

11-18-15

Judge Shaffer called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. The meeting was held at the Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, OR. Present were Judge Steve Shaffer and Commissioner Dennis Gronquist. Commissioner Michael Weimar was not present as he was attending the Association of Oregon Counties Annual Conference.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Change Order No. 1 for the IBR Building

Oregon Department of Transportation Connect Oregon Grant Application

IN THE MATTER OF BOARD OF PROPERTY TAX APPEALS

The Court received correspondence from BOPTA Board Clerk Dawn Parm requesting the following be appointed to the Gilliam County Board of Property Tax Appeals. There are four positions and four recommended appointments.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Judge Shaffer to appoint to the Board of Property Tax Appeals Commissioner Michael Weimar, Pat Shaw, Leah Watkins and Peter Mitchell; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Absent; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Judge Shaffer informed there are two persons interested in serving on the Gilliam County Library Board; Sara Whatley and Sarah Rucker. There are two vacancies on the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Judge Shaffer to appoint Sarah Rucker and Sara Whatley to the Gilliam County Library Board; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; **Motion carried.** Appointments are through June 30, 2018.

IN THE MATTER OF 2016 CULTURAL PARTICIPATION GRANT AGREEMENT

Michelle Colby forwarded the 2016 Cultural Participation Grant Agreement to the Court for consideration of approval. Boyd Harris will be asking the State of Oregon if the Coalition can exceed the 10% limitation for use of funds for Coalition staffing. The Coalition is in the process of checking with the Pioneer Community Development Corporation (PCDC) to see if they would be willing to become their fiscal agent.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Judge Shaffer to execute the fiscal 2016 Cultural Participation Grant Agreement; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Absent: **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CHANGE ORDER

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Judge Shaffer to approve Change Order No. 1 on the Shutler Station Dry Blending Plant Water Quality Improvement Project to reroute the new hot water system flush. There is not a cost associated with the change; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Absent; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ODOT CONNECT OREGON GRANT

The Court acknowledged correspondence from Port of Arlington Manager/ Economic Development Director Peter Mitchell updating the Court on the amount required for grant match. He asked if the Court still wants him to submit an application for ODOT Connect Oregon Grant for a second rail spur at Shutler Station Industrial Park. The cost of the match for the project increased from \$105,000 to \$145,000 which is more than will be available in the Shutler Station budget for fiscal 2015-16. After discussion Members of the Court decided to pass on the grant during the current grant cycle and to consider applying during the next grant cycle.

IN THE MATTER OF COURTHOUSE EXTERIOR HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Judge Shaffer informed that there has been a request for funds for new energy efficient LED exterior holiday lights for the Courthouse. There was discussion of what would be the appropriate line item.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Judge Shaffer to approve the purchase of new LED holiday lights for the Gilliam County Courthouse; Discussion: After a brief discussion Members of the Court agreed on spending up to \$150 for new LED lights; Vote: Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Absent; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF AIRBASE ROAD OWNERSHIP MAINTENANCE

Radar Holding, LLC owner Kevin Gramson and Road Master Dewey Kennedy were present to discuss ownership of the roads at the Radar Base Subdivision. Gramson informed there has been an ongoing discussion of who owns the roads at the former Air Force Base, the owner of the subdivision or Gilliam County. He brought a set of drawings from 1978. That in one of the sections it states, “Does hereby dedicate to use of the public forever the streets, drives and ways designated on this set plat and do hereby establish and acknowledge the official map and plat of the Subdivision in Gilliam County in the State of Oregon”. Gramson interpreted that to mean Gilliam County owns the roads. Gramson said, if the Court could reach agreement that the County owns the roads, he would like the County to assume responsibility for maintaining the roads. Judge Shaffer said that the Court would likely not be able to make a decision until a later date because Commissioner Weimar was not present to weigh in on the matter. Kennedy informed this issue was been examined previously when CJ Bingham purchased the Base. At that time it was determined that the records designate use but do not mention who is responsible for maintenance. Kennedy stated that other similar roads in other counties with similar language permit use, but do not require maintenance. Counties maintain the right of way to the end user. Kennedy said the Subdivision roads are not listed on any

County road maps. There is a similar situation in at the Port of Arlington and it was similarly determined that the Port is responsible for maintenance of the road and the County will maintain the roads to that point. After further discussion the decision was made to examine the Commissioner's Journals from 1978 to see if road ownership was discussed and voted on. Commissioner Gronquist said ownership and maintenance are two different questions. Court Administrator Leanne Durfey said she would also consult with County Planner Michelle Colby to see if there are planning records going back to 1978. Gramson said regardless of who owns the road, he will be asking the County to perform the maintenance. Kennedy informed the road is in such poor condition that an overlay would not be an option. Kennedy cited three examples of County roads that the City of Condon and County share the cost of maintenance and his department performs the work. Commissioner Gronquist said he would be curious what a road replacement would cost. Kennedy guessed that it would be in the range of \$200,000 but could bid the cost out. The Court decided to do further research and revisit the matter at a later Court meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

The Court received a newsletter from Cottonwood Canyon State Park informing that after an environmental analysis they will be reducing the number of trails proposed for the Park.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Judge Shaffer attended the first part of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Annual Conference. The theme for this year's Conference is Communications. There was discussion of how communications have changed from how Boomers like to communicate and how 26-35 year olds prefer to communicate. There is less emphasis on face to face communications and they prefer to communicate electronically via their cell phones or tablets. They tend to turn to Instagram, Facebook and The Huffington Post to get their news. Judge Shaffer informed that as a result a growing number of counties are hiring a Public Information Officer to track and disseminate accurate information via their County website.

Commissioner Gronquist informed that the last Waste Management Host Fee negotiation meeting was cancelled. He attended Metro's, Let's Talk Trash meeting. It was well attended and he was called out as a Commissioner from Gilliam County. Judge Shaffer said he was talking with two Washington County Commissioners at AOC and invited them to Gilliam County for a landfill tour. He suggested they invite some of the Metro Councilors as well. Commissioner Gronquist suggested waiting until spring for the Tour.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW COUNTY HIRE

The County has hired Sabrina Wagenaar as the new part time County Custodian effective November 10th.

IN THE MATTER OF ARLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT UPDATE

Columbia Hills Manor Board Members Nancy Proctor and Alcenia Wright were present to give an Arlington Community Center project update. They put out three Request for Proposals and received two. Swaggart Brothers, Inc. from Stanfield was the low bidder and have produced a preliminary design that she passed out for the Court to look at. The second bid was from Apollo, Inc. from Kennewick, Washington. Swaggart Brothers is a design/build company that has their own in-house engineers. The design/build process will help reduce the overall cost of the project. Wright said they are in the process of negotiating the final contract to lock in the price, but they don't expect the floor plan to change at this point. Commissioner Gronquist asked when they expect to break ground and will need funds. Wright said they are hoping to begin construction in March of 2016. To date they have purchased the land, razed the house and environmental soil testing. They are working with the Port of Arlington on laying new water lines. The work will be performed by the City of Arlington. Columbia Hills Manor will pay the cost to cover the trench. The application for the Lot Line Adjustment has been filed with County Planner Michelle Colby. The land is in the process of being annexed into the City of Arlington. This may require a change in zoning designation from Open Space to another use. They aren't sure because they have not filed that application. They met with the Board of the Arlington Medical Center about the possibility of partnering for a Wellness Center in the Community Center similar to the new Wellness Center in Condon. Wright informed that Julius Courtney was very supportive of the idea. The rest of the Board was not as receptive. Commissioner Gronquist suggested taking Board Members on a tour of the Wellness Center in Condon. He also suggested they visit the senior meal site and educate the community about the Community Center project, the proposed Wellness Center and what a resource it would be for Arlington. Judge Shaffer shared that Hollie Winslow secured Coordinated Care Organization Transformation Grant funds of approximately \$110,000 which was used to purchase the exercise equipment for the Wellness Center in Condon. Judge Shaffer said there should also be preventative care grants for wellness centers. Wright also informed they plan to install solar panels at the Center and are working with WindWave to install fiber to the facility. Members of the Court appreciated the update.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Judge Shaffer attended a NORCOR meeting and reported they are still planning on reducing Juvenile beds to eight from the current 24 to make room for mental health inmates. NORCOR is in talks to contract with Central and Eastern Oregon Juvenile Justice Consortium (CEOJJC) for housing additional juvenile inmates. CEOJJC can house juvenile inmates for \$100/person, which is significantly less than what it costs at NORCOR.

Judge Shaffer informed he has been researching finding a financial consultant for the Test Turbine project. This has been challenging since this is a single turbine project.

Judge Shaffer had a phone conversation with Christa Rude who is head of the Four Rivers Early Learning Hub. He will be meeting with her, Leanne Durfey and Teddy Fennern to discuss the possibility of assuming some of Family Services workload.

Judge Shaffer informed that Monday night the Sherman County School Board voted to withdraw from the North Central ESD. He didn't know why, but is going to try and find out. If

Arlington decides to withdraw that will leave the North Central ESD with only the schools in Condon and in Wheeler County.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING

The next Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on December 2, 2015 beginning at 10:00 a.m., at Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon and a 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing at the Arlington City Hall on the same date.

It appearing to the Court there was no further business to be conducted at this time and not additional matters to be considered Judge Shaffer adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____
Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____
Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By _(not present)_____
Michael Weimar, Commissioner *R. Weinstein/Recorder*