

11-6-2013

The regular Gilliam County Court meeting was held in the Gilliam County Courthouse- Condon, Oregon and was called to order by Judge Shaffer at 10:05 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Judge Steve Shaffer, Commissioner Dennis Gronquist and Commissioner Michael Weimar. Absent: None.

IN THE MATTER OF CCS SEMI ANNUAL REPORT

Community Counseling Solutions Director Kimberly Lindsay reported the following:

- Mental Health funds the legislature had provided to ensure small counties received a guaranteed rate, are now being RFP through Oregon Health Authority. OHA has stated 50% of funds will not be going to communities and the remaining 50% will be RFP. This could deeply affect local services. There are some counties which are giving up their local mental health authority since they are unable to assume the liability responsibility in the local contracts. This will continue to push mental health towards state control.
- CCS staff is working on several grant applications, which are being written after hours. Lindsay added she was unaware grants would be predicated on past interest, noting population stipulations which would disqualify us from applying may seem to show lack of interest.
- Local law enforcement and CCS have already implemented crisis services which are provided in the community, then transporting to emergency room if applicable.
- Lindsay will be attending AOC conference and encouraged Court members to attend Human Services seminar. Noting she can provide information as needed.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2013-22

MOTION: Commissioner Gronquist moved to approve Resolution No. 2013-22 authorizing Community Counseling Solutions to submit an application for Crisis Services Funding released from the Oregon Health Authority, Division of Addictions and Mental Health in the amount of \$45,000.

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Judge Shaffer, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion Passed.

Lindsay added Angela Horne has been hired for the CCS Arlington Clinician position and will begin working December 9, 2013.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA

1.8: VEBA Insurance: Rena Kennedy

3.5: Executive Session 192.660(2)(a)

IN THE MATTER OF CASA VOLUNTEER SWEARING IN

Judge Shaffer swore in CASA volunteer Julianna Erickson.

CASA Director Amy Nation reported:

- CASA program has six volunteers and there are two more that are planning to attend training. The local CASA program has more volunteers now than at any other time. The volunteers are dedicated and hardworking and are required to have twelve hours training every year: four have completed requirement, and two more are very close.
- CASA State Board has appointed Nation to be the Regional Coordinator for the following counties: Gilliam, Sherman, Wasco, Hood River, Wheeler, Jefferson, Crook and Deschutes, noting four CASA programs cover the area. Duties for position will be to welcome new CASA Directors and assist them in getting Directors training, visiting sites to ensure the programs are running at National CASA Standards. Other responsibilities will be discussed at a training Nation will be attending later in the month. Nation anticipated travel for position would be minimal.
- Fundraising efforts are now a requirement of the local CASA programs, and the funds will be used as match for State funds. Required to raise \$614 this fiscal year: planning a taco feed for July 5, 2014, which has been approved by the CASA Board to be used for 2013/2014 calendar year. Other fund raising ideas include raffle items and holiday bake sale.

IN THE MATTER OF UPS BIDS FOR SERVER ROOM HVAC

Judge Shaffer reported there were two bids for the 3000 watt Uninterruptible Power Supply-UPS unit which will supply power to the heat/air unit in the server room: Coburn Electric Inc.- \$4,930 and Hire Electric Inc.-\$3,581.

MOTION: Commissioner Gronquist moved to approve Hire Electric Inc. bid for materials and labor to install the 3000 watt UPS in the amount of \$3,581.

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Judge Shaffer, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF ASSESSOR DEPARTMENT REPORT

Assessor Dave Messenger reported the following:

- There were 528 people who received the Homestead Rebate this year: totaling \$255,393.40. Three other could have qualified but are Veteran's; therefore tax exempt but the actual number of qualified recipients was 531.

Discussion on a citizen's inquiry on passing property to heir, would the heir qualify for the Homestead Rebate: Stipulation to qualify the property must be the primary residence.

It was noted the average tax for Gilliam County has gone from about \$700 in 1999-2000 up to about \$1300 in 2013-2014. Messenger reported the increase came about after Measure 50 passing in 1997 which increased property tax 3% annually.

- Gilliam County taxable value decreased by \$22 million due to Arlington Wind Power and Wheat Field wind projects located in the north end of county. These projects were not under the SIP program.

Discussion on Department of Revenue formula on calculating wind value; Messenger feels a more accurate process could be developed. Sherman County Ross Turney is working with Messenger to find consultants which could be hired to train DOR staff on wind valuation and tax credit availability. Noting local Assessment staff would be able to attend training as well.

- Taxable value this year: \$760 million. Noting it was \$350 million about five years ago, so the wind projects have been beneficial.
- Total taxes and penalties for this year: \$9,000,110. This amount reflects decreased taxable value amount.
- 35% of the year's taxes have been received: \$ 3,188,000

- SIP Agreement: Pebble Springs, Caithness and Invenergy: \$710,800 total tax.
Community Service Fees: \$1,160,000
Additional Fees: \$6,012,000 total: Pebble Springs -\$1.6 million, Caithness -\$4.3 million and Invenergy -\$4,000.
Special Fees: \$220,000
Community Renewable Energy Association Fees: \$93,000 total: Pebble Springs-\$30,000, Caithness- \$63,000.
- Appraiser Chet Wilkins and Messenger traveled to Arlington to evaluate the Rosenbalm property after the fire: pro-rated tax for the year.
- There are no property tax appeals at this time, noting the deadline to file is 12/31/2013. A provision allows Assessor office to negotiate tax amount due to avoid appeal process which begins February 3, 2014.
- Foreclosure Notice was published in Times-Journal for three properties: September 19, 2013 and September 26, 2013.
Applied to Circuit Court: Application for Judgment and Affidavit on September 18, 2013 and then waited 30 days for people to pay delinquent taxes: No one paid taxes. Judgment was filed and signed on October 25, 2013.
Assessor notified property owners by regular/certified mail: November 5, 2013 one person came and paid total taxes due which is no longer in the foreclosure process. The other two properties remain in foreclosure: and one is in the first year of redemption period.
- Mikkalo Store property owner, who resides in Texas contacted Messenger and is aware the Judgment has been filed: all past due taxes must be completely paid. Messenger added he informed her of the Accelerated Foreclosure/Accelerated Redemption period process, noting she has 30 days to pay tax amount due in full: 2009-2012 past due tax published: \$1,080. There are now additional interest and 2013 tax due. The Nuisance Ordinance for Accelerated Foreclosure process requires a Public Hearing which has been set for December 18, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. and will be held during the regular County Court meeting in Arlington Municipal Building- Arlington, Oregon.
- The former Library building is valued at: \$32,920. There was discussion on process of declaring surplus, pricing and other requirements which include property owner would agree to participate in the Main Street program and have the building operational and being used.

MOTION: Commissioner Weimar moved to declare the former Library building located at 310 South Main Street, Condon, Oregon as surplus property.

SECOND: Commissioner Gronquist.

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

Legal Council will be contacted for property sale requirement guidelines.

Messenger will appraise the property and have it ready for the December 18th Court meeting.

Messenger reported Appraiser Chet Wilkins has been a good addition to the office and has been attending trainings.

IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Gronquist moved to approve the Consent Agenda including:

- September 30, 2013 Tri-County Court meeting minutes
- October 2, 2013 regular County Court meeting minutes
- October 2, 2013 Public Hearing minutes
- October 16, 2013 regular County Court meeting minutes
- October claims pending review

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

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

IN THE MATTER OF ASA ADVISORY BOARD VACANCIES

Judge Shaffer reported the Ambulance Service Area-ASA board currently has two appointed members who no longer live in the area: Rick Carlton and Shelly Mundy. The Court reviewed ASA Plan which acknowledges County Court is to appoint five ASA Board members composed of emergency type backgrounds/positions.

No decisions were made.

North Gilliam County Health Board was discussed regarding a paramedic being hired. Commissioner Gronquist will contact NGCHB Chair Denny Newell for progress. It was noted the Arlington Medical clinic services seem to moving forward.

IN THE MATTER OF VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY DINNER

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is set for December 4, 2013 in the upstairs of the Elk's. Gilliam County staff will not be attending since an Employee dinner is being planned.

IN THE MATTER OF EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY DINNER/CERTIFICATES

Court discussed employee dinner and holiday hams.

MOTION: Commissioner Gronquist moved to approve:

- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- Holiday Employee Dinner
- Holiday Employee Ham

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Judge Shaffer, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF REPORT

Community Development Director Michelle Colby reported the following:

- Mighty Ripple Consulting Elizabeth Farrar has begun the restructure of Gilliam County's website.
- Developed the June 2013 and October 2013 County Connection newsletter.
- Technology Service agreement liaison with North Central ESD: migrating all computers to Windows 7 by March 2014 which will affect computer replacement schedule.
- Ongoing duties include: VOIP phone project service agreement, copier machine/postage meter/Microsoft/Outlook Calendar contact and assistance. Provide iPhone program assistance as needed. Noting there are currently 50 software licenses which are set to expire: negotiating with Microsoft.

- Asked the Court for guidance on whether to lease or buy a copier. Discussed copier choices, additions and components and maintenance agreement costs.

Community Development Projects include: FLAG table and chair and PA system coordinator. County representative/contact for: Tough Mudders, Cottonwood Canyon State Park grand opening, Travel Oregon, Eastern Oregon Pre-Feast, PCDC Community Block Grant and Rural Wireless. Coordinates Gilliam County Special Projects grant cycle.

The PCDC/CDBG is struggling to gather 25 income qualified people who are interested in upgrading their homes. This is a requirement for the grant and at this time only 14 viable applications have been submitted. If applications are not submitted by the December 2013 deadline we may apply for the CDBG 2014 grant cycle.

Rural Technology Group submitted a subscriber invoice, stating there are 47 service connections throughout Gilliam County.

IN THE MATTER OF VEBA INSURANCE

County Clerk Rena Kennedy reported there are four employees at this time who qualify for a VEBA Entitlement work around benefit. This agreement has to be approved before CIS/VEBA representative will come and explain service to staff.

MOTION: Commissioner Gronquist moved to HRA/VEBA documents including:

- Resolution No. 2013-23
- Employer Policy for non-union employees
- Memorandum of Understanding for Union employees
- HRA VEBA Employer Adoption Agreement

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

<u>Vote</u> :	3-0
Yes:	Judge Shaffer, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar
No:	None
Abstained:	None
Absent:	None

Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF EXECUTIVE SESSION 192.660(2)(a)

Judge Shaffer declared the meeting to be in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 2(a) to consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent. Marla Davies was excused from the meeting. No decisions were made. Separate minutes were taken and will be filed in the office of the County Clerk.

IN THE MATTER OF CLERK'S OFFICE NEW HIRE

MOTION: Commissioner Gronquist moved to approve the County Clerk's office new hire employee will be hired at Step C of the salary schedule.

SECOND: Commissioner Weimar.

Vote:

3-0

Yes:

Judge Shaffer, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar

No:

None

Abstained:

None

Absent:

None

Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT

Planner Susie Anderson reported on the following:

- Acquired grant funding for the Transportation System Plan update. Working with ODOT on Scope of Work. Deadline for project is May 15, 2014.
- Preparing year-end report for Department of Land Conservation and Development which requires hard copies for each land use action conducted. Deadline is January 2014. DLCD is proposing a new reporting system which will not require hard copies for 2014.
- DEQ requirement for the 2013 Opportunity to Recycle report be filed in February 2014. This has details on county recycling, detailed reports from Columbia Ridge Landfill and Recycling Center and the cities of Condon and Arlington and scrap metal haulers.
- The Department of Navy has submitted a request to Energy Facility Siting Council hearing's office asking for party status in contested Saddle Butte case. The Navy wants to limit the number of turbines to those outside the military fly zone which will jeopardize project and be a jurisdictional taking as the property would have limited use options for landowners. Gilliam County submitted numerous comments regarding Saddle Buttes Draft Proposed Order, but never asked for party status and the deadline to request is past. Anderson has requested all materials; correspondences related to case and have requested the Siting Division Administrator asking for review and information if Gilliam County could appeal the Oregon Supreme Court decision.

- Updating Comp Plan and Zoning Ordinance: It is important the new Transportation System Plan is compliant with Transportation Planning Rule, Oregon Transportation Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan.
- Consultant Brent Lake is planning to retire in a few years: Anderson is working with him to make sure Gilliam County is up to date on OAR/ORS.
- Looking to expand Zoning Ordinance which will address broader business uses of Industrial zoned property.
- Zoning Ordinance Violations are all resolved.
- Received four Records Requests in last two months.

IN THE MATTER OF WEED CONTROL STAFF REPORT

Weed Control Officer Don Farrar reported the following:

- PGE Fiber optic installation project: discussion/plans for cleaning machines and reseeding disturbed areas in Gilliam/Morrow counties.
- Completed Treatment of Skeleton weed along Columbia River and found a new site in the Clem area.
- Finished the following: chemical treatment of summer annuals on county/state roads and stockpiles; interim reporting for ODA grant.
- Working to fulfill: BPA contract bare ground treatment; BLM Fire contract; 2014 grant applications
- Other: repairing equipment, renewed ODOT contract, attended OVMA conference in Seaside, 50% of spray mapping complete, grass seeding Baseline Road, and hand weed/clean county roads.

Commissioner Gronquist inquired about Shutler Industrial Park weed treatment. Farrar stated the weeds were treated three times, but there was too much moisture in the ground for weed termination.

Farrar reported computer issues including: slow computer, no back up, items are missing. Both computers in the weed department are having issues.

IN THE MATTER OF RISK MANAGEMENT STAFF REPORT

Risk Management Coordinator Terri Carnine reported:

- The safety committee met on October 22, 2013 and discussed improving safety in the lower level hall where it meets the back door steps, noting people collision hazard. Options were discussed and it was a consensus of the committee to purchase a beeper. This was the cheapest option and funds were available through the safety committee/office supply funds.
- County fleet vehicles have been inspected
- Annual fire drill completed: good response time
- The Risk Management Grant program is available for up to \$7,500. Funds may cover anything which will reduce liability claims. Discussion on multiple small projects including the Courthouse and Road department shop. Carnine will find out if the grant funds may be spent on multiple projects and completed over the three year period.
- There were two accidents and one incident reported.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

City of Condon submitted the 2012-13 Gilliam County Infrastructure grant expenditures which included the water and wastewater projects.

Invitation to attend the Ribbon Cutting at the Arlington Mesa Industrial Park.

IN THE MATTER OF MCCOG MEALSITE CONTRACT MODIFICATION

Senior Coordinator Delene Durfey reported the Older Americans Act reimburses \$.63 per eligible meal served to meal site patrons. In the past these funds have been sent directly to the meal sites. This year the funds came to the County and were deposited into the General Fund. To remedy this MCCOG/AAA have provided a modification for checks to be paid directly to meal sites.

MOTION: Commissioner Weimar moved to approve the amendment to Services Contract between Mid-Columbia Council of Governments/Area Agency on Aging, and ORS 190 Intergovernmental Entity and Gilliam County which provides NSIP Meal Funds to be distributed directly to Arlington/Condon Meal Sites.

SECOND: Commissioner Gronquist.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Judge Shaffer, Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion Passed.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Judge Shaffer reported:

- There have been failed attempts to meet with the Department of Navy and Senator Merkley regarding airspace and the proposed military training route. This could affect existing and future projects in Gilliam County.
- Attended CREA meeting- good information
- Attended NORCOR meeting where Youth Development Council reported RFP process. Information shared with staff noting importance of thinking outside the box to get funds for local services.
- Attended North Central Public Health board meeting: noting Wasco County and Public Health payroll software discussion.
- Auditors exit conference on October 29, 2013: Auditor was pleased and overall good review.
- Courthouse participated in Condon Chamber Trick or Treat Main Street: several children made the rounds to offices.
- MCCOG Transportation building planning is moving forward: discussion on building permit funds which were used for match funds for building.
- Representatives from a company based in Minnesota will be touring the Grain Lab facility. Noting this could be a potential partner for the Lab, possibly sustainable revenue. Grain Lab Director Nathan Hammer has been advised and will be available for tour.

Commissioner Weimar reported:

- Citizens Advisory Committee met where agriculture experiment station and forestry lab budgets have been cut by Governor. Local Extension Office has moved to ESD building to save funds.
- Attended Grain Lab meeting where the Strategic Plan was reviewed, discussed and changed. Nathan will be presenting changes to the Court. The Lab has begun soil testing on a non-commercial basis, looking to expand services. A large seed program has contacted Lab about possible testing options.

IN THE MATTER OF NEXT MEETING

Next Court meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in the Gilliam County Courthouse- Condon, 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 Shaffer adjourned the meeting at 3:00p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____

Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By _____

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

Marla Davies-Recorder