

05-18-16

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 Michael Weimar and Commissioner Dennis Gronquist. Absent: None.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Gilliam County Courthouse Fire Suppression System Update

Gilliam County Sheriff Department Surplus Equipment

Tenneson Engineering Corporation Contract Report

IN THE MATTER OF SOUTH GILLIAM COUNTY SPECIAL PROJECTS GRANTS

There was discussion of whether Special Project Grants that are turned in late are eligible for consideration. Commissioner Gronquist expressed concern over accepting late applications and said he thought that in the future the Court should amend policy to no longer accept late applications. Members of the Court agreed.

Special Projects Grant requests in the South for fiscal 2016-17 were \$95,572.40. County funds available in the South end of the County totaled \$43,668. Members of the Court agreed that assessing 2016-17 Special Projects requests was going to be difficult. Commissioner Gronquist advocated for funding Condon Little League, the Tumbleweed Tournament and Condon Education Foundation request for Art Education in the Condon schools in full. Judge Shaffer agreed and added he thought that the Condon Chamber of Commerce request should be added to that list. After discussion Members of the Court agreed. The total of those four requests came to \$30,010. Members of the Court next began discussion of how to allocate the remaining \$13,658. There was a lengthy Court discussion of the remaining Special Projects. As a result, the Court decided that the City of Condon's request for \$5,000 for Small Business Development Center Assistance could likely be funded elsewhere. The Court agreed that Dollars for Scholars does good work in the communities, but decided this fiscal year they needed to forego their \$9,800 request. Similarly, the Court told the Condon School District that they would not be able to fund \$35,000 for new bleachers. The Court decided to fund the South Gilliam County Cemetery District request for \$9,500 for irrigation at the Mayville Cemetery since their project could not be done in phases. That left the Gilliam County Historical Society with \$4,158 of their \$6,242.40 request.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to fund the following South Special Projects:

Condon Little League: \$2,500

Tumbleweed Tournament: \$2,610

Condon Education Foundation: \$9,900

Condon Chamber of Commerce: \$15,000

South Gilliam County Cemetery District: \$9,500

Gilliam County Historical Society: \$4,158

Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF OFFICE SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Gilliam County Sheriff Gary Bettencourt requested that the Sheriff Department 1994 Ford Work Crew Bus be declared surplus equipment. There was a brief discussion of available auction options. Oregon Heavy Equipment is the auctioneer the County is using for surplus equipment. Commissioner Gronquist offered to forward their contact information to Bettencourt

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve a Resolution No. 2016-08 declaring 1994 Ford Inmate Work Crew Bus as surplus equipment; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH LANE COUNTY

The Intergovernmental Agreement between Gilliam County and Lane County for Gilliam County website Tax Map maintenance and GIS is up for renewal. Judge Shaffer informed the only change in this year's agreement is a \$9.00 per hour increase in the hourly rate Lane County is charging for work performed. Gilliam County Assessor Dave Messenger recommends approving the contract.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Commissioner Gronquist to approve the renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement between Gilliam County and Lane County for Tax Map Maintenance and GIS, not to exceed \$99,999; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF DIRECTORPOINT PORTAL SOFTWARE UPDATE

The Court resumed discussion of conducting a one year trial of the Directorpoint Board Portal Software by the Gilliam County Court. County Court Administrator Leanne Durfey informed the Commissioners that the software was compatible with their County iPads. The cost of using the software for one year would be \$2,000. There was a brief Court discussion of just how helpful the software might prove to be.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve a one year trial of the Directorpoint Board Portal Software system at a cost of \$2,000; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET HEARING FOR FISCAL 2015-16

Judge Shaffer opened the public hearing at 10:45 a.m. He informed the purpose of the Hearing was to adjust the budget to reflect unexpected expenses and revenues incurred in the 2015-16 fiscal year. Gilliam County Treasurer Nathan Hammer informed the supplemental budget request was essentially a housekeeping issue. Oregon Health Authority - RBASE monthly allotment funds are currently passed through line item 101-199 from the General Fund: Non-Departmental. He would like to change the line item to 101-106 General Fund: Health Department. With no public comment Judge Shaffer closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve Resolution No. 2016-07 adopting Supplemental Budget and making appropriations in fiscal year 2015-16 to pass Oregon Health Authority RBASE funds in the amount of \$178,109.53 through General Fund line item 101-106 General Fund: Health Department; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF TENNESON ENGINEERING CONTRACT REPORT

Gilliam County Planner Michelle Colby reported that the Planner Department Consulting Contract approved in the amount of \$10,000 for fiscal 2015-16 is currently \$53.00 over budget. She had not received an invoice from Tenneson Engineering since December 2015. Based on preliminary calculations she thought there was still about \$200 remaining in fiscal 2015-16. Colby requested the Court to approve up to an increase of \$1,000 for planning consulting services for the remainder of fiscal 2015-16.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve up to \$1000 for planning consulting services from Tenneson Engineering Corporation for the remainder of fiscal 2015-16; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve the May 4th Regular Session meeting minutes and the May 4th Executive Session minutes; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF UPDATE ON SALE OF COUNTY SURPLUSSED EQUIPMENT

Commissioner Gronquist informed that Oregon Heavy Equipment had sold the 1979 Kenworth C350 for \$6,500, the 1974 Cook Trailer for \$4,900 and the 1989 Kenworth – MTM Mixer for \$7,500. Sale amounts were lower than hoped for. The commission owed on equipment sold is 7%.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

Judge Shaffer informed the Court had received a letter from the City of Condon Fiber Committee outlining conditions the Fiber Committee believes are crucial to the success of any fiber project in Gilliam County. Among the concerns was having an open process and open backbone. The letter also outlined concerns and priorities involved in conducting a collaborative process. The Committee said they welcomed a dialog with the County Court.

IN THE MATTER OF INMATE WORK CREW CONTRACT WITH WM

Gilliam County Sheriff Gary Bettencourt wanted the Court to know he met with representatives from Waste Management to renegotiate the payment rates for the NORCOR work release program. The rates had not been adjusted since 2006. He negotiated increases for inmates, work crew leaders and cost per mile reimbursement.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to approve the following rate increases for the NORCOR Work Release Program: Inmate compensation from \$12 to \$15 per hour, Work Crew Leader compensation from \$22 to \$25 per hour and gas mileage reimbursement increased to \$.55 per mile; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF FOUR RIVERS EARLY LEARNING HUB PRESENTATION

Four Rivers Learning Hub Regional Program Director Christa Rude and North Central Education District (NCESD) Early Childhood Program Director Brooke Ansotegui presented a semi-annual presentation on the Four Rivers Early Learning Hub. Rude distributed a handout of her presentation to the Members of the Court. She informed the Hub is a regional organization comprised of five counties, 10 school districts that covers 6,647 square miles. Four Rivers Early Learning Hub's focus is early learning and their target population are those children who are economically disadvantaged, trauma affected, children of color or those children targeted in multiple categories. Their vision is to support existing programs, expand program proficiency and/or capacity and align themselves to improve planning and communication across sectors. Rude shared that home visits have a real impact for families and are conducted by dedicated staff. The Hub

works in a collaborative process to raise awareness of the importance of early learning and merges education with healthcare for maximum impact. This process has been facilitated by changes in data collection done within the Hub's counties. Rude outlined the Hub's Governance Board and how the shared regional agenda is shared and distributed throughout the counties and the Regional Early Childhood Committee. Rude informed some of the Hub's goals for the future are a mobile preschool to serve children in very rural areas and develop developmental toolkits for parents of children from birth to preschool age. The Court reflected on the reduction in staff throughout the Hub service area and the burden the lack of staff puts on Gilliam County Family Services to track data as something of an unfunded mandate. Rude said she hoped the Hub would be able to provide more staff support in the future, but that Family Services does a good job.

IN THE MATTER OF WILDLIFE SERVICES PROGRAM ANNUAL STAFF REPORT

Wildlife Services Predator Control Officer Bob Thomas gave Court Members his annual staff report. Thomas reported that feral pig control has been a big focus. He had performed aerial hunts at the South end of the County. He will work with area landowners to set traps. The intention is to resume helicopter hunts later in June. Thomas reported there have been reports of wolves killing llama in Wallowa County. He wasn't able to attend the Non-lethal Control of Wolves meeting recently in Pendleton. Thomas recently attended Outdoor School for the 20th year. He brought in Trappers from Sherman and Morrow Counties to help introduce the practice to students who may have not had any experience with trapping before. Commissioner Gronquist asked if Thomas knew about the recent poaching and killing of big horn sheep in northern Gilliam County. Thomas noted that there are times when sheep need to be put down. California Big Horn are fragile to disease transmission from domestic sheep and can contract pneumonia that could spread through a herd. Poaching of sheep is a year round problem.

IN THE MATTER OF COURTHOUSE FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM UPDATE

Gilliam County Sheriff Office Deputy Chris Fitzsimmons gave an update on the Courthouse fire suppression system project. She informed that all final invoices have been submitted for payment and the County will be returning \$187,000 in funds to the State of Oregon that were not needed for the project. There hasn't been a final fire drill, but she has been working with All Safe Monitoring on how to proceed with one in the coming months. The Court Security Fund pays for the monthly fire suppression monitoring.

IN THE MATTER OF PROPOSALS FOR WORKFORCE REVISIONS/ADDITIONS

Gilliam County Treasurer Nathan Hammer was present for the workforce discussion. Judge Shaffer asked the Commissioners to consider making some workforce personnel revisions/additions to help alleviate and redistribute duties within Transportation, Family Services and Community Development. He proposed a .5 FTE increase for Gilliam County Assistant Custodian Sabrina Wagenaar to work half time for Family Services. Wagenaar has a strong culinary background that could be put to good use at the Senior Meal sites. Judge Shaffer said that the amount of work Teddy Fennern does for the State of Oregon as something of an unfunded mandate puts a strain on her ability to do her job and she could really use additional help. Judge Shaffer also proposed creating one full time FTE that would work .5 FTE for Transportation and .5 as the Gilliam County Court Administrative Assistant to take the County Court minutes among other duties to give Rachel Weinstein more time to work on community development needs in the County. Judge Shaffer noted that Marla Davies had been asking for a part time hire for some time and informed that there were funds in the Transportation budget to pay for a .5 FTE hire. Commissioner Weimar questioned the need for any additional employment at the Courthouse. Commissioner Gronquist asked Transportation Coordinator Marla Davies what she thought of the proposal. Davies agreed that she had been advocating for a part time help, but wasn't sure that hire needed to be a full .5 FTE. Davies advocated for an up to .5 FTE that would be paid with grant dollars. Commissioner Gronquist asked Gilliam County Community Development Coordinator/County Court Administrative Assistant Rachel Weinstein what she thought of the proposal. Weinstein said she was conflicted because the County Court Minutes are important and she had learned a lot by attending County Court. Weinstein also said it was important from her perspective for all three members of the County Court to sign off on Community Development being a full time job. Commissioner Gronquist said if Weinstein wasn't going to take the Court minutes then he would add economic development duties to community development to assist with the needs in the south end of the County. Hammer advocated for the second Courthouse hire to be approved as two part time positions. It would be difficult to determine what percentage of that employee's time would be spent working for Transportation and how much as administration. Hammer said hiring two part time positions would save the County almost \$30,000 in benefits. Commissioner Gronquist agreed with having the hire be two part time positions. Commissioner Weimar said he thought that if Weinstein was going become community and economic development the new position would be best as a non-union hire. After a general Court discussion it was decided that Weinstein would probably need to be transitioned to a Union/overtime exempt hire. Commissioner Weimar and Commissioner Gronquist thought in that case there should be a new job description and compensation level. The new compensation level would need to be decided during budget discussions since an increase was not in the proposed fiscal 2016-17 budget. The Court approved adding .5 FTE to Wagenaar to work for Family Services.

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Judge Shaffer to create an up to .5 FTE dependent for Special Transportation. Discussion: Commissioner Weimar said he was on the fence as to whether or not Transportation needed a full .5 FTE, although he

knows Davies needs help. Vote in favor: Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Opposed Weimar – No; **Motion carried.**

Motion by Commissioner Gronquist, seconded by Commissioner Weimar to hire a .5 FTE to take the County Court minutes and assist the County Court Administrator and as a general administrative assist; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

After the vote Commissioner Gronquist initiated a discussion of Weinstein's new job and what the compensation level would be. Judge Shaffer said there would need to be a change in job description, followed by a compensation discussion that would need to come before the Court for approval. After that there would need to negotiations with the Union.

Judge Shaffer advocated for a change in the way County part time employment is tracked. He thought it would be easier to track if it all department part time employees were listed in one General Fund line item as opposed to by individual departments. Commissioner Weimar thought there was value in knowing what each department was spending on part time employment. Judge Shaffer said that all departments had signed off on the idea.

IN THE MATTER OF UPWARD ADJUSTMENT TO POSITION CLASSIFICATION

Treasurer Nathan Hammer was present for the discussion. Judge Shaffer asked the Commissioners to approve a 4% increase in salary to 79% of the Judges base salary for County Court Administrator Leanne Durfey. He informed that the City Council had recently approved a one time 12% increase in pay for City of Condon Administrator Kathryn Greiner. Judge Shaffer said he had done salary comparisons with her counterparts from neighboring counties and noted that Durfey is paid less than a number of them, many of whom have less experience than she does. Commissioner Weimar said he wasn't sure there was enough information to make an accurate comparison. Commissioner Gronquist said he thought Durfey was worth it, but questioned the timing. Judge Shaffer made it clear that asking for an increase in salary was his idea. Judge Shaffer noted that Sheriff Deputy Jon Terland has taken on more work and responsibility and asked Gilliam County Sheriff Gary Bettencourt if he had considered asking for a salary increase for him. Bettencourt said that he had given the matter consideration because he sees the value of both his and Judge Shaffer's right-hand person, but that he is opposed to County employees being paid more than the elected officials and he thinks that elected officials should be compensated at a higher rate. If either Terland or Durfey were given a step increase they would be making more than two of the elected officials. He said he thought Terland was deserving, but the other elected officials he spoke with were also opposed to having employees paid more than elected officials. Bettencourt said the other issue he had was that the policy is to cap salaries after ten years and there are other employees at the Courthouse who have been employed for more than ten years and where does that leave them. Commissioner Weimar said he wasn't opposed to

employees being paid more than elected officials, if the salaries were based on experience and responsibility. Commissioner Weimar advocated for hiring a human resources consultant to address compensation as well as other Courthouse employment issues and advise the Court on human resources matters. There was a general Court discussion of putting out a Request for Proposal for a human resources firm/consultant and how much money should be budgeted for that. Members of the Court agreed to discuss what level to fund a human resources firm/consultant at the next budget meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Weimar, seconded by Judge Shaffer to eliminate the previously approved Human Resources/Risk Management hire and replace that with a human resources consultant; Shaffer – Yes; Gronquist – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion carried.**

Commissioner Gronquist wanted Durfey to know that it wasn't that the Court didn't want to give her a salary increase, but that it wasn't the right time.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY GRAIN LAB

Treasurer Nathan Hammer informed there is a budget regarding the County Grain Lab that needs to be addressed. A transfer out of budget line item 210 would leave \$83,500 in the Lab fund. The estimate for maintenance and propane at the Lab is \$17,000. It was decided to leave the \$83,500 in the line item and use it as needed for maintenance.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Commissioner Gronquist informed that Waste Management had signed the new Host Fee Agreements with Gilliam County.

Commissioner Weimar attended an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Regional Area Commissions on Transportation (ACT) meeting in Bend to evaluate regional Enhancement Project proposals. The City of Condon is still number two on the project list for their City sidewalk enhancement project and have an excellent chance of being funded this next fiscal year. The final submission deadline is in August and if approved the City will receive \$545,000 for their project.

Commissioner Weimar also attended an Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Steering Committee meeting. The Committee started work on the framework of a new Transportation Package ahead of the 2017 Legislative Session.

Judge Shaffer informed that housing has become a discussion at the State level. He attended an AOC Housing Sub-Steering Committee meeting on housing, an Eastern Oregon Regional Solutions meeting and a Mid-Columbia Regional Solutions meeting. All three meetings discussed the need for additional rental housing. The focus is on duplex and multi-unit housing for rural areas. Judge Shaffer advocated for having a summit on housing with the Condon and Arlington Chambers of Commerce, the Cities of Arlington

and Condon, Pioneer Community Development Corporation and County representatives to discuss the topic. He thought it might be a good project for Rachel Weinstein to work on. Commissioner Gronquist said the need for housing at both ends of the County have been discussed at length, but it's difficult to know what the right solution is.

Commissioner Gronquist asked if Gilliam County Economic Development Officer Peter Mitchell had applied for an ODOT ConnectOregon grant for the rail spur at Shutler Station Industrial Park. Commissioner Weimar said Mitchell didn't since the dollar match for the grant was increased and there wasn't enough money in the budget for it. The grant is on a bi-annual schedule and Mitchell will re-evaluate in the next grant cycle when he would have enough money in the budget to apply.

Commissioner Weimar informed that Central Oregon and a small amount of the Columbia River Gorge will be the focus of Governor's Transportation Vision Panel final report for the Central Transportation Region 4.

Judge Shaffer attended a NORCOR meeting in The Dalles. Funding issues continue to loom large. Judge Shaffer and NORCOR Director Bryan Brandenburg took a tour of the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville. NORCOR is in discussions with the Oregon Department of Corrections to become the women's corrections main overflow facility. If that becomes the case, up to 50 women could end up being housed at NORCOR. That could bring some financial relief primarily to Wasco and Hood River Counties. It could also create some savings for facility maintenance.

Judge Shaffer attended a meeting with Q-Life and Light Speed Network in The Dalles.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING

The next Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on June 1, 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 4:10 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____
Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____
Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By _____

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

R. Weinstein/Recorder