

Gilliam County Court
Regular Meeting
August 15, 2018

Judge Shaffer called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 9 a.m. at the Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon. Present were Judge Steve Shaffer, Commissioner Michael Weimar (arrived at 9:10am), Commissioner Leslie Wetherell; Court Administrator Sandy McKay; Legal Counsel Ruben Cleaveland (arrived at 10:30am) and County Recorder Mary Dyer.

IN THE MATTER OF CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Judge Shaffer made no changes to the agenda.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

IN THE MATTER OF PORT OF ARLINGTON REQUEST

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Judge Shaffer, to authorize release of budgeted funds to Port of Arlington in the amount of \$250,000 for Fiscal Year 2018-19. Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.** *Commissioner Weimar was absent from this discussion/vote.*

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2018-11

Commissioner Wetherell suggested that a section inadvertently left blank regarding non-public safety volunteers should be marked as “applicable”. The Court agreed and the document will be corrected.

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve Resolution No. 2018-11, Volunteer Resolution extending workers’ compensation coverage to volunteers of Gilliam County. Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.** *Commissioner Weimar was absent from this discussion/vote.*

IN THE MATTER OF CITY OF CONDON REQUEST

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve disbursement of funds to City of Condon in the amount of \$44,373.06 for swimming pool operations from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, to be taken out of the Recreation line item. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF COLUMBIA BASIN HIGH SCHOOL RODEO REQUEST

Kade and Kallyn Wilkins of Condon High School were present to request the Court’s sponsorship of the Columbia Basin High School Rodeo to take place Sept. 2-3 in

Condon. They explained that the cost of holding the rodeo is around \$25,000, provided mostly by sponsorships. The Court was also informed that students must be grade-eligible to compete, as outlined by the Oregon School Activities Association. Commissioner Weimar recalled a previous sponsorship, but Judge Shaffer said this is the first request since he's been judge. Commissioner Weimar also noted that the Court prefers to budget ahead of time for recurring requests. Gilliam County Transportation has committed \$250.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to give \$1,000 to Columbia Basin High School Rodeo Club for the High School Rodeo at the Gilliam County Fair, to be taken from the Gainshare fund. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATES

Judge Shaffer reported on the status of updates at Burns Park, which include installation of frost-free spigots and other improvements. He also said several hookups will be upgraded from 30 amps to 50, and that new boxes are needed for a few of the sites. Bids have been requested, but no permits have yet been acquired.

Commissioner Weimar asked if the increase would affect CBEC's transformer. John Irzyk has been contacted and indicated there are no concerns. Judge Shaffer noted that Robinson Bros. has indicated willingness to assist the County with the costs of necessary improvements, and that it's important to move forward as soon as possible to accommodate the fiber construction crew.

Commissioner Wetherell asked about Internet Access and Judge Shaffer said that components have been ordered and are expected next week. He has asked Day Wireless. to hold off on major work until after the Fair.

Issues at the concrete batch plant at Shutler Industrial Park were addressed later in the meeting. Judge Shaffer read a list of batch plant system manufacturers provided by Greg Julson of Keithley Electric, along with Julson's comments on each manufacturer. Judge Shaffer said the plant is operational, and that he has received inquiries from several entities interested in subleasing the plant for upcoming projects, including the Montague project and update of Leaning Juniper II. The inquiries have been forward to Thompson Bros.

The quote for a new system is in the \$35,000 range, not including the cost of new scales. Sandy McKay said he looked into the cost of the scales, which is fairly low at about \$200-\$400 apiece. Judge Shaffer noted that potential sub-lessees prefer the Command Alkon system. Commissioner Weimar noted that the process should be expedited, as the current system could go down anytime The Court agreed to ask Ruben Cleaveland to develop an RFP, and to request Julson's input if necessary.

IN THE MATTER OF SUMMER INTERN REPORT

Natalie Campbell provided a report regarding her summer internship with the Transportation Department. Campbell thanked the Court for the opportunity and said that the process, which was quite complex, has provided considerable knowledge that will help her as she moves forward with her education at Lewis-Clark State College in Idaho.

IN THE MATTER OF NORCOR REQUEST

Judge Shaffer reported that the NORCOR Board of Directors is considering a Resolution requesting an amendment to the current county subsidy amounts, reflecting a total increase of \$188,225 to cover legal fees of \$101,500 and warehouse repair costs of \$86,725. If approved, the formula for assessments will be Wasco County, 50%; Hood River County, 40%; Sherman and Gilliam, 5% each. Gilliam County's share would be \$9,411.25.

Judge Shaffer said that member counties are unanimously in favor of supporting the legal fees. However, he agreed with Hood River County's opinion that repair of the building, currently leased by Insitu, should be discussed separately.

Regarding NORCOR's legal situation, Judge Shaffer said the Board believes that claims that NORCOR is in violation of Oregon statute are unfounded, as NORCOR doesn't detect or apprehend ICE detainees, but only houses those who are detected and apprehended by the U.S. Marshals Office. He also commented that without substantial increases in county subsidies, it would be difficult for the prison to operate without the \$850,000 generated by housing of ICE prisoners.

After continued discussion, it was the Court's consensus to approve the County's share of legal fees, (\$5,075), but not the remaining \$4,336.25 for building repair.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW COUNTY TRAPPER

Ryan Christensen, the County's new USDA/APHIS trapper, was introduced to the Court. Christensen, who started work in late July, is from Umatilla County but has worked in Malheur County for the last four years.

Christensen said he is also covering Sherman County until a new trapper is hired. He commented that this is a slow time of year, primarily due to high fire danger.

IN THE MATTER OF PORT OF ARLINGTON QUARTERLY REPORT

Arlington Port Director/Economic Development Officer Peter Mitchell provided a quarterly report, which included the following:

- The 6,000-foot Flex Building at Arlington Mesa Industrial Park is nearly complete. Space is available for rent.

- The Arlington Municipal Airport paving project, consisting of \$100,000 for engineering associated with paving of the runway and parking apron, is one of three projects from the region forwarded to the Eastern Oregon Regional Solutions Action Committee for grants from the Regional Infrastructure Fund.
- Cascade Earth Science (CES) has been selected to conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability of installing an irrigation system for the Lower Willow Creek and Eightmile bench areas.
- Mid-Columbia Producers has completed the new truck scales on the east end of the Port's Island Park. The new scales are expected to improve truck traffic and grain flows, shortening turn times by an estimated five minutes per load.
- The Port now has a new billboard located west of Tower Road. The current ad campaign also includes a billboard at Rufus.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF REPORT

Community Development Director Rachel Weinstein provided a staff report, including the following:

- Regarding Peter Mitchell's report, Weinstein noted she has been promoting Arlington's kite surfing across the state. She also said Western Rivers Conservancy has expressed interested in using rail access to ship barley grown at the Rattray Ranch to a site in Vancouver. Western Rivers has also volunteered to provide free beverages for an agriculture-cycling event.
- Weinstein generally attends monthly meetings of Arlington and Condon Chamber of Commerce, weather permitting, and has assisted with various committees and functions.
- A volunteer appreciation dinner was held at St. John's Parish Hall in April
- A newsletter was produced in July. Weinstein also offered to produce a second newsletter.
- Weinstein is serving as acting chair of the John Day River Territory management team, replacing Kara Wilson Anglin.
- Travel Oregon has been and will continue to invest funding and staffing for the four-county region. The organization has provided funding for several projects, including half the grant match required for funding a RARE participant, as well as half the cost of a recent kiosk project. Kiosks have been placed in Arlington, Wasco, Mitchell and Prairie City
- Eastern Oregon Visitors Association is the regional destination management organization for the 11 counties east of the Cascades. Weinstein serves as treasurer on the executive committee. The organization has been working on structure and management through this period of rapid growth and the retirement of the organization's founder.

- Conrad Hock of Eugene has been hired as the JDRT AmeriCorps RARE Participant.
- Efforts of the County/PCDC housing programs continue. Weinstein has reached out to realtors and contractors. A sub-committee has been formed to look at ways to leverage PCDC's programs with the Chamber's Come Home to Condon campaign, and an informational table was available at the recent all-school reunion.
- A Small Project Grant will be used to provide photo assets for the region, which will eventually be used in a book promoting travel to the area.
- Weinstein has been working on compiling accurate address information ahead of the 2020 Census using government-provided GIS software program.

IN THE MATTER OF GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST

Weinstein asked the Court for permission to write a grant for the Gilliam County Historical Society, to be used for a brand refresh and creation of an updated brochure. She noted that she has arranged with the Oregon Tour and Travel Alliance to include the museum on their travel itineraries.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve Weinstein's request to write a grant for the Gilliam County Historical Society with a commitment of up to \$700 in matching funds from the County. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF TUMBLEWEED TOURNAMENT FUNDING REQUEST

Tumbleweed Tournament organizer Joe Colby was present to request funding for next year's tournament. Colby said he previously prepared a Special Projects Grant request but forgot to turn it in due to dealing with a major family medical emergency. The Court discussed the economic importance of the tournament for local businesses, which is similar to that of Condon's Fabulous Fourth. The Court agreed to provide a flat amount of \$2,964 for officiating expenses.

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve funding support for the Tumbleweed Tournament in the amount of \$2,964, to be taken from the County's Gainshare line item. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF CITY OF CONDON REQUEST

Condon City Administrator Kathryn Greiner was present to request a three- to four-year extension to allow the City to fully expend \$3 million granted by the County in a funding go-round six years ago. Greiner noted that the City, as of June 30, has expended \$2,655,685.67. The remaining funds, \$344,314.33, have been earmarked for water projects.

Greiner noted that the City has leveraged the grant funds to obtain ODOT grants for adjacent sidewalks and street repair from several of the City's water projects. Original grant funds set aside for wastewater projects has been expended.

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to amend the existing grant by extending the end date 3 additional years. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION AND FAIRGROUNDS LEASE AGREEMENT

The Court discussed a Lease of Real Property between Gilliam County and Robinson Bros. Construction for a six-month lease of property at the Gilliam County Fairgrounds, and Resolution No. 2018-12, authorizing the lease agreement.

Commissioner Wetherell asked about the purpose of the resolution, and Ruben Cleaveland explained that Oregon State Statute requires such a resolution when public land isn't used for public purposes. He also noted that the Fair Board has approved the lease. He said it isn't necessary for the Court to approve the lease now, but suggested that the document be reviewed and approved pending signing by Robinson Brothers. The Court discussed the problem of noxious weeds and agreed that weeds should be removed before Robinson Bros. takes occupancy, and that the company should pay for spraying at completion of the project. Cleaveland will consult with the County Weed Department and will make necessary changes to the lease for the Court's approval.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW GRANT AGREEMENT TEMPLATE

The Court discussed a new grant agreement template provided by County Counsel Ruben Cleaveland. Commissioner Wetherell asked exactly what the template would be used for and Judge Shaffer said it could be used as a template for Special Projects and various other funding requests. Ruben Cleaveland said the template is constructed to be altered to fit circumstances based on terms laid out by the Court. Court Administrator McKay suggested that the document should include the grant funding source. The Court also agreed that Conditions of Approval should state that applicants may not be eligible to receive future funding if stipulated conditions aren't met.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

Judge Shaffer noted that no correspondence was received.

IN THE MATTER OF JULY 25 SPECIAL COURT MEETING MINUTES

Regarding a question presented by Commissioner Wetherell earlier in the meeting, Ruben Cleaveland clarified that it would be appropriate to designate special meetings when minutes are referenced on the Court Agenda.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve the July 25, 2018 special Court Meeting minutes as corrected. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF AUGUST 1 REGULAR COURT MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve the August 1, 2018 regular Court Meeting minutes as amended. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF JULY 11 AND JULY 25 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve minutes of July 11 and July 25, 2018 Executive Session minutes. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Judge Shaffer:

- discussed the current makeup of the NORCOR board. He also noted that sheriffs from member counties are in charge of the operation of the facility, and that one sheriff is represented on the board, as selected on a rotational basis. A non-voting seat has been added for a juvenile director. Although it has been requested, now isn't a good time to consider changing the position to a voting position, which would require another bylaw change.
- noted that CREA (Community Renewal Energy Association) is broadening their purpose to include larger projects, including wind, solar and hydro.
- attended an AOC board retreat, which involved a number of issues, including legislative matters, finances, software changes, an accounting shortfall and the general direction of the organization. He said Commissioners will be expected to become more involved in the future.

Commissioner Wetherell noted that a meeting of the North Central Public Health District was cancelled.

Commissioner Weimar had nothing to report.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Gilliam County Court will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2018 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at 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 2:00 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____
Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____
Michael Weimar, Commissioner

By _____
Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

Mary H. Dyer/Recorder