

4-1-2015

Judge Shaffer called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 10:05 am. The meeting was held at the Gilliam County Courthouse, Courtroom located at 221 S. Oregon St. Condon, OR. Court members present were: Judge Steve Shaffer, Commissioner Dennis Gronquist and Commissioner Michael Weimar. Absent: None

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The first order of business is the addition of Action item 3.3. The County Court has received a proposal from Inland Development Corporation, WindWave, on fiber connections.

IN THE MATTER OF BOB THOMAS, USDA WILDLIFE SERVICES: ANNUAL REPORT

Bob Thomas delivered the State of the County Wildlife Control Report. There have been a number of sightings and problems with feral pigs. The USDA will be trying to eradicate the pigs and the plan is to hunt them by helicopter in the Lone Rock/Lost Valley area. The pigs have travel 60 miles recently and previously it took them 15 years to travel 60 miles. Thomas informed that he is going to try and get that extended throughout the 30 Mile Creek area as well. The cost of the helicopter will be paid for with federal dollars. They plan on taking out coyotes as well.

It was reported at the last USDA district meeting in La Grande, that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) announced that in the state controlled third of Oregon, from Highway 395 to the Idaho border, wolves can now be killed by landowners if they are chasing livestock. Thomas informed that the ODFW currently doesn't have a clear definition of chasing. Thomas believes that the rules will be tested out as landowners confront the definition in real decisions and their decisions will be the model for others to learn from. Judge Shaffer asked Thomas how far west of Hwy 395 have wolves been sighted? Thomas said that there have been rumored wolf sightings in Lost Valley, but those have not been confirmed. Thomas believes the ranchers have seen tracks that were too large to from a dog and therefore were likely those of wolves. The most recent Lost Valley sighting turned out to be a bear that has since been killed. Previously OR 3 and OR 7 passed through Kinzua on their way south to the Medford area. There were likely other wolves traveling with them that may still be in the area, but the only collared wolves can be tracked. The ODFW is still collaring new wolves. ODFW is aware of 9 packs and 77 total wolves, but Thomas believes that is probably about 60% of the total number of wolves. The ODFW has been taking genetic samples from wolf scat to track if they are wolves or mixed hybrids. Thomas has been trying to convince the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to do the same by taking samples from wolf hybrids held and bred in captivity. So far the scat that has been tested has all been traced to wolves from Idaho. Wolves are still federally protected in our part of the state, but the ODFW is currently working to try and get them delisted east of the Cascades.

The Court thanked Thompson for his presentation.

Judge Shaffer asked Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar if they were comfortable that the Court had gotten through the Consent Agenda items from the March 18th County Court minutes. Commissioner Gronquist would like to clarify one last item and the Court agreed that they can address that during their Executive Session and then vote to approve the

items after that. Court approval of the general March 18th minutes are tabled due to the lingering Consent Agenda item.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF CONTINUUM OF CARE SUB GRANTEE'S EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT 2015-17 WORK PLAN

There was a general Court discussion the Court didn't really get much of a head's up on but that the consensus was that the Court doesn't see a problem with it. The Emergency Solutions Grant doesn't really affect Gilliam County since most of the money is used around Hud and homelessness and is primarily used by Umatilla County.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar to approve, seconded by Judge Shaffer, to approve the Continuum of Care Grantees Emergency Solutions Grant 2015-17; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF EXPANSION OF THE FIREARMS PURCHASE BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM

Judge Shaffer informed the County Court that at the March 18 County Court held in Arlington that Arlington Mayor Jeff Bufton was pretty adamant that the Gilliam County should take a stand on this issue. The Court discussed what Gilliam County's response should be to the proposed initiative to expand background checks at gun shows and through private sales. Leanne Durfey had sent out a resolution that Sherman has done and a letter that Wasco has done stating their positions that they are against further expansion of background check for firearms sales. There was a general Court discussion of the issue of the need for additional background check. The Court decided to put together a resolution stating that they are comfortable with the laws as they exist now and don't feel there needs to be an expansion of background checks. Before the next meeting the Court will draft a resolution to that effect modeled on Sherman County's resolution on the issue.

IN THE MATTER OF NANA'S KITCHEN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT LOAN

County Treasurer Nathan Hammer received a letter stating that Ellen Stump, the owner of Nana's Kitchen, has filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Judge Shaffer acknowledged that Gilliam County might be pretty far down on the list of creditors. The Court agreed that they will have to wait and see if Gilliam County will be reimbursed in the process.

IN THE MATTER OF DAVE MESSENGER, ASSESSOR: ASSESSMENT & TAXATION GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTION NO. 2015-04

Dave Messenger shared that the history of the Assessment & Taxation (A & T) grant was that it was created in 1989 by the Oregon Legislature and is called The County Assessment Funding Assistance Account, or CAFAA. Messenger informed the Court that Gilliam County is one of the counties that greatly benefits from this grant. Part of the funding for this grant comes from delinquent interest accrued on property taxes and from some of the recording fees through the Clerk and the general interest accrued on the account and that the state administers. Judge Shaffer moves that the County grant them the funds. Over the past three years Gilliam County

has collected approximately \$43,000 in delinquent interest and has dispersed that money to CAFAA. However, Gilliam County has received over that same period nearly \$292,000. Last year the County received about \$85,000. Each year for the grant application Messenger takes all of the personal services accounts reported by the Assessor, the Treasurer and the County Clerk and combine all those and then calculate those numbers together to come up with a total amount. The total amount that CAFAA will be presenting to the state for their budget will be \$493,000. Gilliam County looks to receive 18% of that amount, or approximately \$90,000. The next step is for the Court to approve the grant proposal and sign a resolution to that effect. This year there is an additional page to the application that is the ethnic impact statement that also needs to be signed by the governing body. The deadline for the application is May 1. As an example, past grant money has gone for a capital outlay of \$5000 over the past couple of years to buy as printers for the Assessor's office and the one in the Clerk's office.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve the tax grant application 2015-04. Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar- Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF: HUMAN RESOURCES/IT NEEDS – DISCUSS NEW HIRE

Judge Shaffer and Leanne Durfey met Jean McCallister with CIS who informed them that the norm is for every 50 you would have a .5 human resources individual. Shaffer noted that the Mid-Columbia Council of Governments (MCCOG) doesn't have that many employees, but they do have a HR consultant that they contract with who is in there every single day. She's on a 50/50 contract with the Center for Living and MCCOG. Shaffer stated that the importance of this is to every day operations of the County Court, things such as racial and ethnic impact statements and things like that that the Court just doesn't seem to have time to get to. Shaffer said he also sees the need for IT department employee to assume the role Michelle Colby currently plays as the Courts IT person. Marla Davies also has a need for a part time individual to help with some of the County's driving. Judge Shaffer informed that here has been one full time salary reduction with the vacancy of the Wheat Lab Manager that could pay for a new human part time resources employee and for a part time IT employee. Shaffer stated that he thinks that an IT hire could also pick up some of the driving that Daryl Houghtelling currently does. Commissioner Gronquist asked Shaffer if he was looking to hire one position or two. Shaffer said that for this coming year he thought that there might be one, but that there will be further discussion during the Court's Executive Session. Commissioner Gronquist stated that he isn't opposed to a possible hire, but would like to know how other similar size counties handle their human resource needs. Gronquist also pointed out the likely overlap between a human resources employee and the Union representative. Since most of the County's employees are in the Union they will continue to go to the Union representative when they have complaints. Commissioner Weimar agrees that there does appear to be more of a need for HR than in the past, but suggested looking into contracting the work out on an as needed basis first. Gronquist asked Leanne Durfey to check on how other counties handle their human resources needs. Judge Shaffer doesn't think that an HR person would be able to be a Union member given the amount of sensitive information that they will have access to, but that an IT hire would likely be a Union employee. The Court discussed all aspects of tasks and full verses part time hire. Judge Shaffer is going to add a potential new hire as a line item in the upcoming 2015 annual budget.

IN THE MATTER OF DARRYL HOUGHTELLING, MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT

Houghtelling reported on the condition of the County Courthouse and grounds:

- Maintenance is working on the grant for the upcoming fall sprinkler project.
- Water repairs have been completed and all is running well.
- Houghtelling informed the Court of the need for a new lawnmower since the current one was purchased in 2002.
- The generator had its yearly maintenance and a new 5 year battery installed.
- Spring maintenance has been completed on the building's cooling system, so the building is ready for summer.
- Houghtelling has generally been getting everything ready for spring and mowing began on Monday.

Other County locations:

Burn's Park:

- The bathrooms have been repainted; a new water meter was installed by the City. Houghtelling anticipates replacing quite a large number of sprinklers this spring. There are water pressure issues due to the hard weather and will tackle the water pressure issue this year.
- There are some Park trim painting projects planned. Burn's Park was ready to go in mid-March in time for the Tumbleweed Basketball Tournament.
- He has coordinated the necessary weed abatement work with Don Farrar.
- Houghtelling will be getting bids for painting and making improvements to the Pavilion later this year.

Shuttler Industrial Park:

- Sacrificial cathodic anodes were recently installed in the water tower. The 5 year and inspection and cleaning were performed and the water tower is now fully operational and should be in good shape for the next 5 years. Water rings have been cleaned and are free of bacteria.

Wheat Lab:

- The lab gets cleaned weekly. Spring pruning has commenced. Lawn maintenance will begin shortly. Houghtelling has shot chlorinated the lab's water system, which he does twice a year as a preventative measure so that they don't get any dirty water readings. Houghtelling has been working on a master landscaping plan for the Lab. Special (?) is used down there about once a week

Road Department shop and Library bathrooms are cleaned weekly and the windows are cleaned quarterly and have just been completed.

- The Library has a landscaping plan for the public space behind the Library and has asked him not spray the area and just remove debris and tumbleweeds as needed. The Library will be doing the landscaping themselves.

The Court thanked Houghtelling for his presentation.

Judge Shaffer next informed the Court he had received some correspondence.

The first was a thank you note from the Gilliam Fire Firefighters thanking the Court for funding their new extrication cutter. The tool has been used twice since November.

Judge Shaffer next thanked Commissioner Gronquist, Commissioner Weimar and everyone for attending Susie Anderson's going away party at The Roundup. Shaffer said that he thought that The Roundup did a good job in their presentation and that Anderson seemed pleased; which was the ultimate goal.

IN THE MATTER OF KEVIN HUNKING: ARLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT: CTE BUILDING UPDATE

The contract has been signed for the new steel STEM building. The low bid was awarded the project and the building should be completed in two weeks, at a cost of \$46,500, and will then be delivered to Arlington. An RFP for a general contractor will go out the first week of April to pour a concrete pad and to erect the building and the cost will be \$18,000. Construction is scheduled to begin May 1 and will be completed in time for the 2015 school year. The Arlington School District has been negotiating with Pacific Power and Electric (PP&L) because the transformer is over the allowed amperage. PP&L is trying to charge the District for updating the transformer and the District's point is that they should just do it as part of the cost of doing business. No agreement has been reached. The District is also working to consolidate the number of electrical meters it uses on school grounds. They currently have 4 differ meters and are currently pay \$35/month for each meter so they would like to bring in and bury one new line to reduce their monthly recurring costs.

Judge Shaffer was recently informed that the Bureau of Labor and Industry that there is close to \$4 million in grant money available for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) technology training. Judge Shaffer thinks that might pair well with what the Arlington has to offer and would like to sit down with him and the Superintendent in Condon the later part of next week to begin to developing a strategy for future grant money. Hunky stated is hoping to set up the CTE to be used possibly as a regional training center and is exploring grants statewide for that and would like the building to be a regional training resource.

Judge Shaffer brought up the issue of early learning and Kindergarten readiness and K-12 education. These topics are being pushed by the State of Oregon at the state level and that the region and Arlington in particular often comes up during these discussions as having problems in these areas. Shaffer informed that someone from the state board of education will be contacting him to go over what the needs are going to be for early learning and K-12 education. Hunky informed the Court that there are two state officials at his school today from Early Learning who are meeting with Mike Terrell and Kim Williams, but Hunky was not invited to that meeting and hasn't been approached by anyone yet. Hunky said that he applied for a grant the first month that he was here that awarded Hunky believes \$5400 to coordinate efforts between their Kindergarten and the pre-school on how to best transition between the two of them. Hunky said he thinks that

perhaps one of the reasons that Arlington gets singled out is that they elected a while ago to stay with their private pre-school model, rather than to use the Head Start model.

Hunky presents a request for a grant for \$350,000 to fund construction of the school's new building. The Court discussed how the remaining funds will be paid; as a lump sum or on an as needed basis. It was decided that the District would receive a lump sum payment, but that Hunky stated that he will continue to report to keep the Court apprised of how the funds are being spent.

Motion to approve by Judge Shaffer and seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve distribution of the remaining \$335,000. Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF ACTION ITEMS: ARLINGTON TV COOPERATIVE REQUEST REGARDING PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR USDA RUS GRANT

The Co-op was represented by Alan Cunningham, John Nighs and Peter Mitchell. Judge Shaffer gave those in attendance a little background on where the Co-op is in process, the Co-op had applied for a USDA RUS grant and the County had pledged \$150,000 in grant matching funds to match that grant and that grant fell through and now the Co-op is here to present other plans. Cunningham told the Court that the Co-op was disqualified for the USDA RUS grant because there is already an RUS entity in the region, which is owned by CenturyLink. Cunningham noted that the Co-op is now planning to search for grants not tied to the USDA and RUS. Cunningham asked the Court on behalf of the Co-op that the Court take the \$150,000 it had approved for USDA RUS matching funds and open those funds up for the Co-op to apply for more grants and other opportunities that will not be tied to USDA and RUS type grants. Their goal is to find those funds elsewhere and have timeline goals for themselves to that end. They are hoping that there will be grant money available, but if need be they will look to borrow the remaining money because they are ready to go. If they could get \$150,000 from the County in matching funds for grants then that would be \$300,000 less money they would have to look to borrow for the project. However, if need be, they are prepared to borrow the entire amount. The less they have to borrow, the sooner that they become cash flow positive and the sooner that they can move the project even further forward. Commissioner Gronquist would like to have the Court make the \$150,000 seed money commitment, but wants the Court to be made aware what grants the Co-op is applying for, what grants they get and be informed of how the money is getting spent. Gronquist also pointed out to the Court that even if the TV Co-op can't raise the money to do what it wants to do, that the Co-op is still very important to the people in Arlington. Commissioner Weimar agreed with that idea as well. Judge Shaffer also agreed, but wants coordination between Co-op and Frontier TeleNet. The Court will draft a letter that the Co-op can use stating that Gilliam County has pledged \$150,000 in grant matching funds for their project.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Judge Shaffer to approve a pledge for \$150,000 in matching grant funds, to be awarded when the Arlington TV Co-op reports to the Court what grants they have been awarded and how they plan to spend the \$150,000. Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

Cunningham informed the Court that the estimated cost of the project is \$1.9 million and presented to the County Court possible scenarios for cost/grant funding/loan scenarios. Paying for the project with grant funding, the Co-op could be cash flow positive in the first year. If they received \$1 million in grant funds they would need to borrow the remaining \$900,000. Under this

scenario, if they borrowed the \$900,000 at 5.8% from the County Court the Co-op would pay the County \$58,000 a year for 30 years and the Co-op would be cash positive in year two. The Co-op would not be asking the County Court to give them money, but to loan them money that they could pay back over a 30 year period. Cunningham said that the Co-op has some flexibility in the event that they can't find \$1 million in grant funding. Ultimately, if the Co-op is turned down for every grant they apply for, their plan would be to use the initial \$150,000 pledged to them to start the project and then borrow the remaining \$1,750,000. Under this scenario the Co-op would be cash flow positive in 3 years and would then pay \$78,000 per year for the loan over 30 years. The TV Co-op Board has voted unanimously to proceed with their fiber optic project under any of the stated grant to loan scenarios. Their business model allows for loan payments of around \$5,000/per month. Commissioner Gronquist asked Cunningham if the Co-op really feels that they will be able to borrow the full amount from the County and asked what the Co-op has to put up to secure that kind of loan? Gronquist further asked Cunningham what would happen if the County did decide to loan them \$1,900,000 and the Co-op couldn't make their loan payments. What does the County get in that scenario? Cunningham said that the Co-op would be putting the Co-op itself up to secure the loan. Under their charter if the business fails, the Co-op would revert back to the City of Arlington. Gronquist stated that that would leave the County with nothing. Cunningham said that he understood that, but that he thinks there is a greater chance the Co-op be successful than that it would fail. Cunningham said that the Co-op is placing a lot of trust in people transferring over from their current broadband providers because they will be providing 20 megs which would be a new standard for rural broadband. Peter Mitchell intervened and informed the Court that there could be language written into the loan document protecting the County; in case of failure, the Co-op could revert to the Gilliam County instead of the City of Arlington. Mitchell said that if the Co-op failed that the County could give it to another entity, rent it out, but that the Co-op wouldn't leave the County. Commissioner Weimar asked Cunningham if they were assuming that all of these loans would be coming from the County. Cunningham said yes. Gronquist stated that he would expect the Co-op to go out for grants before coming back to the County for money. Cunningham said that he is in total agreement. Weimar said that if the Co-op found that there were insufficient grants available that their next step should be to seek out lending institutions that specialize in lending to Co-ops. Those lending institution may have 2% loans available to them and not take big chunk of the County's budget. Weimar informed that these banks are themselves co-operatives. Mitchell told Weimar that he will look into co-operative bank funding. Weimar told Mitchell that he can find them under the farm credit programs. Judge Shaffer noted that the Co-op's business plan has never been formally presented to the Court or put into the public record. He noted that Court members had received an earlier draft version of the plan. Mitchell stated that a private entity, such as the Co-op wouldn't be expected to make their business plan available for public dissemination and that the plan doesn't need to be part of the public record unless the Co-op oks distribution of the document. The Co-op board meets on April 1 Cunningham will ask for a motion to approve sending the Court their business plan for the public record. If approved, Cunningham will mail the County Court their business plan.

Next there was a general discussion with Cunningham and the County Court of various scenarios of the Co-ops business plan with respect to their ability to make the anticipated \$58,000/year loan payment to the County after the initial 2 year period. Judge Shaffer asked if the business plan was dependent on the Co-op branching out to neighboring communities in order to be cash flow positive. Cunningham said no. Shaffer said that he had done a quick calculation and that roughly 14% of their revenue would be needed to service debt. Cunningham said that their business plan called for raising \$1 mill in grant funding, then they would borrow the remaining \$900,000 at 5% interest and that gave them a loan payment of approximately \$4800/month. Cunningham

acknowledged that it would take time for them to build their market share to the projected 300 households. Cunningham said that for the Co-op to be really cash flow positive they would have to expand to other communities in order to raise the number of individual accounts to reach the critical mass of income to expense, and acknowledged that they won't be really financially solvent until they can reach out to another community. However, Cunningham said that once they have the head house built and Arlington lit up, that traveling to other areas would be less expensive to reach and service. They also intend to have a staffed office in each community for customer service.

Cunningham next presented to the Court a time line that the Co-op has put together. They will work on the grant matching process until August 1, 2015. By Sept 1st they would like to have identified what other grants and loans are available before coming back to County Court. During the summer they will also be looking into other loan options. The TV Co-op has about a year of funds left Port provided funds for the Co-op to get through the summer and this grant process. Peter said that there have been discussions Frontier TeleNet and they have stated that they are not interested in a retail trade to the homes; they will be the wholesaler. They want to maintain their contract with the schools since that is a large part of their revenue. The TV Co-op would not go after those contracts. Judge Shaffer said that he is very interested in getting internet to the schools, the health clinics and for emergency infrastructure. Mitchell said that the Health Clinic is how they got high speed internet to Arlington because of the contract WindWave had with US Cellular got a cell tower and through the TV Co-op they have been able to extend the lines down Main St. and on up the hill. This has greatly improved the signal that the TV Co-op has being able to bring the signal in through the fiber optic line.

IN THE MATTER OF: DON JAMES, LIBERTY THEATRE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT LOAN REVIEW

There was a conference call with Don James with respect to loan review update. James said that business is going better every month and is back to making his payments and is optimistic. Business is up, February 2015 was better than February of 2014 over last year at this time and he is hoping to expand to offering sporting events, and then a 3-D movie. Judge Shaffer suggests James make contact with the County's new Community Development director, Rachel Weinstein to talk about ways she might have to help create more opportunities. The County will conduct a loan update again in 3 months.

IN THE MATTER OF: DISCUSSION OF ADDITION TO THE AGENDA: PROPOSED COST FROM FRONTIER TELENET TO EXTEND CABLE TO THE GILLIAM COUNTY WHEAT LAB, CONAGRA BUILDING AND TO WASTE MANAGEMENT

Discussion of the initial costs proposed by Frontier TeleNet to extend the fiber optic lines to the Gilliam County Wheat Lab, Conagra Building and to Waste Management.

Wheat Lab: \$14,026

Conagra Building: \$15,523

Waste Management: \$50,468

The line runs along Hwy. 19 until it reaches Cedar Springs Rd. and then when it hits Cedar Springs Ranch it goes up West Rd. and then down towards the river from there. Commissioner

Gronquist said that he hoped that Frontier has spoken with Waste Management since that is something that the County is not going to pay for. Judge Shaffer said that they are at the beginning of a larger discussion with Sherman and Wheeler Counties who all have interest in bringing the lines through their counties. Judge Parry has been working with the State to get internet to OHSU's extension facility in Fossil and that the State may be putting \$2.5 mill toward the project. There was a discussion of whether or not the counties should own the portion of the lines they pay for.

IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT AGENDA: FEBRUARY 4 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve the February 4th Executive Session minutes; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF: THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Weimar reported that after the last County Court meeting in Arlington there was a Transportation Plan meeting where the new Transportation System Plan was presented. It was a good meeting with the consultants and Susie Anderson and Michelle Colby were also in attendance. There were a few minor changes made. There was then a second even meeting that was open to the public where there was one addition person in attendance and nothing controversial came up. The next meeting will be May 7 at Memorial Hall, also open to the public. Commissioner Weimar also attended the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District's (MCEDD) Budget Committee meeting last week. The Budget Committee approved the budget as presented. A quorum was present, but the meeting was short several members.

Commissioner Weimar and Judge Shaffer were on a special operation's conference call with the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) regarding a legislative action issue and were seeking guidance.

Judge Shaffer reported that he attended NORCOR's first budget meeting. It was a difficult meeting because they are looking at developing a different funding formula, so there was a lot of discussion, but no action. The current system is based on percentage of bed use equates to percentage of cost. The next NORCOR meeting will be April 16th. One of the proposals is that Hood River County would like to hire a budget consultant to evaluate the financial structure of NORCOR and how it's funded. Commissioner Gronquist questioned what the rules are surrounding whether or not a county could pull out participating with NORCOR without a financial obligation or penalty? Judge Shaffer's understanding is that they could, but would still have to continue with the bond until it expires in September of 2016. There was a general discussion of the subject. Shaffer noted that opting out is the County's trump card. Gronquist stated that he thinks it wrong for one county to just release prisoners in order to save money. If they were criminal enough to be put in jail, then they should stay in jail. Shaffer's opinion is that if you are going to reduce the amount of bed use, then you should reduce the number of beds/employees available/necessary to operate the facility to lower the overall operating costs. The County Court was in agreement.

Judge Shaffer reported that the State is dictating policy with respect to K-12 communication with pre-schools and that is affecting the Four Rivers Early Learning Council Hub. That State is trying to make sure that children are adequately prepared for Kindergarten. Four Rivers is working to

get their facility up and running as quickly as possible. To that end, the Early Learning Division is asking for a contract extension from the counties from the current July 1 deadline to Sept. 30. Shaffer was asked by the state to facilitate communication between early learning and K-12 to that end.

Judge Shaffer met with Department of Human Services, (DHS). There has been a reduction in staff in Condon. Until 9 months ago, Rebecca Humphries was the district manager, but she left to take a job with the school district. DHS is further experiencing a reduction in staff, leaving only Katie Hamms to service Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties. Shaffer said that the DHS is looking to hire a new director as soon as possible. DHS expressed that they have been having difficulty in hiring a new director and Shaffer encouraged them to act as swiftly as possible.

IN THE MATTER OF: LEAD NEGOCIATOR OF DENNIS GRONQUIST TO NEGOCIATE WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR THE NEW HOST CONTRACT

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Judge Shaffer, to elect Commissioner Gronquist as the County representative to lead negotiations with Waste Management on Gilliam County's new host contract, Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

There was a general court discussion of the County Court's upcoming meeting schedule. The next meeting will be in Condon on April 15, then after there will be a Tri-County Court meeting will on April 29 in Sherman County Court. May 2015 County Court meetings will be May 6th and May 20th in Condon. May 6th will be County Court in the morning and the afternoon the first County Budget Meeting. The Court will meet May 13th and 14th to deliberate the upcoming fiscal budget. Judge Gronquist will not be able to attend May 13th and 14th.

The next Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on May 6, 2015 beginning at 10:00 a.m. and will be held at the Gilliam County Courthouse, Condon, OR.

It appeared 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 3:27 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____
Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____
Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By _____
Michael Weimar, Commissioner

R. Weinstein-Recorder