

1-18-2012

Judge Shaw opened the regular Gilliam County Court meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at the Gilliam County Courthouse, Condon, Oregon.

County Court Members Present: Judge Patricia Shaw and Commissioner Michael Weimar. Absent: Commissioner Dennis Gronquist.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

- Add South Gilliam County Medical Center grant use modification

IN THE MATTER OF WEED ASSESSMENT

Weed Officer Don Farrar distributed two expenditure reports for private property weed control costs broken down by labor, equipment and materials; one with a three year average and one with a five year average.

Jordan Maley, Oregon State University Extension Agent, joined the court meeting.

The five year average: \$51,947.03 from July 2006-June 2011 which included one field staff providing services for the first three years.

The three year average: \$62,396.66 from July 2008-June 2011 includes an additional FTE field staff that started July 2009.

With the additional staff the department was able to focus on Skeleton Weed and other noxious weeds which may have been overlooked due to limited staffing. Farrar reported the average should level out since the Skeleton Weed has been greatly reduced.

Farrar explained the weed assessment pays for weed eradication, such as Skeleton Weed, since these types of weeds can be detrimental to the economy. Expiring Conservation Reserve Program properties will need to be checked for weeds. Farrar expressed concerns that these properties may have A-list weeds which will need to be eradicated. Discussion on the process and options for the Weed Department to gain reimbursement from landowners. Farrar added the weed eradication must be done in a timely manner to prevent the plant from going to seed.

Discussion followed on the Cost Share funds which is available to assist private property landowners with the cost of chemicals for weed control. This option is a 50/50 payment with a \$400 maximum and is funded with a portion of the Weed Assessment fees. The cost share line item is budgeted \$6,000 annually and there is often a roll over amount. Maley proposed the annual rollover be put into an equipment reserve fund, allowing for equipment replacement.

There are several local water shed grant programs (Rock Creek, 30 Mile, Ferry Canyon, Scott Canyon and Hay Canyon) which also help offset service costs to private landowners. Union Pacific Railroad pays for the treatment of their properties.

It was noted the Weed Advisory Board and County Court should convene to discuss the future plan of the Weed Department. Maley felt there could be better communication on the development of the future policy/plan between County Court/Weed Advisory Board to clarify each entities function. Commissioner Weimar added it is in the best interest of the County to work with the Weed Advisory Board in accord on future plans.

Judge Shaw set the process for the Weed Assessment as follows: Public Hearing in Arlington (February 15, 2012; 10:00 a.m.) and Condon (March 7, 2012; 10:00 a.m.) which coincides with County Court meetings. Weed Assessment information letters with public hearing schedule will be sent to landowners and information will be posted on the Gilliam County website. Final Weed Assessment information will be added to the Gilliam County Connections on the next regular mailing. Maley suggested having an informational article in The Times Journal as well.

Judge Shaw reported the County transferred \$45,000 to the Weed Department's budget for operations. The original Ordinance was in 1990 and the Weed Assessment fee was \$.03 per acre and then in three years it was raised to \$.05 per acre. This fee amount has been in place 1993, which has not accounted for inflation

Judge Shaw asked Farrar to come back to the Court at a later date with the costs for providing weed control services to County properties and the cost of spraying county roads.

MOTION: Commissioner Weimar moved to set the Weed Assessment at \$.07 per acre for the 2012 tax year.

SECOND: Judge Shaw.

Vote: 2-0

Yes: Judge Shaw and Commissioner Weimar

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Gronquist

Motion Passed.

It was noted the Weed Department is budgeted as a Special Fund rather than included in the County General Fund. It was also noted the Auditors will be meeting with the Court to discuss the audit report in February.

IN THE MATTER OF SOUTH GILLIAM HEALTH CENTER FUNDING

Judge Shaw reported being contacted by the South Gilliam Health Center-SGHC. The center received a grant from the Court to pay for a new X-ray machine which has been

purchased. The X-ray machine came in under budget and SGHD asked if the remaining funds could be used to purchase a Life Pack and other operating equipment.

MOTION: Commissioner Weimar moved to allow the excess funds from the X-ray purchase to be used for other equipment needs.

SECOND: Judge Shaw.

Vote: 2-0

Yes: Judge Shaw and Commissioner Weimar

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Gronquist

Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF ARLINGTON SHERIFF OFFICE LEASE AGREEMENT

Judge Shaw reported Sheriff Bettencourt met with the City of Arlington regarding revisions to the draft lease agreement discussed in a previous Court meeting. All changes were accepted by the City of Arlington. It was noted the reference to the Oregon State Police office on the first page was not deleted.

Judge Shaw reported in the monthly accounts payable review there were two bills submitted by the Sheriff's Office allocating funds from the Law Enforcement Fund in the Economic Enhancement Funds. Judge Shaw noted the existing Economic Enhancement Fund Ordinance does not include the original rationale for various funds. She pointed out that when the Law Enforcement Fund was originally created the rationale stated uses were restricted to the following reasons.

1. Increased transport costs to a regional jail
2. Unexpected regional jail costs, not covered by the state.
3. Capital crime unbudgeted expense.

This fund will be capped annually at \$300,000. The funds can be drawn out by request of the Sheriff after approval of the County Court sitting in session. It was noted a law enforcement vehicle was purchased in the past with these funds with the Court's approval.

Leanne Durfey said the original Gilliam County Host Fee Ordinance was adopted in 1991, with a slight revision in 1993, and updated again in 1996, 2002 and 2008. The copy reviewed at this meeting was Ordinance 1996-01. Changes have occurred historically and the Court reviews the Ordinance every five years. It was noted the Ordinance was last reviewed in 2007-08 and will be added to a future Court agenda.

Discussion followed noting the funding for the Sheriff Office in Arlington office should come from the Sheriff's Department budget. Budget Officer Alcenia Wright has set up a line item for this building.

MOTION: Commissioner Weimar moved to approve the business property lease between the City of Arlington and the Sheriff Department in the amount of \$3,600 for the term of January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012.

SECOND: Judge Shaw.

Commissioner Weimar opened the discussion on possibly building a facility in Arlington. The building could house the Sheriff's Department, Justice Court, Community Counseling Solutions and a meeting room. Commissioner Weimar added with the Coordinated Care trend it would be beneficial if the North Gilliam Health Board would be supportive of housing the mental health services.

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| <u>Vote</u> : | 2-0 |
| Yes: | Judge Shaw and Commissioner Weimar |
| No: | None |
| Abstained: | None |
| Absent: | Commissioner Gronquist |

Motion Passed.

Consensus Sheriff Bettencourt will be asked to find funds for the lease in his budget for this six month lease amount of \$3,600.

IN THE MATTER OF WEED DEPARTMENT GRANT SUBMITTALS

MOTION: Commissioner Weimar moved to approve the following Weed Department grant submittal requests:

Ferry Canyon Creek Integrated Weed Management Area Project - \$18,000:

Upper Rock Creek Integrated Weed Management Area Project - \$12,000:

Hay Creek/Scott Canyon Integrated Weed Management Area Project - \$16,000:

All three grants require a 25% cash match, funded through County Cost Share and landowners.

SECOND: Judge Shaw.

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|---------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>Vote</u> : | 2-0 |
| Yes: | Judge Shaw and Commissioner Weimar |
| No: | None |
| Abstained: | None |
| Absent: | Commissioner Gronquist |

Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF OBSIDIAN TECHNOLOGIES

Judge Shaw received a sales agreement from Obsidian Technologies Tony Roy. This agreement qualifies under the state contract rules allowing Gilliam County to not go out for the public bid process. Gilliam County submitted a letter of intent to award the sales agreement. The annual cost for phone service will be \$16,872, not including long distance saving \$3,000. The Materials and installation cost will be \$47,425.09 and includes a one year warranty with 15 hours Tech support maintenance.

Judge Shaw has received good reviews from other counties on this company and their service.

MOTION: Commissioner Weimar moved to approve sales and support agreement including: IP Phone Solution, Sales Agreement and Support Agreement in the amount of \$47,425.09 and will be paid out of the Capital Projects fund, pending legal counsel approval.

SECOND: Judge Shaw.

Vote: 2-0
Yes: Judge Shaw and Commissioner Weimar
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Commissioner Gronquist
Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF NORCOR VISITATION AND FDN DIGITAL SWITCH

Judge Shaw reported on recent meeting with legislators at NORCOR which included a tour of the facility. The adult jail is at 25% capacity at this time and the possibilities of moving State Penitentiary inmates or mental health services were discussed. The Juvenile beds are full due to the partnering with Oregon Youth Authority-OYA.

Judge Shaw also reported State Representative John Huffman has a proposal moving forward with support in the House and Senate which may provide funding to assist with the Frontier Digital Network digital switch.

Commissioner Weimar expressed the importance of staying in contact with Rob Myers during this Legislative session.

Judge Shaw reported the Army Corps of Engineers will be turning over management of Philippi Park located in Gilliam County up the John Day River which is only accessible by boat. Sherman County will be taking over the management of LePage Park at the mouth of the John Day River. Court supports keeping the park and will be in discussion with Sherman County as this process moves forward.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

Judge Shaw reported receiving an invitation to attend the investiture of the new Circuit Court The Honorable Judge John Olson, February 1, 2012 at 3:00 at the Hood River County Courthouse.

IN THE MATTER OF NEXT SCHEDULED COURT MEETING

The next County Court meeting will be Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Gilliam County Courthouse, Condon, Oregon.

It appearing to the Court there was no further business to be concluded at this time, and no additional matters to be considered, Judge Shaw adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Patricia J. Shaw, Judge

By _____

Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By _____

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

Recorder: Marla Davies