

10-2-2013

This being the time and placed advertised Commissioner Weimar opened the Gilliam County Court Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m. to obtain citizens views regarding the former library building at 310 South Main Street- Condon, Oregon. The County Court encourages public comment as they will be considering whether or not to declare the vacant building as surplus property and advertise it for sale.

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Dennis Gronquist and Commissioner Michael Weimar.

Absent: Judge Steve Shaffer.

Citizens of Condon present:

Canda Rattray, Kim Farrar, Kathryn Greiner, Jude Berray and Dale Thompson

Staff present: Legal Counsel Will Carey, Court Administrator Leanne Durfey and County Court Assistant Marla Davies

Written comment:

Submitted by property owner David Hudson:

Asking that the building retain the Library signage as it is now, regardless of future usage. Noting the history of the building was important.

Submitted by property owner Katherine Lee:

Suggesting the Cultural Committee could possibly use the space as an art gallery for the local artists.

Phone comment:

Times-Journal Mac Stinchfield contacted Leanne Durfey: He supports Gilliam County selling the building and would like to see it used for a commercial retail business.

Commissioner Gronquist asked the public for their input on the building: sell it, donate to charitable group.

Discussion:

There was not additional support for leaving the Library signage on the building permanently. The building has a long history of usage, and leaving the signage would be deceptive to passer-byes.

The building is in need of some floor/other (\$56,000-\$110,000) repair before any type of business/services could take residency. There had been conversation in the past about remodeling the building and it was estimated to be \$500,000. This would have included the floors, back room and making the building ADA accessible. There are grants

available to upgrade the building which may be available to the future business owner. A timeline to have the building improved and filled was a strong point of conversation. No one supported the project being a long term fixer upper. Noting the sale of the building could include conditions which would hold the purchaser to certain guidelines and expectations.

Carey added the property could be marketed as a commercial building to potential buyers, informing them of possible grant dollars and programs available.

Everyone agreed Condon does not need another empty building on Main Street. Noting the building could display local artist's wares as earlier mentioned. Rattray added Condon Chamber is very content with their office at the Anderson building and added Chamber inquiries have increased since the relocation.

The Court added they are not interested in being landlords and the property price has not been discussed. No one has contacted the Court about purchasing the building and felt it was important to gather public input before making any decisions.

Rattray added she would like to remind the Court about the citizens group who are interested in some funds to fix the warehouse behind the new library.

Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar both added the county funding and supporting process is in need of change. Important to build a Bridge Fund and other county sustaining investments: not funding every project or entity.

Commissioner Weimar thanked the citizens for their time and input on the building, noting no specific deadline has been set.

With no further comment or discussion Commissioner Weimar closed the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By Absent

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____

Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By _____

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

Marla Davies-Recorder

