

5-20-15

Judge Shaffer called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 10:00 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 AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Action item: Gilliam County Emergency Management Grant Submittal.

Action item: Fund Exchange Agreement with the Gilliam County Road Department and the ODOT.

Action item: Property and Liability proposal from City and County Insurance Services for property and liability premium increase and explanation

Correspondence: Resident who would like his opinion read into the record.

IN THE MATTER OF WEED CONTROL ASSESSMENT AUTHORIZATION TO GILLIAM COUNTY ASSESSOR

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve authorization to Gilliam County Assessor for to include the Weed Control Assessment of 7 cents per acre with a minimum assessment of \$1.00 on property outside of incorporated areas 1, 2 and 3 in the County tax assessment program for fiscal year 2015-2016; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF COMPENSATION BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Compensation Board recommendations were proposed by Wally Powell at the budget recommendation meeting. The Compensation Board's recommendation is the elected officials of Gilliam County receive a pay increase with CPI and step changes appropriate to their time served. The Board recommended two exceptions. Exception 1, Gilliam County Sheriff to receive a normal CPI and step pay increases this year and then a 2.5% increase per year over the next two years to bring him to parity with the County Judge. Judge Shaffer said that he would prefer to look at recommendations for next year during budget discussions next year. Exception 2 is to increase the new

Treasurer from Step A to Step B on the step scale based on his education and experience.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar to approve, seconded by Judge Shaffer to approve the compensation committee report and Exception 2 and the first sentence of Exception 1, with the last two sentences to be stricken; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF SELECT GRANT APPLICANT FOR COMMUNITY DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS SERVICES

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve Gilliam County to select Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center to receive the grant for the 2015-2017 fiscal years for dispute resolutions services for Gilliam County; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENT No. 5 TO AGREEMENT NO. 9738/GIL WITH OREGON DEPT. OF EDUCATION EARLY LEARNING DIVISION

The Four Rivers Early Learning Hub has not been completely finalized. This amendment would award 3 months of operations funding to Gilliam County for Four Rivers operations ahead of the Hub being finalized.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve the intergovernmental agreement No. 9738 with the Early Learning Division changing the 2013-2015 fiscal years from \$67,776 to \$75,881; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENT OF THE JOHN DAY RIVER CORE TEAM REPRESENTATION

Susie Anderson has been the Tri-County Court representative to the John Day River Core Team, but she has subsequently retired. At the last Tri-County Court meeting Judge Perry from Wheeler County expressed an interest in being the new Core Team representative for Wasco, Gilliam, Sherman, and Wheeler counties.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commission Gronquist to appoint Judge Chris Perry to the John Day River Core Team as the representative of the Tri-County Court; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT WITH MCCOG FOR DELEGATION OF ENFORCEMENT OF OREGON BUILDING CODES

Commissioner Weimar said that he doesn't remember previously entering into an agreement (MCCOG). He thought the agreement was between MCCOG and the State of Oregon. Judge Shaffer said that by Oregon law building code enforcement can't be turned over to a council of governments. Building code enforcement can only be turned over to a county. This agreement is to correct the way enforcement has been handled in the past. Wasco County doesn't want to enter into the agreement. Commissioner Gronquist said that he thought it would be financially prohibitive for three little counties to enforce building codes themselves and asked if Gilliam should wait to see what Wasco County decides. Judge Shaffer said he thinks that County Court should take the stand that they are comfortable with MCCOG as the governing entity to oversee electrical and plumbing building codes for Gilliam County.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve the inter-governmental agreement for the enforcement of Oregon electrical and plumbing building codes to Mid-Columbia Council of Governments; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT WITH COLR FOR CAREER TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION GRANT APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

The Bureau of Labor and Industries has grant opportunities available for CTE education. Gilliam County has contracted with Yaju Dharmarajah, Central Oregon Labor Relations to put together grant applications for Sherman County High School, Arlington High School and Condon High School. Sherman County agreed to fund one third of the \$24,000 ask pay for the consultant so their portion is \$8000 and Gilliam County will be responsible for the remaining \$16,000. The grant application to the Bureau of Labor and Industry will be for \$420,000 for CTE renewable energy training opportunities for the three schools.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve the statement of work with Central Oregon Labor Relations to conduct a grant application to the Bureau of Labor and Industries for the period from May 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF: CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY COUNSELING SOLUTIONS NO. JUV-0114-15

Judge Shaffer said this is an issue the Court probably should have taken care of previously. The money for this agreement is from the State of Oregon for Justice Reinvestment and Community Youth Development for a School Counselor for Gilliam County schools. Rebecca Humphries was hired for the job. She spends two days a week in the Condon School District and two days a week in the Arlington School District. She also works with the pre-schools. This summer she will be working with County Senior population to help with mental health and mental health stigma. Rebecca provides a wide variety of services to the County. The County administer the funds for her position.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to accept the agreement between Gilliam County and Community Counseling Solutions, Contract No. JUV-0114-15 in the amount of \$149,252 from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) WEEK PROCLAMATION

The Court received a letter from North Gilliam County Health Clinic requesting that May 17th – 23rd be proclaimed Emergency Medical Services week.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) request to proclaim May 17th to May 23, 2015 as the EMS week in the County of Gilliam; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY LIBRARY/LIBRARIAN HOURS

Judge Shaffer informed the Court that that Gilliam County Library Chair Kim Farrar is asking the Court to fund a full time 37.5 hour Head Librarian position. Currently the Head Librarian position is 19.5 hours/ week. Farrar said the Library is currently open to the public 25 hours/week, 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm Monday - Friday. That leaves the Library staff 4.5 hours/ week for work not directly related to serving the public. Thursday morning, the Library is open to the schools to host pre-school through high school class visits. Having a full time Head Librarian position would allow the Library to remain open the current 25 hours a week, allow the Youth Librarian to devote a portion of her week to time with youths and additional hours to develop programs and to write grants along with other activities the Librarian can involve her in. This would give Librarian Mary Reser an additional 12.5 hours/week to catch up on the current back log of behind-the-

scenes work, time for program development and time to pursue grant opportunities. Right now the Library is behind on all of their behind the scenes work and initially would use those extra hours to catch up. Judge Shaffer said the current schedule doesn't provide open hours for people who work until 5:30 p.m. Mary Reser said that once the Library gets caught up on their backlog they could open additional hours in the morning. Shaffer pointed out that opening additional morning hours doesn't help people who work until 5:00 or 5:30. If the County approves a staffing increase he would like to see extended Library hours at the end of the day. Commissioner Gronquist asked what a full time position would cost Gilliam County. Shaffer said that the new salary would be \$39,500/year or \$40,000/year. Farrar said that she understands Shaffer's concerns, and that eventually additional staff hours could be used to develop new programs, but eventually the additional hours could go toward longer Library hours. Farrar said having a full Librarian would be a big change for the Library and it will take staff time to determine what a manageable work load will look like and once they know that, the Library will be able to determine how many more hours a week they can add to their schedule. The plan right now is to have game nights and movie nights where the Library is engaging in opportunities for local families. Commissioner Gronquist asked what some of the behind-the-scenes work is the Library needs to catch up on. Farrar informed Librarians are behind in book processing, cataloging, general organization and there hasn't been time to peruse as many grant and program opportunities as she would like. Commissioner Weimar said it would have been helpful for him to have had hand out to look at ahead of their presentation. He pointed out this increase would be a big change in funding for the County. The Court asked for the Library Board to put their plan in writing ahead of the June 3rd County Court meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT SUBMITTAL REQUEST

Grant money is used to cover salary, benefits, \$1000 in supplies and \$1000 for travel expenses for Emergency Management Coordinator. Commissioner Weimar asked what the Gilliam County matching funds amount would be. He noted there was a discrepancy in the grant proposal language. The total grant amount and Gilliam County's matching amount were both listed as \$45,756. The Court agreed to set the matter aside until they can get verification from Chris Fitzsimmons what the real grant amount and the County portion of that amount is.

IN THE MATTER OF FUND EXCHANGE AGREEMENT #30691 WITH ODOT

There was a general Court discussion of an ongoing conversation between the Road Master, Dewey Kennedy and Commissioner Weimar of exchange agreement funds

between Gilliam County and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Commissioner Weimar informed this comes up every three years during budget discussions. ODOT has a program where every third year Kennedy can exchange some federal dollars for state dollars to fund road projects. Federal dollars have a lot more strings and compliance requirements attached to them, which makes federally funded projects more expensive. One of ODOT's requirements is counties need to outline for them how they are going to spend their exchange dollars. Kennedy is working on putting together a best uses plan for those dollars throughout Gilliam County.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve the 2015 Exchange Fund Agreement #30691, between Gilliam County and the Oregon Department of Transportation in the amount of \$327,209.71; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY INSURANCE AND LIABILITY PROPOSAL

Commissioner Weimar mentioned that this proposal came in quite late. Leanne Durfey offered to get ahold of Nancy Snider and John Anderson of Wheatland Insurance and ask one or both of them to present their proposal in person. Court members agreed it would be helpful to put this proposal on the June 3rd County Court agenda and have Wheatland Insurance present the City County Insurance Services proposal in person.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY DEPARTMENTS ON FACEBOOK

Judge Shaffer informed there has been a request from the CASA Department for a Facebook page to help them recruit volunteers and get information out to a broader audience. Shaffer noted one the problems with social media is communication goes both ways and negative communication can really effect operations. The Sheriff's Facebook page has received some negative comments along with the positive comments. Leanne Durfey said Jessica Bates had previously created a Gilliam County Economic Development Facebook page. Judge Shaffer said he's not necessarily opposed to departments having a Facebook page, but would like input from Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar. Commissioner Gronquist said that he doesn't see the need for Facebook. Commissioner Weimar said that his first experience with Facebook and public agencies was Mid-Columbia Council of Governments (MCOGG). Their Department of Transportation worked with the MCCOG Board to develop policy for the page. Using Facebook turned out to be very useful for their ridership program. He also pointed out elected officials such as Senators and Congressmen have Facebook pages and use them to reach out to their constituents.

He has one and uses it to gather information. Durfey said she looks at Facebook all the time and noted someone had posted an article last night that Condon was deemed to be the safest community in Oregon. Commissioner Gronquist said he would be interested in creating a social media policy for County Court departments. The Court agreed they have interest in creating social media policy guidelines for the County and should see what policies other counties in Oregon have for using social media.

IN THE MATTER OF COLUMBIA RIDGE LANDFILL CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

It has been brought to the Court's attention by Rich Harper, Chairman of the Columbia Ridge Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) for Waste Management's Columbia Ridge Landfill site, that during their last meeting with Waste Management (WM), all of the CAC's questions were answered professionally and accurately. No public comments came to the CAC in 2014.

IN THE MATTER OF VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER QUARTERLY REPORT

Judge Shaffer stated for the record that he wished Court members were given quarterly reports ahead of County Court meetings so Court members could review them ahead of time. The budget looks like they will be short on staffing in the 4th quarter. Recoveries totaled \$15,275 for Gilliam County. Recoveries in the Tri-county region totaled \$238,000.

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT SUBMITTAL REQUEST

The Court resumed discussion of the Emergency Management (EMS) grant. Chris Fitzsimmons amended the grant request form. The total grant for an Emergency Management Coordinator would be \$91,512. The County's matching portion for the grant is \$45,756. Judge Shaffer said that he would entertain a motion based on the correction to the grant request form.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to accept the grant submittal from Gilliam County Emergency Management in the amount of \$45,756 with a cash match of the same for a total of \$91,512; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF THE GRAIN LAB

The amount of money coming from the SIP discretionary fund is \$85,140. The previous proposal for turning the Lab back to quarter time would have been \$13,500. Judge Shaffer informed this reflects cuts in travel expenses, office supplies, lab supplies, propane, conference registration and marketing expenses. Telephone expenses remain the same, as do utilities. Building maintenance has an increase of \$1000. There is also a proposal that has come in from Dr. Dennis Mitchell that would have the County pay \$70,000/year to Dr. Mitchell for operation of the lab, plus a quarter his salary for the year.

IN THE MATTER OF CRUSHER SUPERVISOR RESIGNATION/RECOMMENDATION FOR REPLACEMENT

Members of the County Court met with Dewey Kennedy to discuss promoting the Crusher Technician, Brad Carnine, to the Crusher Supervisor position. Judge Shaffer asked about the status of the crusher and how soon it might be back up and running. Commissioner Weimar, who is also Gilliam County's Road Commissioner, said that he wasn't sure exactly when the crusher would be back up and running. Judge Shaffer asked the Commissioners how they would like to handle the hire of a Crusher Supervisor to replace Ron Markus. Commissioner Gronquist stated that it was acceptable to him to have the Road Master and the Road Commissioner be the ones responsible for the hire. Shaffer said that was fine with him as well, he just wanted to make sure that it was on the record. Commissioner Weimar said that this will be a non-union hire and therefore the County won't need to post within the Union. . At that time there will need to be a salary discussion. Judge Shaffer said he is concerned the Union is going to ask for this position to be returned to the Union. Commissioner Gronquist said the County Court can refuse. Commissioner Weimar said the Union can ask, but if the hire takes place after July 1 the schedule will be locked and changing the status of the hire will no longer be an option. Weimar said that he has not been approached by the Union to date and Judge Shaffer said he had not been approached either. The new hire was assigned to Commissioner Weimar.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY CLERK RESIGNATION/RECOMMENDATION

Judge Shaffer informed the Court Rena Kennedy will retiring as the County Clerk effective June 30th. She sent a letter to the Court recommending promoting the Deputy Clerk, Ellen Wagenaar, to the Clerk's position. Commissioner Gronquist said there is a second interested person for the position. Even so, his recommendation was to promote

Wagenaar to the Clerk's position. Judge Shaffer said he thought it was important for the Court to weigh the current Clerk's recommendation. Regardless of whom the County hires for the job, that person will have to run for their own term in the next general election. It was noted the hire would have to file in March of 2016 for the May primary election with the general election in November 2016. Les Ruark suggested the appointee's title be, Interim County Clerk until after the next general election.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to appoint Deputy Clerk, Ellen Wagenaar into the County Clerk position effective July 1, 2015 until the next general election; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

After the vote there was a general Court discussion of what Wagenaar's starting salary step should be. Commissioner Gronquist thought based on her level of experience and on the Compensation Board's assessment of the Treasurer's step up in pay. He came in without prior experience as a County Treasurer and Wagenaar has 1.5 years of experience in her current position. Commissioner Weimar said you can't compare the Treasurer's situation to that of the County Clerk. Judge Shaffer said in terms of training and job experience Wagenaar came to the County with a lot of clerical and government experience, so she initially was started at Step B as Deputy Clerk. Judge Shaffer pointed out precedence was set with the previously appointed Treasurer, who had more experience than the Deputy Clerk when she was promoted and she was brought in at Step A. Step A would increase Wagenaar's salary by \$23,000. Commissioner Gronquist said that he was okay with Step A given the size of the increase. It was agreed that Wagenaar will start at Step A.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW HIRE BUDGETED POSITION

Judge Shaffer informed it his intention to use this new hire to cover the human resources and risk management needs of the County. Rena Kennedy, who is retiring is currently handling human resources for the County. Terri Carnine is handling risk management within the County as the Risk Management Coordinator with Leanne Durfey doing some risk management also. Judge Shaffer said he has had multiple conversations with Ellen Wagenaar and her opinion is that a dedicated human resources person would be beneficial for the County. Commissioner Gronquist said he thought the Court should take what Rena has been doing and add that to what Terri and Leanne have been doing to create one comprehensive hire. He said he thought it very important to find the right individual so Terri and Leanne won't have to micro-manage the position. The Court decided this new position would be a non-union position. Judge Shaffer said he will consult with Leanne Durfey on risk management and with Rena

Kennedy on human resources and work to create a job description for the new hire. He will try and complete the process as soon as possible, but likely not in time for the next County Court meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve the Consent Agenda; March 18, April 1 and April 15 County Court meeting minutes and April 15 Executive Session minutes. Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes;
Motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

NORCOR: Judge Shaffer reported that NORCOR's Director is leaving. His last day will be June 10th. The Board interviewed 4 candidates. One person has dropped out. All of the applicants are highly qualified. The new Director's salary will be somewhere between \$90,000 and \$100,000.

There has been a lot of discussion of funding formulas. NORCOR and Hood River have hired a consultant, Greg Wolfe of AOC – who was formerly on the Governor's staff for Oregon Solutions – to create a funding solution for NORCOR.

North Central Public Health District: The budget committee has determined what each county will be asked to pay for public health. Wasco County is in their budget process now and will likely not have the funds to pay for their share, which will affect the level of service the remaining counties get. Judge Shaffer said he thinks personnel will probably be the first thing to go.

Mid-Columbia Council of Governments (MCCOG): Commissioner Weimar informed the Court their Director is resigning effective in September, but has agreed to stay until a new Director is in place. MCCOG and their Director were moving in different directions was how his resignation was worded.

AOC: Commissioner Weimar informed another important issue is the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) and transportation funding. The transportation funding bill is still up in the air in Salem. Until the Clean Fuels bill gets through the Legislature the transportation funding package won't get addressed. The Legislature is acting like the transportation funding package may still get addressed, but Commissioner Weimar pointed out that it's getting a little late in the game in the current session. Judge Shaffer

noted Weimar is the Co-Chair of AOC's Transportation Committee; so if the transportation package does go through he will be very busy.

Judge Shaffer reported he is the Chair of the AOC's Committee for Energy, Environment and Land Use. This session the Legislature is trying to fund an Outdoor School for 5th and 6th graders. They want to find a stable funding source for the program and have chosen DEQ tipping fees as the funding method. They want to increase tipping fees to \$4.50/ton. Judge Shaffer said to raise the necessary amount of money DEQ thinks that tipping fees would actually need to be \$6.18/ton. Judge Shaffer has been lobbying hard in Salem against a raise in tipping fees. Commissioner Gronquist joked it would be nice if they could wait until after 2019. He and Commissioner Weimar agreed that counties like Gilliam who take in garbage from other states would be the counties affected.

Commissioner Gronquist missed the Columbia Ridge Citizen's Advisory Meeting because of the last Tri-County Court so he had nothing to report.

IN THE MATTER OF THE GRAIN LAB

The County Court resumed their earlier discussion of the Lab and various use scenarios for the future of the Lab. There was a conference call with Chris Skarinde from the Economic Development Association (EDA). Judge Shaffer had sent her a letter from the County Court providing language for allowing additional uses at the lab. Chris from the EDA suggested the County use much broader language for alternative uses and alternate purposes to allow for EDA's vision and what the County wants. Chris will revise the letter and the County will put it on County letterhead.

IN THE MATTER OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Gilliam County Court will be held June 3, 2015 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Gilliam County Courthouse, Condon, Oregon.

Appearing to the Court that there was no further business to be conducted at this time and no additional matters to be considered Judge Shaffer adjourned the meeting.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Steve, Shaffer, Judge

By _____
Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By _____
Michael Weimar, Commissioner

Rachel Weinstein - Recorder