

**01-04-17**

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 APPOINTMENT, GILLIAM COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER**

**Motion** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to appoint Gilliam County Treasurer Nathan Hammer as Gilliam County Budget Officer for the 2017 calendar year. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

**IN THE MATTER OF DESIGNATION, VOTING PRECINCTS**

**Motion** by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to designate the following Voting Precincts: Arlington No. 1, East Condon No. 6, West Condon No. 7. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

**IN THE MATTER OF DESIGNATION, GILLIAM COUNTY ROADS**

In a brief discussion, Judge Shaffer asked and Commissioner Weimar clarified that not all roads outside the County's unincorporated areas are County Roads.

**Motion** by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to designate County Roads outside of incorporated areas of Arlington, Condon and Lonerock as Road District No. 1. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

**IN THE MATTER OF DESIGNATION, GILLIAM COUNTY DEPOSITORIES**

**Motion** by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to designate Bank of Eastern Oregon, Banner Bank and the Oregon State Local Government Investment Pool as Gilliam County Depositories. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

**IN THE MATTER OF DESIGNATION, NEWSPAPERS OF RECORD**

**Motion** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to designate the Times-Journal and East-Oregonian as Gilliam County Newspapers of Record. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

**IN THE MATTER OF BURNS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Court discussed formation of a Burns Park Advisory Committee, per a prior discussion with Darryl Houghtelling of the Gilliam County Maintenance Department, regarding his concerns about use of the campground and pavilion. Houghtelling will be requested to meet with Community Development Coordinator Rachel Weinstein to form an advisory committee. The Court recommended that the board include Houghtelling,

Weinstein, a Gilliam County Fair Board member and at least one member of the public in order to ensure the Board has good input for decision-making.

### **IN THE MATTER OF CAPECO CONTINUUM OF CARE**

**Motion** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve a Continuum of Care Sub-Grantees Emergency Solutions Grant 2017-2019 Work Plan. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS AGREEMENT**

The Court discussed an agreement submitted by Kimi Hulke, Community Service Work Coordinator for Tri-County Community Corrections Adult Parole and Probation. The agreement allows for placement of volunteers who need to perform community service hours as stipulated by conditions of probation or parole.

**Motion** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve an agreement between Gilliam County and Tri-County Community Corrections.

Judge Shaffer expressed concern that the contract, which stipulates no end date, should come before the Court for approval every year. Commissioner Weimar agreed and recommended that the matter should be tabled. Commissioner Weimar's **motion was withdrawn.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VEHICLE**

Gilliam County Sheriff Gary Bettencourt reported that the County's insurance paid \$29,000 to replace a 2012 Chevy Tahoe, which was totaled in a recent accident. Sheriff Bettencourt stated that the Sheriff's Department has ordered a replacement vehicle -- a four-wheel drive pick-up, at a cost of \$29,997, and that the Vehicle Replacement Fund still contains \$1,917. Commissioner Weimar asked why a pickup was chosen to replace the Tahoe, and Sheriff Bettencourt responded that an increased need for search and rescue operations frequently requires use of an ATV, which can be loaded into a pickup for transport and they are purchasing a second pickup rather than a Tahoe because the current pickup is getting old.

### **IN THE MATTER OF OPAL FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

The Court discussed a request for funding for Philippi Park submitted previously by Opal Foundation. In a prior discussion, the Court decided that any funding should be project-specific, and the Foundation responded via letter that they would provide a project budget. Gilliam County Sheriff Gary Bettencourt commented that he sees Philippi Park as "more burden than plus" due to fights, parties, underage drinking and other problems. He also noted that the park is difficult to access without a boat, which increases emergency response time and liability for the County. He recommended that

the County require establishment of an emergency plan if they decide to support the park. Les Ruark suggested that the Court should discuss the matter with Sherman County Court and possibly consider an intergovernmental agreement. Commissioner Weimar noted that the park provides some indirect funding to the County by improving recreational opportunities for the area, and the situation may have improved since the park is staffed by Opal Foundation. The Court agreed that the matter should be placed on the agenda for more in-depth discussion at the next Tri-County Court meeting.

### **IN THE MATTER OF PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES**

Planning Director Michelle Colby notified the Court that she has asked Mary Dyer of High Desert Writing Services if she would be willing to maintain Planning Commission minutes and requested the Court's approval. Colby reported that she has fallen behind and needs help getting the minutes out in a timely manner. Gilliam County Court Administrator Leanne Durfey noted that the Scope of Work with Mary Dyer allows for "all client meetings as needed," and doesn't specify that minutes be limited to County Court minutes. The Court agreed to Colby's request on a trial basis. Rock Creek resident Les Ruark suggested that the Court may want to look at recouping the cost of recording, especially for more formal Planning Commission hearings, via a fee built in to conditional use permits. He also suggested that use of an outside contractor may not be the best solution, and that it may be time for the Court to consider a support position after taking a close look at where responsibilities lie and how they can be shared or enhanced. Judge Shaffer responded that the Court is in the process of taking a hard look at employee responsibilities.

### **IN THE MATTER OF HRTG GRANT DOCUMENT**

Transportation Coordinator Marla Davies presented a proposed Highly Rural Areas Grant Agreement (HRTG) between Gilliam County and the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs for the Court's consideration. The grant is used for transportation of veterans in highly rural areas.

**Motion** by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve the HRTG Grant Agreement with Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs in the amount of \$45,000 for the 2016-17 calendar year. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

### **IN THE MATTER OF BLANKET PURCHASE AGREEMENT**

Marla Davies presented a proposed Blanket Purchase Agreement between Gilliam County and the Mid-Columbia Council of Governments, noting that the Agreement is important for the ongoing sustainability of the County's transportation program. Davies also commented that a large number of low-income and older people qualify for the program, which provides non-emergency transportation for Oregon Health Plan

recipients to and from Medicaid-covered medical services and rides for other qualifying clients to and from authorized destinations.

**Motion** by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve the new Blanket Purchase Agreement with Mid-Columbia Council of Governments for medical transportation. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

#### **IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY BUS BARN**

Marla Davies asked the Court for guidelines regarding placement of a new bus barn for County buses. Davis said she has funds in the amount of \$86,000, which must be expended by June 30, 2018.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Weimar asked Marla Davies about the Safety Committee's request for approval to purchase hallway carpet runners for the Courthouse. She reported that total purchase price of the runners, to be funded by money available in the Maintenance Department budget, is not to exceed \$2,700. Commissioner Weimar also asked about stair treads, and County Court Administrator Leanne Durfey noted that Darryl Houghtelling of the County's Maintenance Department is getting quotes for the treads. No decisions were made.

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

**Motion** by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve the Consent Agenda, including December 7 Regular Court Meeting Minutes, December 7 Executive Session Minutes, December 21 Regular Court Meeting Minutes, and December claims pending review. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

#### **IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

The Court discussed County Court member committee appointments and assignments. Assignments were largely unchanged from last year, although the Court agreed that Judge Shaffer and Commissioner Weimar will share most of Commissioner Gronquist's duties in his absence. However, Judge Shaffer will assume responsibilities involved in the Gilliam County 9-1-1 Board, Emergency Management Planning Council and Local Public Safety Coordinating Council; and Commissioner Weimar will assume responsibilities involved in the County Investment Advisory Board and the Columbia Ridge Landfill Citizens Advisory Board. Leanne Durfey was appointed to the County's Safety Committee.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE: SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK**

The Court discussed a Proclamation Request Memorandum submitted by Andrew R. Campanella, National School Choice Week President. Commissioner Weimar noted that the Proclamation doesn't apply to Gilliam County, and that the Court's responsibility is to support local school districts. Judge Shaffer agreed and the Court opted not to participate.

### **IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT FUND ORDINANCE REVIEW**

Judge Shaffer noted that the Economic Enhancement Fund Ordinance, which is to be reviewed every five years, is due for review in 2017 and shouldn't be postponed until the last minute. Commissioner Weimar reminded that any changes are subject to a public hearing.

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

Commissioner Weimar:

- attended a recent meeting of Mid-Columbia Council of Governments, noting that a recent audit report was good with no issues. He also informed the Court that MCCOG has adopted a policy that requires parents to sign a waiver for young children on public transportation, and that a recent change in bylaws reduces the MCCOG board from 15 to ten.
- participated in a CAPECO (Community Action Program of East Central Oregon) meeting via conference call to discuss an audit required before the end of the year.
- mentioned that interest in marijuana-related business continues. Judge Shaffer agreed that the matter should be looked at, and said that an entity has expressed interest in siting a testing facility In Gilliam County, according to Rachel Weinstein.

Judge Shaffer:

- met with Paul McGinnis of Eastern Oregon CCO (Coordinated Care Organization) regarding rural areas and difficulties involved in meeting baseline amounts required by Medicare. The matter will be discussed at the next Tri-County Court Meeting.

### **IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION, FRONTIER REGIONAL 911**

The Court entered into a lengthy discussion about Frontier Regional 911 and ongoing plans for development of fiber. Judge Shaffer stressed the importance of maintaining control. City Administrator Kathryn Greiner was in the audience and commented that the goal of the fiber project is about the common good, not to make money. Columbia Basin Electric Board member Lori Anderson was also present and commented that Columbia

Basin's intent is to get service to the people, not to look for revenue. Judge Shaffer responded that while approaches vary, everybody has the same goal in the end – to provide affordable, high-speed service to everybody, which also provides opportunities for economic development and healthcare. He commented that an open system that allows people to bid without investment results in lost revenue, and that everybody has to give something in order to get what they want. While the system is still open, he said that revenue "has to come to somebody." He also said that the County needs to begin moving fairly quickly. Les Ruark asked if the Court has given any thought to setting up a full day summit involving all government bodies, in order to review project history, identify common ground and figure out the next step. No decisions were made.

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

The next Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017 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 3:15 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By \_\_\_\_\_

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Dennis Gronquist, Commissioner

By \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

Mary H. Dyer/Recorder