

5-2-18

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

IN THE MATTER OF CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Judge Shaffer announced the following changes to the Agenda:

- Addition of an Executive Session pursuant to 192.660 (2)(a): to consider the employment of an officer, employee, staff member or agent.
- Discussion of MCCOG's offer to sell used copier to Gilliam County.
- Discussion of DLCDC Economic Development Planning Project for Eastern Oregon.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

IN THE MATTER OF ROADMASTER STAFF REPORT

County Roadmaster Dewey Kennedy reported the following work has been completed:

- Haguewood Corner project on Four-Mile Road.
- Spring grading, other than touchup as needed.
- Remodel of Arlington shop.
- Excavation and widening project on Quinton grade.
- Excavation and widening of problem areas on Baseline Road.
- Cleanup of two elevators at Shutler Station Industrial Park.
- Final work at new Condon Daycare building.

Kennedy also told the Court that:

- he met with representatives of Oregon state Parks to inspect and discuss issues with Hay Creek Road and access to the river. Eleven spots need repair, and some roads with severe erosion have been closed.
- the rock crusher has been moved to the Waste Management pit on Rattlesnake Road, which netted only about half of the materials needed to do the rail spur project.
- Waste Management has blasted another quarry on the Chem Waste side. The crusher will be moved to that site when the Rattlesnake quarry is completed.
- the crew will continue to work on culverts throughout the county until weather allows for patching asphalt.

- Kennedy provided a working road plan for 2018-19, as well as plans for rock crusher operation and equipment replacement.

Commissioner Weimar asked Kennedy about the cost of the Arlington shop. Kennedy responded that total expenses were just under \$26,000, with labor provided by the crew. Commissioner Weimar suggested that the report to the Court should include information regarding expenses, prices of rock, etc.

Commissioner Wetherell asked about the approximate cost of a used water truck, included on the Equipment Replacement plan, and Kennedy estimated the cost of a good used truck would be \$50,000 to \$100,000.

IN THE MATTER OF NORTH GILLIAM COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

David Anderson, Administrator and Ambulance Director for Gilliam County Health District, presented a Memorandum of Understanding between Morrow County Health District Ambulance Service and North Gilliam Ambulance Service for the purpose of transporting Morrow County Health District/Pioneer Memorial Hospital patients located in North and South Gilliam County.

According to Judge Shaffer, South Gilliam County Ambulance Co-Coordinator Shannon Coppock has indicated that ambulance service personnel weren't contacted about the agreement in advance. Anderson said his understanding was that it wasn't necessary to notify the ambulance service, which falls under the auspices of the Health District at a higher level.

The Court agreed to continue the discussion later in the meeting, when Coppock could be present.

IN THE MATTER OF PORT OF ARLINGTON QUARTERLY REPORT

Economic Development Officer and Port of Arlington Manager Peter Mitchell presented a quarterly report regarding the Port Marina, small business development, and industrial development, with a primary focus on activities at Shutler Station.

Mitchell reported the following:

- Completion of a rail siding extension and removal of grain elevators at Shutler Station have opened the rail siding up for easy expansion and have created infrastructure for a rail car facility or other support facility planned for the future.
- Installation of fiber has provided connectivity within the County, creating opportunities for future growth.
- The Port has been working with Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative to identify power availability at Shutler Station. Several upgrades to CBEC's system have been installed that could potentially increase available MW to 110, compared to 5 to 7 MW currently available.
- Discussed the possibility of a data center, as the need for data is considerable

and not decreasing. However, the need for water is more than the aquifer can provide, which may be a potential problem as data centers require substantial amounts of water for cooling.

- The concrete plant at the Industrial Park is now in operation. The concrete will be used in the Flex building project.
- The permitting process for the flex building at Arlington Mesa Industrial Park is moving along slowly.
- The Port Assisted the County and City of Arlington in preparation of a Regional Infrastructure Fund grant application for paving of Arlington Municipal Airport runway.
- The Port has developed several videos promoting the area's world class waves. The A-Town Throw Down is scheduled for June 16.
- The Port has an opportunity for a new billboard near Boardman. The budget doesn't currently allow for the expense, however, and various funding opportunities will be discussed. The Port currently has billboards in The Dalles and Rufus.

Judge Shaffer asked Mitchell how the water supply could be increased to Shutler Industrial Park and Mitchell said it might be possible to drill a new well or to extend a water line from Arlington's municipal water supply.

Commissioner Weimar asked about projects in the south end of the County. Mitchell responded that the Port's Small Business program has assisted several small businesses in Condon, including a new truck brokerage. He said that most businesses on Condon's Main Street have received some type of assistance from the Port.

IN THE MATTER OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Judge Shaffer declared the meeting to be in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(d) labor negotiations, at 11 a.m. Separate minutes were taken and will be filed in the office of the County Clerk.

RECONVENED: The regular meeting was reconvened by Judge Shaffer at 11:40 a.m. No further discussion took place, and no decisions were made.

IN THE MATTER OF NORTH GILLIAM COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

Gilliam County Health District Administrator David Anderson and South Gilliam County Ambulance Co-Coordinator Shannon Coppock were present for a continuation of a discussion began earlier in the meeting.

Coppock said that South Gilliam County Ambulance Service wasn't aware of the Memorandum of Understanding between Morrow County Health District Ambulance Service and North Gilliam Ambulance service until the North Gilliam Health District received notification from Anderson. She noted that the South Gilliam Ambulance Service deals with hospice patients regularly and is more than willing to transport patients, but was left out of the loop, and asked why there would be an assumption that

the service could be provided in the area without even talking to the ambulance personnel first. She noted that residents of South Gilliam County will question why patients aren't transported by the local ambulance service.

Anderson responded that he wasn't trying to step on anybody's toes, but reiterated that the communication was between the two districts, legally at a higher level than the ambulance services. Judge Shaffer said it appears that a separate MOU is needed for each ambulance service.

Commissioner Weimar asked how the Court is involved and if the agreement affects the existing agreement for which the Court is responsible. Coppock suggested that the document should be reviewed to determine if the agreement covers this matter.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF'S OFFICE REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Gilliam County Sheriff Gary Bettencourt asked the Court provide \$40,000 for a share in purchase of a full-body scanner for NORCOR. Sheriff Bettencourt explained that NORCOR has seen a large increase of drugs and contraband being smuggled into the prison, which creates tremendous liability for the Counties and the facility. He reported that Sherman County has approved \$40,000 for purchase of the scanner, and noted that if Hood River or Wasco Counties or NORCOR are unable to meet their share of funding (\$31,000), Gilliam County won't be obligated and the request will be discontinued.

After further discussion, the Court reached a consensus to commit to the project. Funding options will be discussed when and if other entities decide to participate.

IN THE MATTER OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Judge Shaffer declared the meeting to be in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(a) to consider the employment of an officer, employee, staff member or agent, at 1:00 p.m. Separate minutes were taken and will be filed in the office of the County Clerk.

RECONVENED: The regular meeting was reconvened by Judge Shaffer at 1:40 p.m.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to hire Sandy McKay for the Court Administrator position, with an 18-month probationary period to include reviews every six months. It was noted that the Sheriff's Office also uses an 18-month probationary period for new hires. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – No;

Motion Carried.

IN THE MATTER OF GRONQUIST BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY CENTER

The Court discussed a request by Columbia Hills Manor board of directors that the Port assume responsibility for the Gronquist Building and Columbia Hills Manor. Peter Mitchell said the Port is interested in assuming responsibility for the Gronquist Building but not the senior independent living facility.

Commissioner Weimar said it seems like the board is “trying to die,” and that possibly more people should be recruited to serve. Pat Shannon of Arlington was in the audience and said the by-laws should determine what happens if the organization dissolves. No decisions were made.

IN THE MATTER OF WAREHOUSE DEMOLITION PROJECT

The Court discussed the City of Condon Planning Commission’s Order and Decision regarding demolition of the warehouse building behind the Gilliam County Library. Judge Shaffer noted that several conditions must be met, including preservation of old growth wood and other historic materials. The Historical Society will be asked to provide information regarding elements that can be salvaged and preserved.

Commissioner Weimar commented that the wood probably isn’t suitable for structure, but could be used for decorative purposes.

The Court reached a consensus to ask Jeff Schott of Pillar Consulting to assist the Historical Society.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2018-06

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to authorize Resolution No. 2018-06 in the matter of a loan of funds from the Wind Energy SIPS Fund to the Road Department for purchase of a 2017 Caterpillar 140K motor grader in the amount of \$275,023.28, with a payoff of \$295,989.50, at a 2.5 percent interest rate, payable over a five-year period of time. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF PENNINGTON RESERVE FUND RESOLUTION NO. 90-18

The Court discussed the Pennington Reserve fund and the possibility of using the fund as a long-term reserve for county roads, building maintenance and other capital expenditures.

Nathan Hammer said he spoke with auditor Mitch Soll, who said there is no problem with setting aside the fund for that purpose. However, Soll recommended that the county consider an inventory of roads and their expected life cycles, and also an accurate inventory of rock. He also advised that the purpose of the fund should be spelled out specifically with stipulations that the money can’t be used for other purposes.

Judge Shaffer said that currently, there is roughly \$1.6 million in the fund.

Commissioner Wetherell inquired about the amount currently in the Road Equipment fund and Judge Shaffer said there is approximately \$235,000 in the fund. Judge Shaffer also noted that the road department will receive approximately \$600,000 in the coming year as a result of HB 2017, transportation bill funded by taxes and fees.

Commissioner Wetherell inquired about reserve funds currently maintained by the County, and Judge Shaffer said there are three -- bridges, road equipment and Pennington fund.

Commissioner Weimar recommended that work on a new resolution should be initiated. Nathan Hammer advised that the funds will be easier to track if there are separate funds for roads and building maintenance.

IN THE MATTER OF MCCOG OFFER TO SELL COPIER

Judge Shaffer told the Court that MCCOG has offered to sell a used copier to Gilliam County for \$5,000. He said the copier would replace one that is wearing out and expected to crash soon.

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to purchase a used copier from MCCOG in the amount of \$5,000. Commissioner Weimar asked why the printer was offered to Gilliam County, and Judge Shaffer commented that money is a problem for Wasco County. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF DLCD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROJECT

The Court discussed DLCD's Economic opportunity Analyses for Eastern Oregon, funded by the 2018 legislature. The project, created to assist communities that haven't fully recovered from the recession, would provide an analysis of opportunities and needs, and determine whether zoning regulations need to be updated to support economic development efforts.

Condon City Administrator Kathryn Greiner noted that much of the work was completed during the recent Affordable Housing development, but that funding the project would ensure the information is gathered into cohesive form. She asked the County to participate, noting that a cooperative application between county, cities and Pioneer CDC would increase the chances for funding, which is granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Court agreed to move forward.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF APRIL 4 REGULAR COURT MINUTES

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve April 4 regular Court Meeting minutes as corrected. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF APRIL 4 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve April 4 Executive Session minutes. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF APRIL 18 REGULAR COURT MEETING MINUTES

The Court agreed to table approval of April 18 regular Court meeting minutes.

IN THE MATTER OF APRIL CLAIMS PENDING REVIEW

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve payment of April claims, pending review. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes;
Motion Carried.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Judge Shaffer:

- reported that an entity that expressed interest in leasing the Grain Lab has withdrawn. At this point, the County can consider marketing the building for lease or putting it up for sale, which would require that it be partitioned from the Industrial Park. Various possibilities were briefly discussed, but the Court agreed to move forward with marketing efforts for lease of the facility. County legal counsel Ruben Cleaveland will be asked to provide advice regarding a lease agreement.
- updated the Court on the Portland Metro contract, specifically means of transportation of waste.
- attended a meeting of Frontier Telnet. Representatives of Motorola and the Umatilla/Morrow Radio and Data District were present.
- received a letter from the Secretary of State reviewing the County's audit report and suggesting changes in future financial reports.
- noted that NORCOR continues to face issues with public controversy regarding ICE prisoners. The Board's position is that the facility's housing of ICE detainees isn't in violation of Oregon law and provides funding necessary to keep the facility open.
- met recently with Governor Brown, who complimented the County on its commitment to mental health in communities and schools.
- Discussed the recent Tri-County Court meeting, specifically regarding changes involving wildlife services and the Veterans Compensation Board.

Commissioner Weimar:

- noted that a recent meeting of MCCOG regarding sale of the building was

rescheduled due to a mix-up in meeting dates. He was unable to attend.

- reported that CAPECO continues to move forward with development of the AAA program. Another training session is scheduled for board members.

Commissioner Wetherell:

- attended a recent meeting of the North Central Public Health District, at which budgetary practices, grant applications and contract reviews were discussed.
- attended a recent meeting of the Columbia Ridge Landfill Citizens Advisory Committee.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING

The next regular Gilliam County Court meeting will be held Wednesday, May 16, 2018, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon.

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 3 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

By _____

Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

Mary H. Dyer/Recorder _____

