

12-11-2013

Judge Shaffer called the Tri-County Court meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. The meeting was held in the Gilliam County Courthouse-Courtroom in Condon, Oregon

Present for the meeting:

Gilliam County: Judge Steve Shaffer, Commissioner Michael Weimar:

Wheeler County: Judge Chris Perry, Commissioner Robert Ordway and Commissioner Anne Mitchell

Sherman County: Judge Gary Thompson, Commissioner Tom McCoy and Commissioner Mike Smith: Melva Thomas- Court Administrator

Others: Peter Mitchell-Port of Arlington, Kathryn Greiner-City of Condon, Chris Fitzsimmons-Gilliam County Emergency Services Coordinator, Tina Potter and John Folliard-Tri-County Corrections.

IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS:

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS: Wheeler and Gilliam are in the Eastern Regional Solutions coverage area, which limits input and services locally. Majority of working partners are in the Mid-Columbia, and makes sense to relocate to that region. Noting the large geographic area of the Central region it may be split, our areas would like to provide staff if this adjustment occurs.

Process to change region:

- Submit request stating justification for relocation: Digital Switch networking, housing and other economic development projects.
- It would require a letter of release from the Greater Eastern Oregon Developments Corporation-GEODC
- Submit letter of interest to preferred region including Mid-Columbia Economic Development-MCEDD service agreement.

Meeting for the Mid-Columbia Region is set for December 12, 2013 in White Salmon, WA.

IN THE MATTER OF CCO/LCAC FUTURE FUNDING

The Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization-EOCCO received \$1.6 million startup funds to be split twelve ways. Additional funding applications and services were discussed: noting funds will be competitive between hospitals, Local Community Advisory Committee - LCAC and other entities. Programs who are willing to think outside the normal way of business to better serve community needs will be the preferred fund recipients.

Local providers are facing capitated fee structures and some feel this may adversely affect mental health and other services. Commissioner Smith suggested Wheeler/Gilliam County

attend MCEDD's Community Advisory Committee-CAC quarterly meetings to keep up on funding resources and information.

IN THE MATTER OF FOUR RIVERS EARLY LEARNING HUB UPDATE

Additional Hub board members are needed: Business and Parent sector required. Court members will work to find potential board members and present them at the December ELC meeting. Discussion on meeting times and schedule, accommodate members, potential board members.

IN THE MATTER OF LOWER JOHN DAY RIVER

Judge Perry opened the discussion on the proposed John Day River changes beginning at Cottonwood and moving downstream. There are potential limited boat launches, usage fees and proposed rules which may cause significant hardship to families wanting to use river. Noting the John Day is a wild and scenic area and is a different type of excursion than the Deschutes River.

Discussion on motorized usage on the John Day: ADA/Emergency Service usage would be acceptable and protecting traditional farm crossings important. Judge Perry asked for input of river usage be submitted to him by January 6, 2014.

It was reported the Sheriff concerned with BLM seasonal employees floating river and issuing citations.

Discussed:

- Water ownership categories
- Oregon Natural Desert Association-ONDA wilderness study

IN THE MATTER OF TRI-COUNTY CORRECTION STAFF REPORT

Tri-County Correction staff John Folliard and Tina Potter reported the following:

- Information on Measure 57 supplemental funds: \$50,000 per agency, not per county and has specific spending regulations. Funds can be used for treatment: Folliard makes clients self-pay for treatment- few receive paid treatment services.
- Program screening includes public safety checklist and a Risk Assessment Tool which has been used statewide for over a year.
- Funds received: \$25,000 annually which will cover two people out/in patient intensive treatment. Funds can be carried over, never return to State.
- Gilliam County has 39 clients under supervision: including compacted and out of state warrants.
- Sherman County has 119 clients under supervision: John 39/Tina 39 and 40 Absconds

- Wheeler County has seven clients under supervision: Tina 4/abscond 2 and one under local control.
- No predatory sex offenders in counties at this time

IN THE MATTER OF FRONTIER DIGITAL NETWORK LOAN PAYMENT

Judge Perry reported Wheeler County will not be able to pay their \$122,000 portion of the Frontier Digital Network Switch loan agreement. Wheeler would like to be able to use future lottery funds and reimbursed federal funds to catch up on their portion of the agreement, and asked to remain an owner of switch.

Insurance for the Digital Switch in the amount of \$2,800 had been paid by Sherman County. Gilliam and Wheeler each need to pay a third of this expense: Judge Perry felt Wheeler could cover their portion.

Discussion on getting the Switch marketed so it can sustain itself. Noting the need for an employee to begin selling service, marketing project and moving forward to fiber to keep cutting edge.

IN THE MATTER OF FRONTIER 911 CENTER

Judge Shaffer reported ESD is discussing a change in the buildings handicap accessibility. This would allow the 911 call center to move to the conference room providing much needed additional space. Proposed moving ADA access from the rear of the building to front has been approved by the City of Condon, noting project must concur with Main Street façade. Project request moving forward to planning, noting the ESD building is in the Historic District.

Emergency Services Chris Fitzsimmons noted the agreement between the state and 911 services requires a server backup to ensure continuum of services within a 45 minute timeline. Noting Wasco County had an issue and was able to coincide with the UPS server.

IN THE MATTER OF MILITARY TRAINING ROUTE-MTR

Judge Shaffer reported 275,000 acres in Gilliam County will be affected by the proposed MTR and will affect economic development, farming and essentially any other use of land proposed by landowners. Gilliam staff is preparing information to be presented during a meeting with the Navy later in the week. Unfortunately this matter could have been resolved through the Federal Aviation Association-FAA, but the process was overlooked. Economically this will affect 35% of land in Gilliam County costing millions in lost tax revenue, income to local landowners. Sherman County wind project will be affected with this proposal: noting previously the flights had been at 2,400' the new proposal is for 200'.

IN THE MATTER OF FEASIBILITY STUDY

Judge Thompson reported the Assessor's office is working with EcoNW to develop a feasibility study for the wind projects and suggested Gilliam may want to consider it too. Discussion on price and potential use of study occurred.

IN THE MATTER OF VSO VEHICLE

Veteran's Service Officer Bryan Hunt had reported to the courts he was looking to replace his work vehicle with grant dollars. Hunt reported to the three County Courts the \$10,000 per county grant: totally \$30,000 could be used to purchase a vehicle.

Judge Thompson noted ODVA came back and told Hunt the funds could not purchase a vehicle, but could lease one. Sherman County is proposing to take the existing Sherman County owned VSO vehicle, trading it in and purchasing a new vehicle which VSO can lease from Sherman County. Sherman County had purchased the vehicle for previous VSO with excess enhancement funds.

Transportation for local veterans is a concern and was discussed at AOC.

VSO performance evaluation process, Tri-County VSO history and intergovernmental agreement were discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF LOAN PROGRAM POLICY

Gilliam needs to build a loan program since separating from Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation-GEODC. Sherman County Court Administrator Melva Thomas chairs the local development league that has policy/procedure available for review as needed. Judge Thompson suggested the Port of Arlington/Economic Developer Peter Mitchell could assist in this process, noting Port Commissions have different provision which allows this type of fund dispersing.

IN THE MATTER OF TOURISM

It was noted the Mountain Identifier between Gilliam and Sherman County needs to be repaired. Lower John Day River Territory and Mid-Columbia Economic Development District-MCEDD operations and needs were discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF CWC CAMPGROUND

Judge Thompson reported the cost for the Emergency Services Communication system at the park and doubled: \$300,000 originally, now \$600,000. This cost increase has to do with the high cost of installing electricity to the rural area. Discussion on solar and battery backup systems for the service.

IN THE MATTER OF RED WINDMILLS LIGHTS

RDI/Oregon Lobbyist Doris Penwall has proposed reducing the wind tower lighting: The proposal calls for a light every half mile around the project with some installed inside project. Planes are complaining about too many lights and the project is working with the Federal Aviation Administration-FAA on reducing 65% of the existing lights.

IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPER REPORT

Port of Arlington/Gilliam County Economic Development Peter Mitchell reported the Port is a county wide district which allows them to work with neighboring counties on infrastructure. Noting Columbia critical transportation freight path: barge, rail, truck and the growth of Port of Morrow will potentially spill over, offering additional economic growth.

Discussion on Port combining with neighboring counties which would be a Board decision: Could increase taxing district funds for Port while expanding to Deschutes River, encompassing Sherman County.

It was noted there is one Port in Oregon which is not on a navigable river- it is located in Medford. Sherman and Wheeler Counties are one of the few without a Port District.

Mitchell added Mid-Columbia Producers could benefit by Port inclusion by installing a grain conveyor for storage by qualifying for Industrial financing.

Governor is pushing for the Columbia River Crossing Bridge to be built and a toll option to pay for the bridge is being considered. This will impact Biggs/Highway 97 usage as well as all other bridges on the river. An Impact Statement for Highway 97 needs to be included to track usage.

IN THE MATTER OF NEXT MEETING

Judge Perry added the next meeting will be hosted by Wheeler County in March 2014: Parties will be notified of date and time.

There being no further items to discuss Judge Shaffer adjourned the Tri-County Court meeting at 1:30 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____ Absent _____

Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By _____

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

Marla Davies-Recorder