

02-17-16

Judge Shaffer called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. The meeting was held at the Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, OR. Present were Judge Steve Shaffer, Commissioner Michael Weimar and Commissioner Dennis Gronquist. Absent: None.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Road Department Warehouse Building Project: Three change order proposals.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY COUSELING SOLUTIONS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) Executive Director Kimberly Lindsay presented her semi-annual report. CCS applied for and received a Crisis Grant from Greater Oregon Behavioral Health to serve Boardman, Heppner and Arlington so there will now be funds to hire staff to handle crisis issues 24/7. Lindsay said in Condon and Wheeler County have less of a need for 24/7 crisis counseling which is why they are not included. Unless there is a reduction in Medicaid funding, or a significant change in the population Lindsay expects funding will be ongoing. Sheriff Bettencourt asked Lindsay to be on the NORCOR committee repurposing the Juvenile facility. CCS has applied for a Jail Diversion Grant through the State of Oregon that will be awarded at the end of February. The grant would enable CCS to hire a full time person to do mental health assessments in jail rather than upon release. Gilliam County is being recognized as an example at the state level of a system that is working well to serve the mental health needs of the community. There will be two new programs in the coming months to assess the method and impact of school based counseling and why is it so successful here. Lindsay said CCS has a good relationship with Sheriff Bettencourt and DA Weatherford which is a big help. Commissioner Weimar asked how CCS school counseling is funded. Lindsay informed \$10,000 comes from both the Arlington and Condon school districts and of the remaining \$78,000, \$58,000 comes from Gilliam County through a variety of grants including Juvenile Crime Prevention dollars, Coordinated Care Transformation Grant and Justice Reinvestment dollars from the Sheriff's office. Grant amounts from each fluctuate year to year.

IN THE MATTER OF AIR BASE ROAD MAINTENANCE

Road Master Dewey Kennedy and Air Base representative Kevin Gramson were present to resume discussion of road repair and maintenance of roads at the Air Base. Kennedy passed out cost estimates for road demolition and repaving options for Air Base roads. Kennedy said the existing asphalt has deteriorated to the point there is no way to pave

over it, so in any scenario the roads would need to be demolished. Kennedy informed that the composition of asphalt has evolved a lot since the roads were last paved in the 1950s. Regardless of what type of asphalt the roads are paved with, since traffic at the air base is light, either type would only need to be refreshed every 5 to 10 years the roads would need to be fog sealed. Kennedy said a perfect scenario would his crew would demolish the roads, reprocess the old asphalt and repave the roads with the new mix. Depending on weather a recycled asphalt would need to cure for 3 to 5 days. Kennedy said in any scenario the Road Department would not be able to do the project until the summer of 2017. There was a general Court discussion of both air base road repair and what would be involved in ongoing road maintenance if the County were to assume responsibility for air base roads. Judge Shaffer, Commissioner Gronquist and legal counsel said they were leaning toward seeing the road repair and as a one-time fix and were against annexing the air base roads into the County due to the ongoing cost of road maintenance. Commissioner Weimar disagreed and was in favor of annexing the air base roads into the County. Commissioner Weimar and Gramson pointed out that there are 26 livable homes, 16 of which are occupied, on a quarter mile strip of roads. Kennedy said crack and fog sealing the cost over a ten year period would be minimal and should not exceed \$10,000. The Road Department already plows the Air Base roads in the winter since it's on a school route. Commissioner Gronquist said the easiest way to address the issue would be to annex in the Air Base roads into the County. Judge Shaffer said that if the Court is going to do that the County should evaluate all non-County roads. Kennedy said that the other roads the Road Department maintains are short stretches that connect one County road to another and there are so many of them you would have to go to the Clerk's office to find them all and didn't feel it would be worth the effort.

Motion by Judge Shaffer, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to do the research and due diligence to determine what it would take to bring the Air Base roads into the County road system. Discussion: Commissioner Gronquist added with the caveat to consult with legal counsel that other than the cost of road maintenance there are no other issues. After discussion Judge Shaffer rescinded his motion.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Judge Shaffer to bring the Air Base roads in the County road system. All in favor: Shaffer: Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Opposed: Weimar – No; **Motion carried.**

Motion by Judge Shaffer to vote on rescinding his original motion; Vote: Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING: GILLIAM COUNTY TRANSPORTATION

Judge Shaffer opened the Public Hearing at 11:05 am. Gilliam County Transportation Director Marla Davies was present for the Public Hearing to obtain citizen views and respond to questions about Gilliam County Transportation Services, Special Transportation Discretionary Funds and 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and

Individuals with Disabilities. Davies reported that she has been gathering public input by attending meeting of the Condon Chamber of Commerce and the her STF Board. She is planning on talking to both medical centers and the Arlington Community Chamber of Commerce. So far Davies has found that people have been very supportive of her plans. Davies is in need of a bus barn extension and will looking for \$60,000 in grant funds. Those would come from Mobility and Dispatch dollars. Davies requested permission to apply for grants to extend the bus barn in Condon, funds for a part time employee and 5310 grant dollars to replace some of the aging vehicles in the Transportation fleet. Judge Shaffer asked how much money Davies is looking for from the County Court. She said she isn't asking for any matching funds. Any 5310 matching funds will come out of her transportation budget. With no public input, Judge Shaffer closed the meeting at 11:14.

With the public hearing closed, Davies said that it is a constant effort to keep her Transportation vehicles from being constantly dirty. She tells people not to eat in the vehicles, but they do. She understood, but said it would be nice to be able to offer drivers a stipend to clean a vehicle occasionally if they are interested. Morrow County offers their drivers a \$25 stipend each time they drive. Morrow doesn't specify how the stipend is spent. Commissioner Weimar thought that the Court should find out what other counties are doing.

Davies is getting ready to send out Requests for Quotes (RFQ) for the new Transportation bus. She will follow up with the Court when the RFQs come in.

IN THE MATTER OF MEALS CONTRACT BUDGET MODIFICATION NO. 1

Mid-Columbia Council of Governments (MCCOG) Meals Contract Budget Modification No.1 for fiscal year 2015-16 is an intergovernmental agreement between MCCOG/Area Agency on Aging and Gilliam County. Modification No. 1 amends the Contract for senior meals in both Arlington and Condon in both the OAA and the NSIP Congregate Meal reimbursements. The OAA in Arlington increased \$523 and the NSIP increased \$123. In Condon the OAA increased \$694 and the NSIP increased \$117.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve the meal contract Modification No. 1 between Mid-Columbia Council of Governments/Area Agency on Aging and Gilliam County for the fiscal year 2015-16 for Arlington a) \$2,595 and b) \$1,019 and Condon a) \$4,065 and b) \$1,596; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF COLUMBIA RIDGE LANDFILL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENTS

The reappointments are Kelly Gronquist, Dennis Gronquist, Dewey Kennedy, Rich Harper, Alan Anderson from Waste Management, Bob Mulholland from Waste Management and Kip Eagles.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to reappoint Kelly Gronquist, Dennis Gronquist, Dewey Kennedy, Rich Harper, Alan Anderson from Waste Management, Bob Mulholland and Kip Eagles from Waste Management to the Columbia Ridge Landfill Advisory Committee Board; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF PORT OF ARLINGTON COUNTY GRAIN LAB PROPOSAL

Port of Arlington Board Chair Ron Wilson and Port of Arlington Manager/Economic Development Officer (EDO) Peter Mitchell were present to resume discussion of the Port of Arlington's proposal to take over management of the Gilliam County Grain Quality Lab. Mitchell informed that as requested they have spoken with the Lab's current customers and most said they plan to remain customers. He informed that in the two months the Port has been involved with the Lab revenue has increased 52% from \$1,000-\$2,000/mo. in December to nearly \$6,000mo. The Port has the funds to pay for personnel, travel expenses, lab supplies, telephone, conference registrations, postage, professional dues, lab marketing and outside lab services. The Port asked Gilliam County to waive rental payments, pay for propane, utilities, building maintenance, laundry services and pest control. In calendar year 2014-15 this totaled, \$9,143. Commissioner Gronquist asked if there has been any further information on the Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant. Judge Shaffer said he hasn't learned anything new. The last he heard the EDA was going to take the issue up with their regional council. The original agreement did call for the Lab to eventually be leased to another entity for an approved use. Judge Shaffer said that one of the EDA's big concerns is the Port's client list and whether they think the list is legitimate. Commissioner Gronquist said he thought it time to enter into Executive Session and learn more about the Port's prospective client list.

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

Judge Shaffer declared the meeting to be in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 2 (e) Real Property Transactions and (g) Trade Negotiations. Separate minutes were taken and will be filed in the office of the County Clerk.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PORT OF ARLINGTON GRAIN LAB PROPOSAL CONTINUED

Judge Shaffer for the record stated that at budget time the County Court will be taking a careful look at the Port of Arlington's funding request and will be scrutinizing it with the Grain Lab in mind. Commissioner Gronquist stated his opinion is without funding the Lab through the back door through the Port, every year they keep the Lab open is one year closer to fulfilling the grant obligation. He thought it important to carefully manage Jody Gentry's transition to becoming a Port of Arlington employee. He was not concerned with waiting for EDA approval. Judge Shaffer and Commissioner Weimar agreed.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to transfer management of the Grain Quality Lab for the duration of one year free of rent and to pay for propane, utilities, building maintenance, laundry services and pest control effective March 1, 2016, contingent to working out the employee transition; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Chip Faver with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) gave a BLM update. Faver reported on the Prineville Invasive Plant Environmental Assessment. As a result the BLM has gotten approval to add four new herbicides to the approved list. They are expecting to have a signed Record of Decision in early 2016.

Faver gave a 2015 Wildfire summary. Although there were some large deployment fires, 2015 was not as active a year as 2014.

The John Day Basin Resource Management Plan (JDBRMP) has been signed and covers just under 5,000 acres.

Faver gave a Cottonwood Canyon State Park update. The BLM continues to work with Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to map location of trails to ensure they meet national and RMP direction for routes in travel planning. The plan is to keep the public away from archeological sites. The BLM is moving forward with an Environmental Assessment and plan on having a decision in the next 6 months. The BLM will be hosting National Public Lands Day at Cottonwood September 23-24, 2016. The BLM has issued the Gilliam County Road Department a Free Use Permit for crushed stone.

Chris Fitzsimmons asked if the BLM has a working dialogue with local land owners, such as the Rattrays, who live on Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) on how they plan to fight wildfires. Faver said they are in discussion Rattrays and the Campbells. Fitzsimmons asked if the BLM will be hiring a new law enforcement officer. Faver said they are currently in the hiring process.

Judge Shaffer asked about the Rattray Ranch and the BLM's grazing plans. Faver said those lands are allotments that have grazing rights and those rights need to be used. Any landowner can take non-use for up to three years. But to be in non-use indefinitely is not

what the BLM wants to see. The Oregon Cattleman's Association they wanted to make sure in the BLM's Environmental Assessment acknowledged that appropriate grazing can be a tool in managing the landscape.

Shannon Coppock asked if sage grouse funds were helping with fighting wildfires. Faver said that those funds have enabled him to have additional units that are pre-positioned at Hampton Butte where there is sage grouse habitat that enables him to relocate other crews as needed.

IN THE MATTER OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AGENCY UPDATE

Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Agency Director Sandy McKay gave a SWCD update. McKay reported the SWCD has been working on a five to six year \$8 million capacity plan. In the past year they streamlined their Board from seven members to five because it had become increasingly difficult to find seven people in the County who were qualified to be Board members and who were willing to run for election. They have consolidated to three zones north, south and middle, each with a Board member plus two at large Board members. Thanks to support from Gilliam County the SWCD was able to increase staff from 3.5 full time equivalent positions to five full time family wage positions. The increased staff has enabled them to increase the number of projects the SWCD can take on. McKay gave an overview of SWCD funding in 2015.

- Capacity grants: \$539,193. This total reflects new funding of \$50,000 from Gilliam County and \$122,464 from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs through the BPA.
- Project grants: \$845,376. These projects will be implemented in the next one or two years.

Total grant funds: \$1,384,569

Also new funding for 2015 is \$190,000 from the Oregon Water Resource Department (OWRD) to fund the Lower John Day River Planning project. These funds will help study the effects of climate change through Gilliam and portions of Sherman and Wheeler counties to try and access future water needs. In the past ten years there has been a reduction in snowpack. Taping into water from the Columbia River is an option that they plan to explore in the future. Morrow and Umatilla counties both are drawing water from the Columbia River for aquifer-recharge to support agriculture in their counties. One approach would be creation of a reservoir system taking water from the Columbia during the winter that could support higher value agriculture, especially at the north end of the County. He has spoken to Senator Hansel about supporting the plan.

McKay made a presentation to the Court asking the Court for a new potential capital investment in construction of commercial office space. The SWCD is 100% grant funded and have been looking at ways to generate revenue to become more self-sustaining. The

SWCD will be applying to enter into a ten year lease agreement with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to house the Farm Service Agency and the National Resource Conservation Service Ag Service Center in Condon. Two integral components of the lease agreement would be to provide 3,700 square feet of office space and a minimum of 24 parking spaces. Obtaining the lease with the USDA is integral to their building proposal. The SWCD is proposing to buy the Reser Building on Main Street and construct a one story office building. This would be the first construction project on Main Street since the 1990s. The SWCD has engaged a qualified architectural firm to complete a conceptual design and provide a more accurate cost estimate. Current estimates for the project may be as high as \$850,000, including purchase and demolition of the existing buildings. McKay asked the Court to consider a \$200,000 loan for the project with deferred payments for ten years. In addition he asked the Court to consider an in-kind match to the project from the County Road Department building demolition and site preparation. They have an estimate for \$50,000 to do that portion of the project. Judge Shaffer informed the Court will be discussing the County's loan program and will add his proposal to the next Court Agenda.

IN THE MATTER OF COLUMBIA HILLS MANOR COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

Columbia Hills Manor (CHM) Board Members Cena Wright and Nancy Proctor provided a Community Center update. Wright informed Cascade Management is no longer managing Columbia Hills Manor and they have resumed management of the facility. The North Gilliam County Health Center sent a letter informing they are not interested in partnering on a Wellness Center. Wright reported the lot line adjustment has been completed and the land has been annexed into the City of Arlington. The property is being rezoned, but they can start construction while that is in process. They are expecting to receive the final drawings and contract from the contractor the week of February 22nd and construction will begin approximately March 15th. Jim Wright has been appointed to be the owner's representative during construction. CHM will be making a formal request for construction funds at the March 16th County Court meeting. Judge Shaffer advocated for incremental payments following the pace of construction as opposed to a lump sum payment. Commissioner Gronquist asked if the CHM Board had a succession plan. Proctor has asked Peter Mitchell if the Port would have an interest in running CHM, but has not heard back from him. There was a general Court discussion of the Wright's role as the owner's representative.

IN THE MATTER OF RUTE FOUNDATION SYSTEMS TURBINE PROJECT UPDATE

Judge Shaffer reported Columbia Basin Electric Co-op Board has voted not to pursue a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the Gorge Training Center turbine. The Court received a letter to that effect dated February 8, 2016. The test turbine project is currently on hold until the new Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standards are going to be. It appears

the Production Tax Credit is going through. Judge Shaffer has an upcoming meeting with Dan Spatz who is the Executive Director of the Hood River Education Association to discuss whether it would be possible to enter into a PPA with a large corporation or data center. Judge Shaffer will provide an update as more information is available.

IN THE MATTER OF ASSESSORS OFFICE EMPLOYMENT RECRUITMENT DISCUSSION

County Assessor Dave Messenger and Appraiser Chet Wilkins were present to resume discussion of new employee for the Assessor's Office to start training to assist in the transition. Messenger said there does appear to be money in the Personnel Services line item in the General Fund for a short term salary for the remainder of fiscal 2015-16. Judge Shaffer said there are funds that had been allocated for a full time Librarian and for a full time Custodial position that are unused. There are funds allocated for the new hire that have not been used, plus funds allocated for part time help. There was a general discussion and the Court agreed hiring a new employee as soon as possible was really necessary. Messenger said the timeline has been set back somewhat. They will post the position within the Union and after that they would advertise and have someone on staff the second or third week in April at the latest.

IN THE MATTER OF WI CONSTRUCTION RETAIN OR SUPPLUS EQUIPMENT

There was a continuing Court discussion of whether to surplus or retain the remaining WI Construction equipment. The Court agreed they needed to make a decision. Commissioner Gronquist thought the County should surplus the equipment. Judge Shaffer favored retaining the equipment for a period of time in case a potential renter would find them of use.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to surplus the remaining WI Construction equipment; 4 mixer trucks, the frontend loader, the Cook dump trailer and the '78 Kenworth truck. Discussion: Judge Shaffer advocated for retaining the frontend loader. Commissioner Gronquist amended his motion to omit the frontend loader for six months and if it has not been used to surplus it at that time; In Favor: Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Opposed: Judge Shaffer, **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Judge Shaffer had a question on page four about how Energy Lobbyist David Van't Hof was going to be paid. The minutes state that his \$10,000 fee is to be paid out of the Economic Development fund. The language should be changed to reflect no decision was made at that time where the funds were to come from. Also, on page seven in the matter of RUTE Foundation Systems GTC should be GTF. On page nine, in the matter of the

Grain Lab, there should not be pay off amount included since no decision has been agreed upon.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve the FY 2016-17 Budget Calendar and the January 20, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes with the corrections listed above; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF ROAD DEPARTMENT BUILDING CHANGE ORDERS

There was a general Court discussion of Griffin Construction change orders requested Change Orders No. 6, No. 7 and No. 8. Jeff Schott recommended approving Change Orders No. 6 and No. 7. Schott could go either way on Change Order No. 8 which is to add a radiant heater to the scope of work. Road Master Dewey Kennedy had discussed addressing that scope of work during the next fiscal budget year.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve Change Order No. 6 in the amount of \$4,158 and Change Order No. 7 in the amount of \$7,585; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

Treasurer Nathan Hammer was present for a discussion of Gilliam County's Business Development Loan Program (BDLP). There was a general Court discussion of the history of the BDLP and the wisdom of the loans the County had made in the past. The BDLP was tabled at the end of Judge Shaw's term in December of 2012. Hammer was of the opinion that there were a large number of problems with language in the BDLP. After a lengthy Court discussion it was agreed to have Hammer refer to Sherman County's loan program and create a new document for the Court to review at an upcoming County Court meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Commissioner Gronquist met with Paul Ehinger at Metro and was assured that Metro continues to think highly of Gilliam County.

Judge Shaffer attended a meeting of the Morrow County Court to request Morrow participate in regional renewable energy lobbying efforts by approving hiring David Van't Hof. The request was well received, but the Court did not make a formal commitment.

Judge Shaffer met with Columbia Basin Electric Co-op (CBEC) Manager Tommy Wolff to request a formal letter summarizing why the CBEC Board decided not to enter into a

Power Purchase agreement for power generated by the Gorge Training Facility test turbine.

CREA has been active in Salem during the current short legislative session in lobby for an amendment to HB 4036 the 50% renewable energy by 2040 bill. The bill has passed the Oregon House and is now in the Senate. The amendment would require 8% be built in the State of Oregon. Judge Shaffer has been asked to return to Salem to lobby on the amendment's behalf.

Judge Shaffer had a meeting on February 8th with Frontier Telenet. They are still working on finding a way to build a fiber backbone through the center of Gilliam County to supply fiber to the 911 call center and the schools. Judge Shaffer met with Representatives Huffman and Smith and Senators Hansel and Roblan to lobby funding for the project.

Judge Shaffer attended a meeting of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) where there was a lot of discussion about raising the minimum wage in Oregon. AOC has taken a hard stance against a minimum wage increase.

There was an all staff meeting that focused on the Safety Committee and adding some additional lighting at entrances to the Courthouse and at the Bus Barn in Condon. The Safety Committee applied for and received a \$10,000 grant and Maintenance is exploring how to implement the lighting upgrades. Maintenance requested there also be additional lighting for the flags in front of the Courthouse. Additional lighting for the flags would not be eligible for grant funding.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING

The next Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on March 2, 2016 beginning at 10:00 a.m., at Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon.

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 3:30 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____

Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By _____

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

R. Weinstein/Recorder