

8-5-15

Judge Shaffer called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 10:05 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 VICTIM'S ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT REQUEST

Gilliam County Victim's Advocate April Aamodt was present to request permission for the Victim's Advocate's office to apply for a Victim's of Crime Act (VOCA) grant and for an Oregon Department of Justice Crime Services Division Criminal Fine Account (CFA)/Unitary Assessment grant. Previously Aamodt applied for these grants through the District Attorney's Office. This year the request is for permission to apply for these grants through the Gilliam County Court. There are no other changes to the grant application process. Commissioner Gronquist asked Aamodt where she would be getting the matching funds for the grants. Aamodt informed she can use grant funds from either grant as a match for the other.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve permission for the DA's Office Victim's Advocate to apply for the VOCA grant and for the CFA/Unitary Assessment grant; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF EXECUTIVE SESSION ORS 192.660 2(e) (h)

Judge Shaffer declared the meeting to be in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 2 (e) (h) real property transactions and legal counsel. Separate minutes were taken and will be filed in the office of the County Clerk.

IN THE MATTER OF WI CONSTRUCTION LEASE

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to have legal counsel Will Carey draft and send a letter to WI Construction for the \$66,088.56 balance owed on their lease with Gilliam County and for the \$45,000.00 balance owed on the concrete; Gilliam County is not interested in WI's assets at this time; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar; Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF RUTE FOUNDATIONS TEST TOWER PROJECT

Motion by Judge Shaffer, seconded by Commission Weimar to have legal counsel Will Carey and Energy Advisor Brian Skeahan continue pursuing the 2 kilowatt wind turbine project Purchase Power Agreement with Columbia Basin Electric Co-op, tower site land lease, non-disclosure agreement and memorandum of understanding between Gilliam County and RUTE Foundations with regards to a public ownership model; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY LIBRARY STAFFING PROPOSAL

Gilliam County Library Board Chair Kim Farrar was present to discuss new proposals for Library staffing and Library landscaping. Farrar first presented the Board's new staffing proposal. The Board is asking to add a new 12 hour/week employee in an effort to afford Head Librarian Mary Reser time for administrative work. The proposal calls for the Library to be open an additional 2 hours a day on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and for the Library to remain open Wednesday evenings until 7:00 p.m. Judge Shaffer informed the Commissioners that the new hire could have a PERS impact on the County. There was a general Court discussion of the potential PERS impact the new hire could have on Gilliam County. If the new hire were to work more than 600 hours total in any combination of jobs with Gilliam County there would be a PERS impact. In that event, the maximum cost to the County would be \$11,396.00. Farrar noted it doesn't happen often, but she can't guarantee the new hire won't have a PERS impact on the County. The Court concluded the Library's new proposal meets both the public's desire to have the Library open additional hours and the Court's financial responsibility on how to spend County funds.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve the Library increasing their hours 7.5 per week and to hire a third part time employee 12 hours per week; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF THE GILLIAM COUNTY LIBRARY LANDSCAPING PROPOSAL

Gilliam County Library Board Chair Kim Farrar presented the new Library landscaping proposal. Farrar informed she had requested numerous bids for the project, but received only two. The bids were from Green Thumb Landscaping and LFI Landscape. Green Thumb was the low bidder at \$8,288.00. While Green Thumb is not a local business, they have been doing work in Condon; including the new South Gilliam County Health Clinic landscaping. Commissioner Gronquist asked who be responsible

for mowing the grass and maintaining the new garden. Farrar said the Library currently has an agreement with the Gilliam County Maintenance to mow the lawn. If necessary the Library has money in their maintenance budget to hire someone to mow the lawn and maintain the new garden. Commissioner Gronquist asked if the Library has enough money in their budget to pay for the landscaping project. Farrar assured they did.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to accept the Green Thumb Landscaping bid for the Gilliam County landscaping project in the amount of \$8,288.00; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF OREGON MARIJUANA LEGISLATION

Gilliam County legal counsel Will Carey was present to discuss restriction options under the new marijuana law. Gilliam County voted down Measure 91 by more than 55%, therefore the Court can impose restrictions without putting them to a public vote. Carey gave Court members a packet containing various restriction options under the new law. He informed growing marijuana does fall under farm use and is considered a viable farm crop. However, marijuana cannot be used as a farm crop to meet criteria for permitting a house. Restrictions would apply to land outside of municipal boundaries. If Gilliam County does enact restrictions on marijuana, they must send a copy of those restrictions to the Oregon Health Authority. Medical marijuana is not subject to the same rules as recreational marijuana and therefore existing medical marijuana establishments and growers are not subject to new restrictions. Carey said if the County is interested in enacting restrictions he can draft up an ordinance for the Court to sign. Members decided to resume the discussion at the next County Court meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH OREGON DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the disposal of surplus vehicles and heavy equipment; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AMENDMENT NO. 2

The Court considered Amendment No. 2 to the Oregon Department of Education Agreement #9886/Juvenile Crime Prevention Funds.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Judge Shaffer to accept Amendment No. 2 to Contract #9886 with the State of Oregon Department of Education in the amount of \$45,000.00 for the next fiscal biennium; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT #15-053

Gilliam County Planner Michelle Colby was present to discuss the Agreement with the Court. Colby informed legal counsel, Will Carey had signed off on Agreement #15-053 with the Department of Energy and the funding remains the same as in the last biennium.

Motion by Judge Shaffer, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to accept the intergovernmental Agreement #15-053 between the State of Oregon Department of Energy and Gilliam County; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION RESIGNATION

Gilliam County Planner Michelle Colby informed Gilliam County Planning Commission Board member Steve Webb has resigned. Colby has advertised the vacancy in the Times-Journal for two weeks and has received two applications. One from Jeff Wilkins and another from Bob Skinner. The Commission must remain an odd number of members so the Court cannot accept both applicants at this time. There was a general Court discussion regarding maintaining balance on the Board by replacing one member from a City with another from a City to maintain a City/rural balance. Based on those factors the Court chose Jeff Wilkins. Colby said there is another impending resignation. Members of the Court agreed they hope Bob Skinner will be available to fill the next vacancy.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to appoint Jeff Wilkins to the Gilliam County Planning Commission to replace Steve Webb; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF TENNESON ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT

Gilliam County Planner Michelle Colby was present to discuss the Tenneson Engineering proposed services agreement with Gilliam County. Previously consultant services contracts were signed directly between the County Planner and the consultant.

Former Planner Susie Anderson signed an agreement with Tenneson Engineering in 2014 for consulting services not to exceed \$10,000.00. Tenneson is currently the planning consultant for Condon, Arlington and Sherman County. Colby informed she works with Dan Meader, who will be retiring at the end of 2015. Her new consultant will be Nick Kramer. Colby has worked with Kramer and is confident in his abilities, as is Dan Meader.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve the agreement between Tenneson Engineering Corporation and Gilliam County for planning consultation services. Discussion: Judge Shaffer expressed his concern over whether Tenneson is the best consulting firm to work with going forward since Tenneson primarily works with cities rather than on issues outside of the municipal boundaries. Colby agreed, but said she felt Tenneson did a good job in supporting her at the County Planning Commission meeting. Vote: Shaffer – No; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF REVISED/REPLACEMENT AGREEMENT NO. 48065

Judge Shaffer said Agreement No. 48065 is a replacement to the agreement the Court passed at the last County Court for Developmental Disability services in Gilliam County.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve the replacement Agreement No. 48065 with the Department of Human Services for the financing of Developmental Disability services; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar - Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2015-11

Judge Shaffer introduced Resolution No. 2015-11 declaring the 1967 International tractor and Farmall F-11 loader as surplus equipment.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to accept Resolution No. 2015-11 declaring the 1967 International tractor and Farmall F-11 loader as surplus equipment; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2015-12

Judge Shaffer introduced Resolution No. 2015-12 declaring the 2009 Sheriff's Office Chevy Tahoe vehicle as surplus equipment.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve Resolution No. 2015-12 declaring the 2009 Sheriff's Office Chevy Tahoe as surplus equipment; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY AUCTION COMMITTEE REQUEST

The Gilliam County auction committee requested a \$300.00 donation for 4-H livestock purchases.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to donate \$300.00 to the Gilliam Auction Committee for the 4-H livestock purchases; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Anderson Perry proposal for the IBR building.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANDERSON PERRY NEW IBR BUILDING PROPOSAL

Judge Shaffer explained that Anderson Perry, in an effort to verify their bid of \$107,000.00, sent the bid out to several plumbing subcontractors for review. Based on the feedback they received Anderson Perry has submitted a new proposal for approval for \$86,500.00 to initiate the RFP process. Leanne Durfey explained the Court received the revised proposal last evening.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to accept the bid package proposal from Anderson Perry dated August 4, 2015; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF REPORT

Gilliam County Community Development Director Rachel Weinstein was present to give her semi-annual report. Weinstein provided a summary of what she has been working on.

1. County Court and Executive Session meeting minutes.
2. Funding options for a Fiber Optic Back Haul through Gilliam County. Weinstein informed she has been researching grant options for Gilliam County, Frontier

Telenet and the Arlington TV Co-op. Condon and Arlington both exceed the service threshold of a combined download and upload speed of 4 mps. Weinstein said she has learned there may be a way to steer around the problem by documenting existing data speeds and drawing Arlington and Condon out of the service area map.

1. USDA grants and loans:

- a) Rural Gilliam County might be eligible for a USDA Community Service Grant based on the criteria BEK Communications used in North Dakota.
- b) Frontier Telenet may be eligible for a Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant.
- c) The Arlington TV Co-op or similar business may be eligible for a Cooperative Development grant - these grants are for up to \$200,000.00 and require a 25% match; and/or a Rural Business Development grant, which range from \$10,000-\$500,000 dollars.
- d) Columbia Basin Electric Co-op should qualify for a rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG). These grants and loans are specifically for electric co-ops. Up to 10% of the total grant amount may be used to finance the loan.

2. FCC grants and loans:

- a) FCC Gilliam County Connect America Phase II funds will be going directly to Century Link.
- b) Have been exploring public/private partnership funding options.

Tourism and Travel Oregon

Agritourism – John Day River Territory (JDRT) and Travel Oregon

The JDRT won a grant to explore Agritourism in the four county region. JDRT hired consultant Janet Dodson to oversee the project. JDRT in partnership with Travel Oregon's Destination Marketing team put on an Agritourism Workshop in Condon May 5th and 6th to provide interested parties with more information on available opportunities. The granted project is scheduled to culminate with an Agritourism/Culinary event titled, Taste of Oregon's Old West on September 12th at Cottonwood Canyon State Park. Weinstein informed she has been active in organizing and finding participants for both events.

Weinstein informed she has also worked with Travel Oregon on marketing materials featuring Gilliam County for the second 7 Wonders of Oregon campaign.

Bicycle Tourism

Weinstein informed the Court that bicycle tourism added \$400 million in 2014 to the Oregon economy. This spending also generated \$450,000.00 in taxes through lodging and gasoline taxes.

1. Travel Oregon has a Bike Friendly program which provides free advertising for Bike Friendly businesses. Weinstein has met with a number of local businesses about becoming a T.O. Bike Friendly business. Both the Hotel Condon and the Condon Motel participate in the program and have stated they feel they have benefited from the program.
2. Have been mapping both road and gravel bike rides in Gilliam County to post on the Ride Oregon Ride website.
3. Am planning on expanding these rides to comprise a Scenic Bike Ride in Gilliam County. The next round of proposals is due April 30, 2017.

Art Tourism:

- Working on creating an Art Tourism database within Gilliam County to post on the County website.
- Have been talking to artists about sharing their art with the public through various venues.
- Exploring doing an annual either open-studio tour or annual art weekend event.

An Off Main Street project:

An idea to increase available quality housing in Gilliam County. Create 2 – 5 new/renovated homes that could provide short/long term housing, AirBnB rentals and lease to own housing in Gilliam County.

Vertical Farming:

Exploring doing a feasibility study to assess the viability of a vertical farm in Gilliam County. The two main technologies employee soilless aeroponic and hydroponic systems that use 5-10% of the water needed in conventional farming, grow under LED lighting and grow 24/7 365 days a year with predicable pricing and inventory. The farm would not compete with conventional farming, but would rather grow substitute crops. All crops could be made available for regional schools, hospitals, nursing homes, restaurants and groceries.

Conferences and meetings – Weinstein informed she has attended the following meetings and conferences:

- Travel Oregon Governor's Conference on Tourism, April 2015
- MCEDD Economic Symposium, Hood River May 2015

- Rural Development Initiatives Regards to Rural (R2R) conference June 2015
- Oregon Tourism Board and Eastern Oregon Visitor Association June board meetings. Both meeting were to discuss and approve fiscal 2015-16 budgets.
- RUTE Foundation meetings
- Port of Arlington May Board meeting
- March, May June and July Arlington Chamber of Commerce meetings
- July Condon Chamber of Commerce meeting
- Meeting and continuing conversation with Kim Davis of 4-D Ranch in Arlington

Gilliam County Newsletter – Next newsletter will have a new format.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Judge Shaffer informed the May 6 and May 20 minutes the Court accepted at the June 17 Court meeting both contain errors and need to be amended. Judge Shaffer said he thinks the Court should rescind both sets of minutes and have them redistributed ahead of the next Court meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to rescind the May 6th and May 20th regular County Court meeting minutes; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

Judge Shaffer asked the Commissioners if they had reviewed the July 15th regular Court meeting minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of the July 15th Executive Session meeting minutes; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF DRAFT JOB DESCRIPTION

Judge Shaffer said he wanted to open discussion of a new human resources/risk management position the County is looking to create. Judge Shaffer had a discussion with Leanne Durfey, Teri Carnine and Ellen Wagenaar to create a list of duties the new position will embody. Upon realizing the Commissioners had not seen the job

description, Durfey emailed the description to Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar for review and further discussion.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

Judge Shaffer informed the County had received a letter from the Department of Forestry stating land values for wildfire damage. Timber land will be valued at \$212.24/per acre and Oregon grazing land at .7819 cents per acre with respect to wildfire land damage.

Ardent Mills is celebrating a name change; Innovated Bakery Resources.

The Court received a thank you note from the K'Lynn Lane, Executive Director of the Condon Chamber of Commerce, thanking the Court for their support.

Gilliam County Planner Michelle Colby brought a letter for Court members to sign thanking Steve Webb for his service to the Gilliam County Planning Committee.

IN THE MATTER OF COURTHOUSE FIRE MITIGATION CONSTRUCTION

Gilliam County Clerk Ellen Wagenaar recently emailed Judge Shaffer regarding the fire suppression system project noting they had been told they will not be able to occupy their office on September 1st and 2nd. The open conference room, courtroom, and jury room will be options for employees to set up laptop computers during the construction project. . The members of the Court were in agreement that Courthouse offices should find a way to remain open during construction.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Judge Shaffer reported Gilliam County hosted the Tri-County Court meeting on July 29th and the meeting went really well. Country Flowers catered lunch. There was an active fiber discussion. All three counties have some funding available for doing a fiber optic backhaul project. Business Oregon may be able to help with funding for the fiber backhaul.

Judge Shaffer met with County consultant Yaju Dharmarajah, Columbia Gorge Community College and the high schools regarding CTE grant application from the Bureau of Labor and Industries. The schools are meeting to develop CTE renewable energy curriculum. There was discussion of how to find additional funding sources for

operation beyond the original grant. Staff members for both Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley have expressed interest in seeing the programs continuing beyond the initial CTE grant.

Judge Shaffer informed he met with Will Carey and Brian Skeahan for further discussions regarding the RUTE Foundations test turbine.

Judge Shaffer met with the Early Learning Hub to figure out how to disperse funds to balance the needs of all counties involved.

Judge Shaffer met with the new Director of the Oregon Health Authority. She felt there might be common ground the three counties could mutually agree upon regarding public health in the region.

Judge Shaffer attended a Mid-Columbia Council of Governments (MCCOG) meeting along with Commissioner Weimar where there was continued discussion of MCCOG becoming a Type B Transfer 2 as opposed to a Transfer 1 to handle the needs of all people with disabilities as opposed to only covering senior citizens.

Commissioner Weimar said there was discussion at the MCCOG meeting of the search for a new Executive Director. There was also discussion of public transportation regulations to bring MCCOG in line with new requirements. County Transportation Director Marla Davies did that for Gilliam County in January 2015.

Commissioner Gronquist informed he noticed and reported vandalism at Shutler Station Industrial Park to the Sheriff's Department. He doesn't know if anything was stolen.

Commissioner Gronquist informed he and Leanne Durfey will be attending a second negotiating meeting with Waste Management. He hopes to report on progress and direction of negotiations at the next Court meeting. Judge Shaffer informed he had a meeting with former Metro Councilor Rex Burkholder who said to say hello to Commissioner Gronquist.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 COURT MEETING

Judge Shaffer informed he will be out of town for the September 2nd meeting. It will be up to Commissioner Gronquist and Commissioner Weimar if they want to meet

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on August 19, 2015 beginning at 10:00 a.m. and may be held elsewhere due to the noise associated with the construction project in the Courthouse.

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 3:20 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____

Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By _____

Mike Weimar, Commissioner

R. Weinstein/Recorder