

11-7-2012

Judge Shaw opened the regular Gilliam County Court meeting at 10:05 a.m. on Wednesday, November 7, 2012 at the Gilliam County Courthouse-Condon, Oregon.

Commissioners Present: Judge Patricia Shaw, Commissioner Dennis Gronquist and Commissioner Michael Weimar. Absent: None.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA

- Add Delene Durfey Transportation vehicle bids 11:00 am
- Add Dewey Kennedy Road Department vehicle bid 11:45 am
- Revise 1.4: time changed to 1:30 pm
- Revise 1.5: time changed to 1:45 pm
- Add Public Hearing discussion

IN THE MATTER OF TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Alcenia Wright reported there is a one million dollar shortfall in the general fund budget. Shortfall due to reduced wind farm valuation which is done through the Department of Revenue, not the local Assessors office.

Wright reported new CHAZ program has caused a delay in the interfund transfer resolution, plan to present at the November 28, 2012 meeting.

Commissioner Gronquist asked Wright to make sure the WI Inc. credit issued was resolved before leaving her position. Wright reported meeting with WI Inc. staff and reviewed invoices and the two entities match. She is trying to schedule an appointment with owner Jack Ingram to resolve differences.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY WINDFARM REVENUE

Assessor Dave Messenger reported he was informed there were two wind farms which had received federal grants resulting in a \$40 and \$70 million reduction in their valuation. Department of Revenue reported this is a one-time reduction. In addition the Shepard's Flat project was reduced from last year's \$154 million to the SIP eligible \$25 million. This reduced the County's General Fund by \$690,000 and the Road Fund by \$258,000. There will be reduced funds to taxing districts as well.

IN THE MATTER OF RETIREMENT DISCUSSION

Treasurer Alcenia Wright submitted a letter of resignation effective November 30, 2012. Judge Shaw read the letter for the record. In the letter Wright recommended Deputy Treasurer Danelle Wetherell be appointed to the Treasurer position. Judge Shaw reported Grain Lab Manager Nathan Hammer is also interested in the appointment.

Judge Shaw contacted Legal Council Will Carey for appointment procedure and was advised to advertise the position. Commissioner Gronquist did not support advertising the position using Assessor appointment done when Judge Shaw rescinded Assessor duties and Dave Messenger was appointed without advertisement of position.

Commissioner Weimar supports advertising the position stating due diligence and public perception. Judge Shaw supports Commissioner Weimar's statement.

Discussion on duties and need of two FTE in the Treasurer office occurred. Judge Shaw reported the Assessor office and Treasurer's office are integrated on the taxation assessment program. Existing Assessor office staff could take on tax collection duties and would simply turn funds over to Treasurer Office for deposit.

Commissioner Weimar inquired how this additional duty would be absorbed with Assessor's workload. Assessor Dave Messenger reported his office is extremely busy during tax preparation time. He feels his office is adequately staffed for tax collection duties, since it occurs following at a different time.

Commissioner Gronquist feels the Treasurer position should be full time. Wright felt the Treasurer's office staff could be reduced to one staff after 17-18 months, providing time for new appointed person to learn job duties.

MOTION: Judge Shaw moved to advertise the Treasurer full time position for two weeks. Applications will be reviewed and position filled at the November 28, 2012 regular court meeting.

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

<u>Vote</u> :	2-1
Yes:	Judge Shaw and Commissioner Weimar
No:	Commissioner Gronquist
Abstained:	None
Absent:	None

Motion Passed

MOTION: Judge Shaw moved to approve tax collection duties will be done through the Assessor's office beginning January 1, 2013.

SECOND: Commissioner Gronquist.

<u>Vote</u> :	2-1
Yes:	Judge Shaw and Commissioner Gronquist
No:	Commissioner Weimar
Abstained:	None

Absent: None
Motion Passed

Wright added she would like to work six hours a day through December and possibly January as needed to provide training to appointed individual. After discussion Wright agreed to \$30 an hour, with no insurance or PERS contribution.

It was noted the full time position will be advertised for two weeks and applicants will need to submit a resume and cover letter. Deadline for applicants will be 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 26, 2012: appointment will occur November 28, 2012 at the Court meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF ASSESSOR REPORT

Assessor Dave Messenger reported the reduction in value of \$220 million from last year with the change in wind farm revenue as discussed earlier.

Messenger reported there were 518 qualified applicants for Homestead Rebate: 60 received 100% of their property tax amount and 454 residents received the maximum \$500. There were four applicants who qualified for the veteran's tax exemption.

2012 Homestead Rebate funds allocated to Gilliam landowners totaled \$247,723.24. Since 1991 the Homestead Rebate has paid out \$5,105,864.67 to qualified recipients.

IN THE MATTER OF HOMESTEAD REBATE PAYMENT ISSUE

Judge Shaw reported Grace Stone and Art Clough jointly owned property in Arlington. Mr. Clough passed away after the checks were printed and mailed. The Homestead Rebate was in Clough's name, and Stone came to the Courthouse with her son, Terry Stone requesting the check be reissued to Grace Stone. Assessor Dave Messenger was unable to accommodate the request since there is an ordinance for this type of matter. Messenger told Mr. Stone what procedure needed to be followed, which caused Mr. Stone to get upset.

Mr. Stone then submitted a letter of complaint to Dave Messenger. Commissioner Gronquist was contacted by the Stone's adding the information in the letter misrepresented what he said.

Discussion occurred on the matter.

It was noted Grace Stone submitted the request for name change for next year's rebate.

Judge Shaw added she does not like employees being attacked, especially since Messenger was following the County Court approved ordinance.

MOTION: Commissioner Gronquist moved to approve the re-issuing of a rebate check in the amount of \$500 to Grace Stone after Gronquist has received the original check and returned it to the Clerk's office.

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

Commissioner Weimar voiced concerns over the check being re-issued. Judge Shaw contacted District Attorney Marion Weatherford for counsel: Grace Stone is the legal owner and a Gilliam County resident. If the original check has been cashed, there will not be another checked issued.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Judge Shaw, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None
Motion Passed.

Commissioner Weimar asked the existing ordinance be reviewed to make process more resident friendly in cases like this. Messenger added there are properties/LLC which have multiple owners, which could make simplifying the process difficult.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING ECONOMIC FUND ORD. 2012-05

This being the time and place advertised, Judge Shaw opened the public hearing stating purpose of the public hearing is to receive input on the Economic Enhancement Fund Ordinance No. 2012-12.

Comments:

- City of Condon clerk Kathryn Greiner thanked the Court for the continued support.
- Judge Shaw reported major changes included replacing spending rationale into ordinance. Funds moved from Law Enforcement to backfill the Endowment Fund, providing for future Homestead Rebate.
- Law Enforcement has a \$300,000 cap, and has been at capped amount (\$300,000) for some time.
- Commissioner Weimar voiced concern with future of Homestead Rebate landfill funding availability and added the rebate may be reduced.
- Port of Arlington Peter Mitchell spoke of the Economic Development Fund rationale to fund economic development position. The Port now pays for the

Economic Development position: appreciates this funding stream to allow funding options for businesses- new and existing.

- Judge Shaw added 2% goes to fund businesses and 21% to Economic Development.

There being no additional public comment Judge Shaw closed the public hearing. The next public hearing has been advertised and scheduled for November 28, 2012 at the Gilliam County Grain Lab in Arlington during the regular County Court meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF CASA AGREEMENT NO. 1608

Judge Shaw reported CASA Director Amy Nation had provided the Court with an agreement to review. It was noted CASA is no longer funded through the Commission on Children and Families. Grant Agreement #1608 between the State of Oregon, acting through Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service, a subdivision of Housing and Community Service Department. The agreement follows the same quarterly reporting and funding process used in the past, just a different entity to report too.

MOTION: Commissioner Weimar moved to approve Grant Agreement #1608 effective through June 30, 2013.

SECOND: Commissioner Gronquist.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Judge Shaw, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None
Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF HOLIDAY HAMS

MOTION: Commissioner Gronquist moved to approve the purchase of holiday hams for Gilliam County employees and elected officials.

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Judge Shaw, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None
Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF FRONTIER REGIONAL 911 AGENCY

MOTION: Commissioner Gronquist moved to approve the revised Intergovernmental Governmental creating Frontier Regional 911 agency which includes Gilliam, Sherman, Wheeler and Jefferson counties.

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Judge Shaw, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None
Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF RESCIND OCTOBER 3, 2012 VOTE JOINT RES. NO 2012-11

Judge Shaw reported the previously approved Resolution No. 2012-11 (September 19, 2012) needs to be rescinded due to changes made. Adjustments were necessary to gain approval of all four entities.

MOTION: Commissioner Weimar moved to rescind Joint Resolution 2012-11 regarding NORCOR county funding formula which was approved September 19, 2012.

SECOND: Commissioner Gronquist.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Judge Shaw, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None
Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF REVISED NORCOR RESOLUTION NO. 2012-11

Judge Shaw reported the sixth paragraph had the additional language added: "mutual consensus of the member counties in open session of the NORCOR board and then ratified by the governing bodies of each of the member counties."

MOTION: Commissioner Gronquist moved to approve the revised Joint Resolution 2012-11 establishing the allocation of costs for the counties subsidies of NORCOR Corrections and adopting the formula for funding.

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Judge Shaw, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar
No: None
Abstained: None

Absent: None
Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE BID PROCESS

Transportation Director Delene Durfey asked the court to purchase two new vehicles to update the transportation fleet. Durfey provided three bids for a 2012 Toyota Rav 4 and a 2013 Toyota Sienna. Durfey has grant funds available in her transportation budget to purchase vehicles.

Judge Shaw asked why Durfey was only considering Toyota with no other options. Durfey reported she had state approval to purchase Toyota along with overall comfort and drivability reported by drivers and clients was a factor. There are continued problems with existing Dodge vehicles maintenance and comfort. These vehicles will replace the 2005 and 2007 Dodge minivans.

MOTION: Commissioner Gronquist moved to approve the purchase of the 2012 Toyota Rav 4 from Bend Toyota in the amount of \$23,050 and the 2013 Toyota Sienna from Campbell Toyota in Hermiston in the amount of \$27,830.

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Judge Shaw, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF ROAD DEPARTMENT VEHICLE BID PROCESS

Roadmaster Dewey Kennedy asked the court to purchase two vehicles to update the Road Department fleet vehicles. Kennedy reported advertising the bid in the newspaper and contacted Wright's, Bob Stone, Sherrill Chevrolet, only Wrights and Bob Stone submitted bids.

- 2013 Chevrolet: regular cab: Bob Stone: \$23,464.24 - Wrights: \$23,746.00
- 2013 Chevrolet: crew cab: Bob Stone: \$27,658.61 – Wrights: \$28,130.00

The lowest bid for both vehicles is Bob Stone Chevrolet with a warranty agreement stating vehicles will be picked up and returned to the Road Department Shop upon completion of service in The Dalles. Kennedy has funds in the budget to purchase vehicles.

MOTION: Commissioner Gronquist moved to approve the purchase a 2013 Chevrolet regular cab pick-up from Bob Stone in the amount of \$23,464.24 and a 2013 Chevrolet crew cab pick-up from Bob Stone in the amount of \$27,658.61.

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Judge Shaw, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None
Motion Passed.

Kennedy will provide a resolution stating the vehicles are surplus equipment for the Courts approval.

Judge Shaw asked Kennedy if he aware of the decrease in the Road Department budget due to wind farm revenue reduction. Kennedy reported adjustments to asphalt projects will be made.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARINGS TIMES

It was noted a citizen emailed a concern about public hearings being scheduled during the work day, preventing some people from attending the meetings. Options were discussed including: evening meetings, request written input, County Connection article encouraging written comments.

IN THE MATTER OF COURTROOM TABLE UPDATE

Judge Shaw reported Judge Crowley has approved the purchase of new courtroom tables out of court security funds. Tables have been ordered.

IN THE MATTER OF STAFF/VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY MEAL

Judge Shaw reported Michelle Colby has sent out save the dates and has contacted Dallas Harsin about cooking. Employee cards/ham certificates will be handed out at event.

IN THE MATTER OF TRI-COUNTY COURT MEETING

It was noted Tri-County Court will be held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at the Gilliam County Courthouse.

IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Weimar moved to approve the consent agenda including October 17, 2012 regular meeting minutes and October claims pending review.

SECOND: Commissioner Gronquist.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Judge Shaw, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar
No: None

Abstained: None
Absent: None
Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF WAREHOUSE BUILDING RESTORATION

Friends of 1895 Warehouse Building representative Canda Rattray provided the court with a project overview and estimate from Jim Doherty for the restoration of the warehouse located at 134 South Main Street, Condon.

Rattray reported the building could be used several community events and the historic barn wood and architecture would enhance the City of Condon's main street project. Rattray asked the court if funds were available for grant matches in the sum of about \$30,000. Commissioner Gronquist added the county has several pre-allocated projects and with the reduction in anticipated tax revenue funds were not available at this time.

Pillar Consultant Jeff Schott joined the meeting and reported the project would need to gain Historic District approval, which requires a meeting of the historic oversight board. Schott concurred time wise it would benefit the project is it could be done during the library renovation.

Court added support for project but at this time funds are not available.

No decisions were made and the matter will be filed for review at a later time.

IN THE MATTER OF PILLAR CONSULTING PROJECT UPDATE

Jeff Schott reported on the following:

- Courthouse Platform lift demolition will begin on Monday, November 12, 2012. Lift will be out of service for about two weeks.
- Library project contract was signed by Judge Shaw, and project was started. Unfortunately asbestos was found in existing roof. This will add cost and slow project construction.
- Schott submitted a request an extension of Pillar Consulting's contract to include project management. There are to be additional Construction Assistance and eight months of Project Management duties totaling \$12,000.

MOTION: Commissioner Gronquist moved to approve Pillar Consulting extension to include Project Management during the construction phase of the library project in the amount of \$12,000.

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Judge Shaw, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None
Motion Passed.

Commissioner Weimar asked if the rear door to the Courthouse would be closed during the Lift installation. Schott reported not full time, and it will be available in case of emergency.

IN THE MATTER OF VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER QUARTERLY REPORT

Judge Shaw asked the court to acknowledge the quarterly report submitted by Tri-County Veteran's Officer Bryan Hunt.

IN THE MATTER OF COMPENSATION BOARD PROCESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Judge Shaw opened a discussion on the Compensation Board and Compensation Board member Walter Powell's letter recommending possible ways to improve process. It was noted Assessor Dave Messenger and Treasurer Alcenia Wright asked to be a part of the discussion.

Decision to create a committee consisting of one of the following: elected official, county court member and compensation board member. This group will revise/improve process. Judge elect Steve Shaffer agreed to be part of group, existing compensation board member Gary Miller will be appointed as well. Judge Shaw will ask the elected officials for their appointee choice.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COURT REPORTS

Commissioner Weimar attended Lower John Day Area Commission of Transportation: reviewing project applications on only one \$5.5 million project for Gilliam County. There are highway, bike, pedestrian and transit projects for consideration. Applications are due November 30, 2012 and are for 2015-2018 projects.

Judge Shaw reported the North Central Public Health District is working on separation from Wasco County. It was noted the separation will be completed by the end of the month.

Judge Shaw reported a NORCOR prisoner had filed suit against NORCOR which included all counties affiliated to facility. Suit has been withdrawn

Retirement parties:

- Alcenia Wright: November 28, 2012 4:00-6:00 in the Courtroom

- Pat Shaw: December 20, 2012 4:00-6:00 and will be held downstairs of the Elk's.

Elected officials swearing in will occur January 2, 2013.

IN THE MATTER OF NEXT COURT MEETING

Next Court meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in the conference room of the Gilliam County Grain Lab- Arlington, Oregon.

It appearing to the Court there was no further business to be conducted at this time, and no additional matters to be considered, Judge Shaw adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Patricia Shaw, Judge

By _____

Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By _____

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

Marla Davies-Recorder