

**9-21-2016**

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

**IN THE MATTER OF WEED DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT**

Weed Control Officer Don Farrar presented a weed department quarterly staff report. Farrar reported the following:

- An Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) weed grant has been completed for treatment of weeds for 10 landowners in the Thirty-Mile Watershed. Interim and final reports will be completed in October and December respectively.
- All County and State roads have been treated for summer annual weeds. Spot treatments are ongoing.
- Annuals at the Industrial Park have been treated at least three times. Spot treatments and hand weeding are ongoing.
- Spot treatment at Condon Schools has been completed. Arlington School property will be treated next year due to a lapse in communication this year.
- BLM plans to do reseeding and weed control on land burned on Hay Creek.
- The Courthouse grounds and Burns Park have been treated.
- Gilliam County Fairgrounds has been treated.
- Growth of skeleton weed has expanded in the north end of the County, partially due to delays involved in attaining permission to access Union Pacific Railroad property. Farrar also noted that one plant has been found and treated in the far south end of the County. Treatment is ongoing.
- Funding is currently being sought for treatment of new growth of skeleton weed resulting from the Hay Creek fire.
- Department responded to two landowner complaints regarding weeds found on their property.
- Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) lines are being treated for fire control. Project is about 60 percent complete.
- Skeleton weed treatment on Union Pacific Railroad Property is ongoing. At this time, project is approximately 80 percent complete.
- Survey and treatment of skeleton weed and yellow star thistle in the Clem area is ongoing.
- Department is working on an agreement for weed control with the Army Corps of Engineers for treatment of weeds between I-84 highway and the Columbia River.
- Hand-weeding of State and County gravel pits is ongoing.

## **IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2016-16 OPPOSING BALLOT MEASURE 97**

The Court discussed the possible ramifications of Ballot Measure 97, (Oregon Business Tax Initiative). Commissioner Weimar stated that passage of the measure would have a significant impact on Mid-Columbia Producers and other entities within the County. In addition, passage of the measure would increase healthcare and food prices for consumers.

**Motion** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to pass Resolution No. 2016-16 in the matter of opposing Ballot Measure 97. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes;  
**Motion Carried.**

## **IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF REPORT**

Community Development Coordinator Rachel Weinstein presented a Community Development Staff Report. Weinstein reported on ongoing seasonal events and projects as follows:

### **Ongoing Seasonal Events**

#### April-May

- A Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held at the Parish Hall was well received.
- Weinstein attended the second annual Travel Oregon Rural Tourism Studio, presented on behalf of John Day River Territory.
- Weinstein attended Travel Oregon Governor's Conference on Tourism.
- Special Projects grants have been awarded.
- Tri-County Court, held at the new Fire Hall in Condon, was well-received.

#### June

- Gilliam County Newsletter was published. The Court agreed that the newsletter should be published semi-annually.

#### August

- Special Projects funding draw requests: all but one have been funded.

#### September

Oregon Days of Culture is coming up October 1-8. Weinstein noted she has been working with the Condon Chamber of Commerce and discussed the many events scheduled for both ends of the County.

## **Projects**

Weinstein reported on an ongoing housing study and noted that community members from both ends of the County will be invited to attend a meeting facilitated by Lindsay Hill of RDI (Rural Development Initiatives).

- Weinstein is now the point person for John Day River Territory, Eastern Oregon Visitors Association
- Budget and Marketing Committee: July 1 was the start date for the new 8 percent increase in Oregon's lodging tax, which will result in significant increases in funding for tourism development.
- The Eastern Oregon Visitors Association Board Retreat will be held September 22-23 in Burns.
- The new Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway was featured in the July issue of 1859 Magazine, and was promoted at the Painted Hills Festival over Labor Day weekend.
- A Travel Oregon Agritourism Network Marketing Committee meeting was held recently at the Sage Center in Boardman.
- Weinstein reported on ongoing plans to promote next year's solar eclipse in the area.
- City- and region-wide marketing efforts are ongoing to support longer stays in the region.
- Oregon Trails Marketing Committee received a grant this cycle from Travel Oregon.
- The Community Development Committee is working with the City of Condon on exploring cultivation of industrial hemp, including oil processing and manufacturing.
- Ongoing discussion was held regarding business retention and expansion on Condon and Arlington Main Streets.

## **IN THE MATTER OF WASTE MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT**

The Court met with Alan Anderson, Waste Management /Chem Waste Senior District Manager; Bob Mulholland, Chem Waste District Manager; and Kip Eagles, Waste Management District Manager. Alan Anderson reported the following:

- Columbia Ridge: Third quarter and year-to-date volumes are up 24.8% (468,295 tons) and 20.9% (1,708,664 tons) respectively over 2015.
- Columbia Ridge: Paid third quarter and year-to-date host fees to Gilliam County in the amounts of \$642,372 and \$2,300,770, respectively.
- Chem Waste Management: Third quarter and year-to-date volumes down 45% (6,538 tons) and 41% (36,200 tons) respectively over 2015.
- Chem Waste Management third quarter and year-to-date taxes paid to Gilliam County in the amounts of \$13,100 and \$23,936 respectively.
- No injuries occurred at either site.

- Employee Appreciation Picnic/Safety Appreciation held September 17.
- Chem Waste Management construction projects include ongoing work on a thermal desorber, landfill closure, and opening of a new landfill cell.
- Columbia Ridge Landfill construction projects include anticipated approval of a railroad expansion project for 2016 and 2017.
- Approximately five positions are open and need to be filled. A job fair held in The Dalles recently netted mixed results.
- Efforts are in the works to reach out to schools regarding possible ways to provide technical education in both communities.
- Chamber contributions have been completed for 2016.
- 4-H contributions have also been completed. The company is looking at more effective ways to distribute available funds.
- WM/Chem Waste is reviewing a possible contribution of a gas chromatograph to Gilliam County Grain Lab. Waste Management is also planning to contribute fire equipment to North Gilliam County Fire District.
- A new host agreement has been approved.
- Renewal of a rail yard transfer station permit is in the works. The permit requires a Land Use Compatibility Statement in order to proceed.
- Metropolitan Service District continues to work on long-range planning, including organics processing options. They are also researching the option of sending 20% of wet waste to a mass burn facility. Metro is also hiring a consultant to review health impacts associated with burning garbage. In 2017, Metro will be reviewing how they apply fees and taxes to Metro-generated waste types.

Anderson also asked the County Court to consider expansion of rail yard at the Industrial Park. Commissioner Weimar stressed the importance of keeping the Court updated on such plans, as expansion of the rail yard may make more sense than other projects.

Judge Shaffer expressed concern about burning of material and effects on air quality.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF PCDC REQUEST FOR BUDGETED FUNDS**

**Motion** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve distribution of \$50,000 to Pioneer Community Development Corporation for funds budgeted 2016-17 budget year. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

#### **IN THE MATTER OF CONDON FOOD PANTRY REQUEST FOR FUNDS**

**Motion** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve distribution of \$11,000 to Condon Community Food Pantry for funds budgeted 2016-17 budget year. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF FIRE SERVICES REQUEST FOR FUNDS**

**Motion** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve distribution of \$60,000 to Gilliam County Fire Services for firefighter training, as budgeted 2016-17 budget year. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion** by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar to approve the Consent Agenda, including September 7 Regular Court Meeting minutes. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF LETTER FROM OPAL FOUNDATION**

Judge Shaffer presented a letter from the Opal Foundation, in which the organization is reaching out to government agencies for funding to assist with maintenance and upkeep of Philippi Park until an agreement is reached with the Army Corp of Engineers. Peter Mitchell commented that the organization's work has benefited the park in terms of fire suppression, staffing, monitoring, patrolling, and cleanup. As a result, tourism traffic is up. The Court agreed that the matter should be discussed at an upcoming Tri-County Court meeting, as Sherman County is the primary beneficiary.

### **IN THE MATTER OF ARLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE**

Arlington School District Superintendent Kevin Hunking was present, along with Science teacher Shannon Thompson and CTE instructor Alan Cunningham, to update the Court on various improvements made possible via grant and County funding. Improvements include new and upgraded equipment and expanded inventory in the science department and tech center, as well as ongoing tech projects and field work. Hunking reported that Arlington High School students have surpassed state averages and seniors have met essential skills for graduation. He also noted that the District adopted new reading curriculum last year, and recently adopted a new math curriculum.

### **IN THE MATTER OF PORT OF ARLINGTON QUARTERLY REPORT**

Arlington Port Manager/Economic Development Officer Peter Mitchell presented the Port of Arlington quarterly report. The report focused on the Port's three primary areas: Port Marina, small business development and industrial development, as follows:

#### **Small Business Development/Marina and RV Park**

- The Port continues to improve the facilities at the marina. Improvements include a new boat ramp, fuel docks, lighting, and power.
- A protected beach and river access on the north side of the island is planned, and will make access easier for users, thus increasing wind surfing. Site plans and bid documents are complete and a Request for Quotes has been posted on the Port's web site with RFQs submitted to five contractors.

- The Port, in collaboration with the Arlington Chamber, has placed billboards along I-84 in Rufus and Boardman. Arlington businesses have benefited from a significant increase in traffic.
- Marketing efforts, including ads in the Times-Journal and on-line have resulted in 25% increases over RV spaces over last year, with dry campers up 206% and daily full hookup camper sales up 123%.
- Sales of diesel fuels and gas were up 27% and 94% since January 1 respectively, with triple the number of customers.
- Economic impact of wind surfing to Arlington is considerable with an estimated average yearly impact of \$28,000. However, range of financial impact is estimated at \$10,000 to \$350,000 per year. Economic impact of RV'ers, boaters and fisherman are expected to create equal or greater economic impact.

### **Ag Lab**

- The Port has invested considerable effort into quality control and scrutiny of the Ag Lab's testing processes in order to ensure accuracy and precision of all testing analytics. The lab's sampling is getting the desired results and earning the respect and confidence of the industry. As a result, the lab has picked up several new clients and key companies are considering sending more samples.
- Cannabis testing is not being pursued at this time.
- New equipment at the lab includes a flame photometer which has already been used. A PerkinElmer GC mass spec sample analyzer is currently in the process of being donated by Waste Management.

Mitchell asked if the Court would object to removing the antique flour mill to make room for the GC Mass spec machine. The matter was discussed with no decision made at this time. The Court also inquired about various small business development projects within the County. Mitchell stated that small business development is difficult; some projects have succeeded greatly, some are ongoing and some have failed.

### **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) (g) Real Property Transaction and Trade Negotiations. Separate minutes were taken and will be filed in the office of the County Clerk. Gilliam County Court regular meeting was reconvened by Judge Shaffer at approximately 3:30 p.m. bringing the Court members out of Executive Session and into regular session.

### **IN THE MATTER OF PURCHASE OF BUILDING IN ARLINGTON**

**Motion** by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to purchase Mid-Columbia Producer Property on Rattlesnake Road in amount of \$82,000 from the Capital Projects fund. Commissioner Weimar noted that the building will be used for County Weed and Road Departments in the north end of the County. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes;  
**Motion Carried.**

## **IN THE MATTER OF SHUTLER STATION INDUSTRIAL PARK SURVEYING**

Judge Shaffer discussed the need for surveying at the Industrial Park, as no survey work has been completed since prior to installation of the last rail spur.

**Motion** by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to hire Todd Catterson of Armstrong Surveying to provide updated surveying at the Industrial Park in the amount of \$2,000 from the Industrial Park fund. The Court agreed on the importance of completing the survey work, which will include road changes and the additional rail spur. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

## **IN THE MATTER OF SHUTLER INDUSTRIAL PARK PLANNING**

Judge Shaffer suggested that due to the survey work, new rail spur, and the possibility of further changes at Shutler Industrial Park, Jeff Schott of Pillar Consulting should be asked to review the layout of the Park. **Consensus** that Jeff Schott will be requested to present an agreement and cost estimate for work to be done.

## **IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS**

Commissioner Weimar reported that he:

- Attended a meeting of the AOC Transportation Steering Committee.
- Plans to attend an Area Commission on Transportation meeting in early October.
- Will serve as acting chairman of the Lower John Day Area Commission on Transportation at an Oregon Transportation Commission workshop in mid-October.

Judge Shaffer reported that he:

- Attended a meeting of the AOC Energy, Environment and Land Use Committee, in which members expressed concern about statewide garbage burning and impacts on air quality.
- Attended a Public Health Meeting regarding modernization of public health. The Legislature has asked counties to begin the process of planning ways services can be shared between entities.
- Attended a meeting of NORCOR. Judge Shaffer expressed concern regarding the possibility of the .25/1,000 bond being turned into an operating levy, and how that decision might affect Gilliam County residents and taxing districts economically.
- Continues to work on juvenile issues in Wheeler County.
- Attended a meeting of Frontier Telenet, which led to a discussion regarding the status of the organization's leadership and the need to generate revenue and compete with other entities.

Judge Shaffer noted that upcoming meetings include Mid-Columbia Council of Governments, Frontier Telenet, Regional Solutions, and the Gilliam County Housing Committee. He also noted that Gilliam County is hosting the AOC District 3 meeting on October 17.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING**

The next Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon.

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 approximately 4:00 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By \_\_\_\_\_

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By \_\_\_\_\_

Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner  
(absent)

By \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

Mary H. Dyer/Recorder