

12-07-2016

Judge Shaffer called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon. Present were Judge Steve Shaffer and Commissioner Michael Weimar. Commissioner Dennis Gronquist was absent.

IN THE MATTER OF SOUTH GILLIAM COUNTY HEALTH CENTER REQUEST

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve disbursement to South Health Center in the amount of \$150,000, as allocated for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR SBA CONSULTATION

Community Development Coordinator Rachel Weinstein requested that the Court provide funding in the amount of \$1,000 for consultation services by Rick Leibowitz of the Small Business Development Center, Columbia Gorge Community College. Weinstein noted that the money, which would be in addition to \$1,500 contributed by City of Condon, would fund business consultation services for all residents of the County. Court members noted that a previous request through a Special Projects Grant application was declined due to more applications than available funding, and Weinstein said that Leibowitz has since reduced his fee. Peter Mitchell of the Port of Arlington was present, and when asked about the Port's small business assistance program, commented that the Port provides certain legal services and technical assistance for start-ups, but that succession planning, which is offered by SBA, is beyond their scope.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to provide \$1,000 for support of SBA consultation services; funding to come from the Court's consulting budget. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2016-18, SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to declare as surplus equipment County-owned equipment, a 2007 Work Crew van which has been utilized for the NORCOR work crew. The vehicle will be disposed of by advertisement for sealed bids, by public auction, or by listing on Ebay or Craigslist. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF PHILIPPI PARK PROJECT

The Court discussed the Opal Foundation's request for financial support of Philippi Park. Judge Shaffer asked Peter Mitchell for his opinion, and Mitchell stated that the Foundation has provided care and maintenance of the park with staffing during the summer months. Mitchell commented that there is more interest in camping in the area, and that nearby

LePage Park fills quickly. Although Rufus is the major beneficiary, he said that Gilliam County receives some “spillover.” He also said that the Foundation provides and maintains restrooms, and that the park is a good neighbor to the Philippi family. He suggested that the County may want to ask about capital projects since no specific amount was requested. Judge Shaffer said he would contact the Foundation for more details.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE EFFECTIVE DATE

Gilliam County District Attorney Marion Weatherford was present to discuss the effective date for new employee health insurance. Weatherford introduced Maggie Cooper, recently hired as legal assistant to replace Gretchen Larue who is retired the first of December. Weatherford requested a waiver of the 90-day wait for insurance as allowed by City County Insurance Services (CIS), since Cooper is moving directly to the legal assistance position from her job at Frontier Regional 9-1-1, another CIS benefits-covered member, with no break in CIS coverage.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to waive the enrollment period and approve health insurance for Maggie Cooper. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF HARDSHIP LEAVE COMMITTEE REQUEST

The Court discussed the Hardship Leave Committee’s request that the following be removed from the Employee Personnel Policies Manual: “Have worked for one full year for Gilliam County and have received satisfactory performance evaluations.” Committee member Nathan Hammer was present, noting that the Committee reasoned that the requirement is too restrictive and decisions for hardship leave should be at the discretion of the Committee. Judge Shaffer suggested that an exception should be made in this particular case, but that a permanent change to the Personnel Policy should wait until LGPI is consulted.

Motion by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to waive the one full year requirement on a current hardship leave request, based on a recommendation from the Hardship Committee. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF EXECUTIVE SESSION ORS 192.660 (2) (g)

Judge Shaffer declared the meeting to be in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (g) Trade Negotiations at 11:00 a.m. Separate minutes were taken and will be filed in the office of the County Clerk.

RECONVENED Gilliam County Court regular meeting was reconvened by Judge Shaffer at 11:50 a.m., bringing Court members out of Executive Session and back into regular session.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER REVISED SIP AGREEMENT

Will Carey explained to those present that an Executive Session was convened to discuss the possibility of a new Strategic Investment Program (SIP) agreement, and to consider setting a Public Hearing to discuss the matter. Carey commented that the County must move at a “fairly good clip” and that if the SIP agreement is approved, the matter will go before the Oregon Business Development Commission at a January meeting in Salem. He recommended that the County set a Public Hearing to consider written and oral testimony. Judge Shaffer commented that the Court is working on a short timeframe, and that an announcement has already been submitted to a local newspaper.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to hold a public hearing in Arlington on December 21 at 1:15 p.m. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT/BURNS PARK

Darryl Houghtelling of the County’s Maintenance Department suggested that the Court consider development of a policy for use of Burns Park. Houghtelling noted that the County currently does not charge a fee for use of the Pavilion or for large events, and that no policy exists for pre-payment of reserved spots at the RV Park. Houghtelling asked the Court to consider revisiting a policy regarding free park usage for County Fair week, noting he feels out-of-town visitors, including residents of Northern Gilliam County, should have preference. Currently, he said, Arlington residents have been turned away because Condon residents have already made reservations. Houghtelling also reported that the Maintenance Department receives funds from the State of Oregon RV licensing fees, which is currently standing at \$33,500. Suggested improvements include upgrades in the sink area, new grill, lights and paint the Pavilion; and resurfacing of floors in the restrooms, estimated to cost at least \$20,000. Commissioner Weimar suggested that Houghtelling create a prioritized list with suggested fees for usage of the Pavilion for the Court’s review. Commissioner Weimar also agreed with Judge Shaffer’s suggestion that a committee be formed to take a closer look at potential policy changes.

IN THE MATTER OF LGPI HUMAN RESOURCES PROJECT COMMITTEE

The Court addressed appointment of an Advisory Committee for the County’s Human Resources Project, per Local Government Personnel Institute’s (LGPI) recommendation. Judge Shaffer asked Commissioner Weimar for input on advisory committee members. After discussion, the Court agreed that the Committee should include the County Clerk, County Court Administrator, a representative of the Sheriff’s Office, and Union leadership will be asked to select two people from the Union for a total of five committee members. Work on the project will begin in January.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT UPDATE/FUND REQUEST

Columbia Hills Manor Board Members Tiah Devin and Nancy Proctor provided an update on the Arlington Community Center project. Devin asked the Court's input regarding naming the facility something other than Arlington Community Center, which should make the facility more attractive to potential renters. Devin and Proctor also displayed a floor plan, outlined expenses, and reported that the Board plans to create a workable fee schedule. Devin noted that a January 15 completion date has been set, although she thinks that date may be optimistic. Columbia Hills Board also submitted a request for disbursement of the balance of budgeted funds.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to grant the balance of budgeted funds in the amount of \$1,074,748 to Columbia Hills Manor Community Center Project. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to reappoint the following to various committees whose terms expire December 31, 2016:

Brad Anderson, Budget Committee-three year term;

Gary Miller, Walter Powell and John Qualls, Compensation Board-one year term; Nathan Hammer and Mary Dyer, Cultural Coalition-three year term;

Marla Davis, MCCOG Budget Committee-length of term unknown;

Mike Takagi, North Central Public Health District Board-three year term;

Leah Watkins, North Central Public Health Budget Committee-one year term;

Jeff Wilkins, Planning Commission-four year term;

Dave Klein, Steve Webb⁶ and Dawn Parm, Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee-two year term;

Steve Shaffer, CCO (Coordinated Care Organization) Community Advisory Committee-three year term.

Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF BOPTA BOARD APPOINTMENT

Motion by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to appointment Marta Mikkalo to the Gilliam County Board of Property Tax Appeals (BOPTA), and Doug Wilson as alternate-term to expire June 30, 2017. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF ARLINGTON TV COOP REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Motion by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to release \$258,666, part two of a three-part payment schedule, to the Port of Arlington to be used for the Arlington TV Coop Fiber Project. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION REGARDING FIBER IN GILLIAM COUNTY

The Court held an information discussion regarding issues surrounding the fiber project in Gilliam County. Judge Shaffer requested that it be placed on the record that he left the November 29 City Council/County Court work session concerning fiber early because he had to meet with clients at the 911 Center. He stated that he isn't completely against a proposed partnership with the City of Condon, but he is concerned about hindering current partnerships with Frontier Telenet. Commissioner Weimar stated that Frontier Telenet and Gilliam County are two separate entities from a legal standpoint, and Judge Shaffer responded that the County will be responsible if something goes wrong. The conversation continued, and Judge Shaffer noted that Frontier Telenet is the only entity in the United States to use the same equipment to provide internet to citizens and for public safety. He also reported that Sherman County is anxious to get the process started, and that otherwise, they may decide to do something different. Both agreed that the issue is complicated and that there is much more to discuss.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY LIBRARY MAINTENANCE ISSUES UPDATE

The Court revisited a letter of concern previously submitted by the Library Board regarding various maintenance issues. The Court reported that Jamieson and Marshall is looking into issues with the heat pump. Leanne Durfey noted Jeff Schott also has a suggestion on the heat pump issue. Dewey Kennedy will install heat tape to prevent water spout from freezing and Darryl Houghtelling has repaired the door lock. City Administrator Kathryn Greiner was present and noted that she has spoken with Anderson and Perry about the sidewalks and issues with ADA compliance, and said she would report her findings later.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY WAREHOUSE LOCATED EAST OF LIBRARY

Kathryn Greiner reported a suggestion, made by a resident, that the County Warehouse located east of the library could potentially be refurbished as an event space. However, Dewey Kennedy, County Roadmaster has advised that the roof is the only thing holding the structure together. It was noted that Jeff Schott has also suggested the building condition is such that the Court should possibly consider demolition rather than renovation. The Court agreed that no sidewalk work (adjacent to the warehouse) should be decided until a determination is made regarding the fate of the warehouse building. The matter will be placed on the agenda for further discussion the second meeting in January.

IN THE MATTER OF FORECLOSED PROPERTY

The Court discussed issues regarding foreclosed property at 221 N. Potter Street in Condon. City of Condon Mayor Jim Hassing has stated his preference that the building be demolished. It was suggested that the County could sell the building for salvage with a stipulation that it be demolished within a certain time. Judge Shaffer offered to discuss the matter with Will Carey and will also revisit the issue with Mayor Hassing. Commissioner Weimar agreed.

IN THE MATTER OF NOVEMBER 8 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

The Court reviewed November 8 General Election results official abstract: Measure 11-22, prohibiting certain marijuana registrants and/or licensees in Gilliam County, failed; and Measure 11-23, imposing County tax on marijuana retailer's sale of marijuana items, approved. Commissioner Weimar noted that certain ordinances will be required in the coming year. Judge Shaffer agreed, commenting that it will be necessary to address issues such as tax structure, land use and size of operations as several entities have already expressed an interest in establishment of grow operations within the County.

IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY LIBRARY STATISTICAL REPORT

The Court acknowledged receipt of and briefly discussed a 2016 Public Library Statistical Report, provided by the Oregon State Library.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

The Court received a note of thanks from Gretchen LaRue for the County's retirement gift.

IN THE MATTER OF OACES PUBLIC HEARING

The Court scheduled a public hearing to take written and oral testimony regarding approval of an Ordinance creating a governmental entity known as the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors, or "OACES." The ordinance states that OACES has existed informally as an affiliate of AOC since 1906 by an intergovernmental agreement, but it is now desirable for OACES to have its own legal identity.

IN THE MATTER OF CASA OREGON NETWORK

The Court discussed proposed changes regarding the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program, including formation of a Tri-County CASA Network. The impact on Gilliam and Wheeler Counties was discussed, including the possibility that the two counties may need to consider a joint arrangement.

IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer to approve the Consent Agenda, including November 2 Regular Court Meeting Minutes, and November claims pending review. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Judge Shaffer reported that he:

- attended the AOC Annual Conference, noting that he has moved from the Energy and Environmental Committee to the Economic Development

Committee; and Commissioner Weimar has once again been named as co-chair of the Transportation Committee.

- reported on various other events at the AOC Conference.
- noted that he experienced an episode of Transient Global Amnesia on Thanksgiving Day, but he is feeling good and all tests indicate he is in excellent health.
- met with Waste Management and other entities regarding Shutler Industrial Park and upcoming needs regarding additional rail.
- is continuing conversations with crane companies regarding the Industrial Park.
- attended a Business Leader's Summit, at which Governor Brown spoke about budget shortfalls caused by the failure of Measure 97.
- noted that Metro is concerned about a carbon footprint and may consider shipping waste by rail instead of via trucks.
- noted that Mayor-elect Ted Wheeler hopes to visit Condon in the near future. The County will issue an invitation.

Commissioner Weimar reported that:

- no decisions were made and no business was conducted at the last MCCOG meeting due to lack of a quorum.
- reported on events at the AOC Annual Conference, including a discussion on a potential Cascadia earthquake and how it could affect both sides of the state.
- noted that he had an opportunity to visit a retail marijuana operation during the Conference, commenting that the operation was highly professional and that a variety of medical products were available.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING

The next Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2016 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Arlington City Hall in Arlington.

It 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 at 3:45 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By Absent _____

Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By _____

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

Mary H. Dyer/Recorder