles.

3. Davies presented an Engineering Memorandum for Design and Cost Opinion for a proposed addition to the Condon Bus Barn, prepared by Jeff Schott of Pillar Consulting Group. The original cost opinion, at \$461,184 including a 20 percent contingency, was out of the Transportation Department's cost range, so the

design was modified with an updated cost opinion of \$386,383 with a 15 percent contingency. Davis said she can come up with \$170,000 and will be receiving an additional \$100,000 from the new transportation package. Options for the remainder of funding was briefly discussed with no decisions made.

The Court agreed to have Schott come back to the Court with solid numbers and a finalized plan, noting that the grant will expire if it isn't used by June 30.

IN THE MATTER OF SENIOR MEAL SERVICES

Senior Service Coordinator/Transportation Dispatcher Assistant Sabrina Wagenaar asked the Court to approve a DHS Meal Services Agreement and an agreement with Condon United Church of Christ for facility use.

Brief discussion was held regarding the Meal Services Agreement with DHS noting this agreement was previously between Gilliam County and MCCOG.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell to approve Intergovernmental Agreement No. 156453 between Gilliam County and the State of Oregon Department of Human Services to provide meal services. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

Regarding use of United Church of Christ for senior meal services, Wagenaar reported that the only change from last year's agreement is a rent increase from \$350 to \$400 per month, which will include janitorial services.

MOTION by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve an agreement for use of facility with United Church of Christ for 2018 in the amount of \$400 per month. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

Wagenaar reported that the Condon senior meal site has an average weekly attendance of 55 to 60, with an average attendance of 20 to 25 at the Arlington site. Both received 100 percent Outstanding Performance from the Public Health Department.

Wagenaar also told the Court she is compiling informational packets that she will provide to seniors. The packets will include information on a number of entities, including senior transportation, sheriff's department, veteran's programs, GOBHI and others. Wagenaar said she is also looking into becoming a SHIBA counselor.

IN THE MATTER OF LONEROCK BRIDGE PROJECT AGREEMENT

The Court received a revised Lonerock Bridge Project Agreement, eliminating one paragraph and revising another paragraph to refine bridge standards, and revising the ODOT signature lines. The original agreement was approved at the last Court meeting.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve a revised Local Agency Agreement, State Funded Local Project Program between ODOT

and Gilliam County, this being a revised version with revisions in bold print on page 5 and 9. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT MODIFICATION

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve Intergovernmental Contract No. 66734, Modification 001, between Bonneville Power Administration and the Gilliam County Weed Board, revising the Statement of Work to authorize a no-cost time extension and to extend work through Sept. 30, 2018. Original contract award was \$10,500 and the total remaining funds are \$3,847.91. This amount shall not be exceeded. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF CREA REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Judge Shaffer explained that the Community Renewable Energy Association (CREA) has requested the County's assistance with funding of an evaluation on the effect of renewable energy being moved out of state. The Analysis will provide legislators with a better understanding of why controls are needed to prevent renewable energy projects from leaving Oregon as most are going to Utah and Wyoming. The County previously postponed a decision on the matter until more entities signed on, but Moro and Sherman Counties, the City of Prineville and others have now agreed to provide varying amounts ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to give CREA \$3,000 for an evaluation of the economic impact on Oregon of compliance with Oregon's renewable portfolio standard for electric generation, to be funded from the County's Gainshare line item. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Court acknowledged receipt of the Columbia Ridge Landfill Citizens Advisory Committee's annual report to Gilliam County. The reported noted that the Committee met to review operations at Columbia Ridge three times in 2017, with a fourth meeting postponed and held in early January. Issues discussed included landfill development, permitting and monitoring, safety, handling facilities, rail yard improvements, and Waste Management's continued negotiations with Portland Metro. The report also included a five year review of Conditions of Approval for the Columbia Ridge Landfill Conditional Use permit.

IN THE MATTER OF GRAIN LAB

The Court discussed a letter from the US. Economic Development Administration regarding a new appraisal for the Gilliam County Grain Lab, and stating without a new appraisal, the EDA cannot release its interest in the property for an amount lower than

\$629,216. Peter Mitchell suggested that the Court might have to do what the Federal Government requests. No decisions were made. The Court will contact Dana Bratton of Bratton Appraisal Group regarding scope of work. No RFP is required.

IN THE MATTER OF 2018-19 BUDGET CALENDAR

The Court and Treasurer Nathan Hammer revised the proposed Budget Calendar for fiscal year 2018-19. The Budget Committee will meet April 25 to receive the budget message and review major changes, with a second meeting with program managers and elected officials scheduled for May 9, and also May 10 if necessary. The Budget Hearing will take place June 6.

Hammer also told the Court that Avangrid Renewables has failed to pay a bill owed to the County for lawyer and consultant fees, even after numerous attempts via phone, email and regular mail. Judge Shaffer will ask Ruben Cleaveland to draft a letter.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

Judge Shaffer related correspondence from Waste Management that four entities have submitted RFPs to Portland METRO for solid waste disposal: Columbia Ridge Landfill, Waste Connections at The Dalles, Roosevelt Municipal in Roosevelt, Washington; and Finley Buttes Landfill in Morrow County.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Commissioner Weimar:

- attended a recent CAPECO meeting in Pendleton, in which discussions involved the future of Area Agency on Aging programs.
- attended a meeting of the Lower John Day Area Commission on Transportation. Discussion included funds coming to the area as a result of the transportation bill recently approved by the Oregon Legislature and the Federal Lands Access Program.
- attended a meeting of Mid-Columbia Council of Governments, with discussions primarily involving transfer of MCCOG programs and assets.
- attended a recent meeting of the Gilliam County Board of Property Tax Appeals (BOPTA).

Commissioner Wetherell:

- attended a recent meal at the Arlington Senior Meal Center.
- met with BJ Westlund, Legislative Assistant for Sen. Jeff Merkley.

- Attended the Gilliam County Attainable Housing Declaration of Cooperation Signing Ceremony hosted by the Condon Chamber of Commerce.

Judge Shaffer:

- attended a recent meeting of Frontier Regional 911.
- attended a recent all-staff meeting, at which all departments come together quarterly to discuss various issues.
- met with Regional Solutions Director Nate Stice.
- attended the Gilliam County Attainable Housing Declaration of Cooperation Signing Ceremony hosted by the Condon Chamber of Commerce.
- spoke at a recent Connect America Now meeting concerning difficulties involved in supplying high speed broadband to frontier rural areas.
- attended a recent LGPI meeting.
- attended a Building Codes meeting in The Dalles. The State of Oregon has taken over the program to ensure service continues during the transition from MCCOG.
- attended a meeting of the Local Community Advisory Council for Continuing Care Organizations. Discussions included various opportunities, including development of a pilot program for dental services in Gilliam and Sherman Counties.
- met with Jesse Rose, Coordinator of the Local Public Safety Committee.
- met with Eileen Flory, Crisis Intervention Trainer for GOBHI. Flory is residing in Condon with her husband, newly hired deputy for the Sheriff's Department.
- noted that Will Carey's funeral service will be held this Friday at the Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum in Hood River.
- noted that tonight's informational meeting of the Condon School Board will focus on potential expansion of Condon High School.
- noted that NORCOR will meet next week, primarily to discuss ICE detainees.

IN THE MATTER OF RECRUITMENT PROCESS

The Court discussed County Court staff recruitment process and the upcoming resignation of Court Administrator Leanne Durfey. The County is considering hiring a Court Assistant as well as a new position involving a combination of risk management and human resources. Various options were discussed but no decisions were made about either position. The Court agreed that hiring and training will take time and should begin as soon as possible. The matter will be a topic of discussion at next week's special Court meeting

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING

A special meeting of the Gilliam County Court will be held Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018 at 10 a.m. at Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon.

The next regular Gilliam County Court meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, beginning at 10:00 a.m., also at the Courthouse in Condon.

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 Shaffer adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____
Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____
Michael Weimar, Commissioner

By _____
Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

Mary H. Dyer/Recorder _____