

**7-1-2015**

Judge Shaffer called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. The meeting was held at the Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, OR. Present were Judge Steve Shaffer, Commissioner Mike Weimar and Commissioner Dennis Gronquist. Absent: None.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: NONE

IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD STAFFING DISCUSSION

Library Board Chair Kim Farrar was present to revisit the Library Board Staffing Proposal presented to the Gilliam County Court May 20, 2015. Commissioner Gronquist asked Farrar what the current budget is for the Library, or is it approximately \$80,000.00. Farrar said, yes that was correct. Judge Shaffer inquired about the current Library schedule. Farrar said Library hours are Monday through Friday, 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Head Librarian Mary Reser works her current 19.5 hours during that time. Youth Librarian, Silvia Bresson-Durfey, works 10 hours per week. Five of those are on Friday to fill in for Reser and the two librarians only overlap one hour per week. Judge Shaffer asked if the additional 7 hours a week the Library would be open could either be staffed by giving the Youth Librarian additional hours or by a third part time employee. Farrar said that option is not the Library Board's first choice. They would prefer to invest in their staff as staff has invested in the Library. Farrar said she thought the Library Board would be willing to entertain any option the Court put before them. Judge Shaffer said the Library is an asset and he would like to have it open more hours per week, but the Court is responsible for determining the most fiscally responsible way to facilitate those additional hours. Commissioner Weimar said he was in agreement with Judge Shaffer. Judge Shaffer opened the discussion to members of the audience. He asked the Youth Librarian if nine more hours a week would be beneficial in helping her to do her job. Bresson-Durfey said she thought additional hours for herself and Reser would be helpful. She said she appreciates having time when the Library is closed to the public to develop programs and for her administrative duties. Judge Shaffer asked if having a third person working the front desk during hours when she or Reser were doing administrative work would be helpful. Bresson-Durfey said yes, but staff would have to factor in hours for training a third person. Bresson-Durfey said the Library currently has two part time people who can fill in for either librarian, but since they only work part time there is a need for giving them additional training. If the Library could find hours to conduct a formal training that would be really helpful. Judge Shaffer pointed out the time and cost of training a new employee would be temporary. Commissioner Gronquist said the Court agrees the Library should be open more hours, but could the Library facilitate that without spending \$40,000.00. Could they accomplish that by spending \$20,000.00 or \$30,000.00? Farrar said she understands what the Court is asking, but part of having a full time Librarian would be to

have the possibility for unscheduled hours that can be allotted for administrative and special event needs beyond additional Library hours. Commissioner Gronquist told Farrar that asking the Court for \$120,000.00 for 7 additional hours is a lot of money. Judge Shaffer said if the Library were to hire a third part time person for 15-19 hours a week that would cost \$20,000.00 as opposed to \$40,000.00 for a full time employee and the extra \$20,000.00 could be used to serve the community. Kathryn Greiner said she understood wanting to save \$20,000.00 in benefits, but as an employer, in her experience, trying to find a qualified person who will stick with a part job long term is going to be difficult. Judge Shaffer said he understood that, but the Court ultimately has to be fiscally responsible and an additional \$20,000.00 for the County is a lot of money. Judge Shaffer noted that part time employees are what all employers seem to be looking for. Greiner said she has had two part time employees who also worked for the Condon Chamber of Commerce and while it worked fairly well, she thought both employers lost something due to a lack of focus. Commissioner Gronquist stated that at some point the Court needed to make a decision. Molly Fatland informed the Court that the Grade School Library is only open 1.5 hours a day and the school looks to the Library for their needs the rest of the time. She suggested that some of the money for a full time Librarian could come from the school's budget. Judge Shaffer said unfortunately it was too late for that. There was a general Court discussion of how to have the Library open more hours and still provide additional hours for administrative functions. Commissioner Gronquist again voiced that at some point the Court needed to make a decision on the issue. With stated reservations, he made a motion to approve the Library Board request to staff a full time Head Librarian. Without a second from either Commissioner Weimar or Judge Shaffer the motion failed. Commissioner Weimar said he would like to see a more modest increase in Library hours to start with.

**Motion** by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Judge Shaffer to have the Library Board come up with a second proposal that would have the Library open additional hours utilizing part time staff; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

After the vote, John Greiner addressed the Court and said he thought Reser as an asset to the Library and would make a good full time Librarian. Farrar asked the Court if the Library Board could be creative in strategizing a solution by going over the 599 annual hours allotted for PERS for a new part time hire. Judge Shaffer said he needed to look into that and would get back to her. Farrar asked when the Court would like her to return to return with a new proposal. The Court said there would be time on the agenda at the first County Court meeting in August.

#### IN THE MATTER OF CITY OF THE CONDON SWIMMING POOL

City Administrator Kathryn Greiner and Molly Fatland were present to discuss the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Condon and Gilliam County for funding

and operation of the Condon Swimming Pool. The current Agreement ends at the end of September. Greiner informed there will be some changes next year. Fatland will be retiring after this year and the Pool will be losing three of their most experienced life guards. She noted these changes may have an impact on next year's operating budget. Greiner said she will be asking her Board is to leave the Pool budget at \$50,000.00 for one more year. Fatland said in the four years has been the Pool Manager she hasn't had much custodial help. As a result she has learned how to take care of mechanical issues, she tests and maintains the pool's water quality and she operates the pump room. She said her responsibilities include training and managing the life guards, scheduling employees, she oversees and teaches swimming lessons and works as a life guard. Fatland said next year the City may need two people to run the Pool. Fatland said swimming lessons are up. When she started four years ago they taught 81 lessons, the next year they taught around 100 lessons, last year there were 105 lessons and this year they have 133 kids signed up and are expecting more as the summer goes on. The Pool opened on June 22<sup>nd</sup> this year and as of June 29<sup>th</sup> they already had over 550 swimmers. She thanked the members of the Court for supporting and funding the Pool these past years. She said she thinks the Pool is a wonderful asset to the community and it draws visitors as well as locals. She has seen a number of families who had camped Cottonwood Canyon State Park and visited the Painted Hills and they came to the pool to cool off. The only big repair Fatland sees for next year is the inside fence. Greiner said revenue remains consistent at about \$7,000.00/year. She said they have buses coming to the Pool from Arlington, Fossil and Spray. Commissioner Gronquist asked if the City is asking the Court to renew the Intergovernmental Agreement for one year. Greiner said yes, but she wants to present to her Board first. Judge Shaffer asked who owns the Pool. Greiner said the School owns the Pool and the City leases it. The members of the Court agreed the Pool is a wonderful asset for the community.

#### IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

**Motion** by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve the June 3<sup>rd</sup> County Court minutes, the June 17<sup>th</sup> County Court minutes, the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Session minutes, the June Claims and Wildlife Services Work and Financial Plan; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

#### IN THE MATTER OF MEAL SITE CONTRACT RENEWAL

Judge Shaffer informed he received an email from Teddy Fennern that the language of the contract between the Meal Site and Mid-Columbia Council of Governments is to remain the same, the only change will be dollar amounts.

**Motion** by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve the Meal Site Contract with the Mid-Columbia Council of Governments for fiscal 2015-16; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

#### IN THE MATTER OF DON JAMES, LIBERTY THEATER UPDATE

The Court was unable to locate Don James phone number in a timely fashion. As a result the Court decided that since James was current on his loan they would check in with him at a later date.

#### IN THE MATTER OF CHANGES TO THE NORCOR CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Judge Shaffer informed NORCOR is making changes to their Capacity Management Plan. NORCOR is going to try and stay at a 100 bed capacity. So, in the future, if they are at capacity and need to take in a violent person they will release a non-violent inmate to make room to remain at capacity.

**Motion** by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar. Commissioner Weimar asked Judge Shaffer if he was comfortable with the new management plan. Judge Shaffer said he was comfortable giving the new plan a try since NORCOR has brought in Greg Wolf, formerly Oregon Solutions who is now with the Association of Oregon Counties and he has brought in a financial expert who has assessed the overall situation to see if there were budget cuts that could be made to streamline the budget and Judge Shaffer informed he thinks that the new capacity management plan is at that level. With no further discussion, to approve Resolution No. 2015-09 to amend the Capacity Management Plan for inmates confined at Northern Oregon Corrections – NORCOR; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

#### IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

The Court received a letter from the members of the Board of Commissioners for Linn County regarding Resolution 2015-218 stating they feel Senate Bill 941 requiring background checks for mini-firearms transactions has created penalties for violations of the law, they think are not constitutional.

#### IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Commissioner Gronquist stated he didn't have anything to report.

Commissioner Weimar informed he had attended a meeting of the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCCOG) on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a guest speaker who spoke to the group about the AAA program going to a Type B transfer system. Commissioner Weimar said the presentation was helpful in understanding the different types and complexities of AAA administration.

Commission Weimar said he had also attended a CAPECO meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> and their AAA program was discussed at that meeting as well.

Commissioner Weimar informed he was elected to another 4 year term. CAPECO also adopted their latest budget. They usually have two budgets a year, because when they do their main budget they don't know what their actual funding will be, so once they know they usually have to re-budget as they just did.

Judge Shaffer reported on NORCOR. They have hired their new director. The first person NORCOR offered the position to, decided not to take the job. The new director is Brian Brandenburg. He was previously the Head of Corrections for the State of Alaska. Judge Shaffer and Sheriff Bettencourt will be meeting with him next week to learn more about what his goal and expectations will be for NORCOR.

Judge Shaffer said he attended a North Central Public Health District meeting on services available for fiscal 2015-16. They had sent out proposals to each of the counties for their cost of services. Gilliam County cost is \$100,000.00, Sherman County will be charged slightly less and Wasco County's cost was \$390,000.00. Wasco County has decided the most they can pay is \$315,000. The cuts for Wasco County will be primarily Clinic hours at The Dalles facility. Judge Shaffer said Gilliam County will not only maintain current service levels, but will have a nurse available at least once a week which has been already been worked into the budget.

Judge Shaffer informed the Early Learning Hub is now officially a Hub that will serve Hood River, Wasco County, Sherman County, Gilliam County and Wheeler County. The Hub will be operated by the Columbia Gorge ESD in cooperation with the North Central ESD. Sherman County will be the fiscal agent. Judge Shaffer said he believes Gilliam County will see an increase in funds for pre-schools and daycares, although the exact amount has not been determined and still has to go through the Ways and Means Committee.

#### IN THE MATTER OF THE WI CONSTRUCTION LEASE AT SHUTLER STATION

There was a general Court discussion of how to issues with WI Construction when their lease expires August 25, 2015. WI is not interested in purchasing the equipment at the agreed up price of \$349,150.00. The members of the Court agreed the County is not interested in renewing their lease with WI Construction.

**Motion** by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Judge Shaffer to notify WI Construction that Gilliam County is not going to renew their lease which expires on August 25, 2015; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist; Weimar; Yes; **Motion carried.**

#### IN THE MATTER OF NEXT MEETING

The next Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on July 15, 2015 beginning at 10:00 a.m. and will be held at the Gilliam County Courthouse, Condon, OR.

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 12:32 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By \_\_\_\_\_

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By \_\_\_\_\_

Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By \_\_\_\_\_

Mike Weimar, Commissioner

*R. Weinstein/Recorder*