

2-15-2017

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.

IN THE MATTER OF CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Due to adverse weather conditions, an appointment with Oregon State Parks Foundation Board Member Tim Wood and Executive Director Seth Miller regarding an update on status of fundraising for Cottonwood Canyon State Park Experience Center and schedule for construction was cancelled.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Community Development Director Rachel Weinstein presented pre-assessment form, which if approved, will be submitted to Oregon Solutions for a grant to help fund the Gilliam County Attainable Housing and Community Development Project. The anticipated outcome would be to help the project convene partners needed to collect and analyze data, develop a housing strategy and target implementation tools. Weinstein discussed potential budget implications and ways the County's match could be mitigated by other grants and funding sources. The target date to convene the partners is early March, with six meetings to be held in six months. The Court agreed and directed Weinstein to proceed.

IN THE MATTER OF TAX FORECLOSED PROPERTY IN CONDON

Judge Shaffer reported that Condon Mayor Jim Hassing has expressed concern about dilapidated buildings within the City of Condon, particularly a foreclosed home at 221 Potter Street. Rachel Weinstein said that block could potentially be targeted as a project for a USDA Community Block Grant since the County already owns the adjacent house. Judge Shaffer said he wasn't aware of that ownership. The Court agreed that more information is needed before moving forward.

IN THE MATTER OF LARUE INSURANCE, WORKERS COMPENSATION

Jay LaRue of LaRue Insurance was present for a discussion regarding Gilliam County's Workers Compensation Agent of Record. LaRue explained that he isn't completely retired and still maintains LaRue Insurance Agency. He told Commissioners that he would like to remain the County's Workers Comp Agent of Record. Commissioners agreed to continue the current arrangement with LaRue Insurance.

IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve the Consent Agenda, including Jan. 26 Work Session Minutes and Feb. 1 Regular Court Meeting Minutes. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTY COURT MINUTES

The Court discussed a recent request by citizens that the County Court minutes be posted as soon as a draft is available instead of waiting until they are formally accepted by the Court. The Court agreed that Court Recorder Mary Dyer should send minutes to Court Administrator Leanne Durfey, who will read them, make any immediate corrections and send them on to Michelle Colby for posting.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT PACKETS

The Court discussed ways of making Court meeting documents more accessible by citizens, including the possibility of posting documents on the County's website. Leanne Durfey suggested that the Court set guidelines and a deadline for submission of documents. The Court agreed that Durfey should establish a timeline since she sets the agenda.

IN THE MATTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve an intergovernmental agreement between the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Gilliam County for services to be provided by ODOT for Continuous Operations Variance Permit Authorization (COVP). Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENT, AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION

MOTION by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to appoint Tim Wetherell to a two-year term as alternate Gilliam County cities representative to the Lower John Day Commission on Transportation. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

MOTION by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to appoint Kathryn Greiner as the cities representative for Gilliam County to the Lower John Day Commission on Transportation. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.** Commissioner Weimar noted the appointment is a two year term.

IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACT BETWEEN COUNTY AND HELION SOFTWARE

County Clerk Ellen Wagenaar presented contracts with Helion Software for provision of E-Contract capability. Wagenaar explained that there is no additional cost to the County, which is currently contracted with Helion for software used by the Clerk's office to record and process documents. Further, she noted that the capability to provide E-

Contracts would allow title companies to send and receive documents without travelling to Condon, which offers convenience and saves time.

MOTION by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to enter a new contract for E-Recording services with Helion Software pending legal counsel review. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF BUDGET CALENDAR FOR 2017-2018

The Court agreed that the first meeting to establish a budget for 2017-2018 will be held following the regular Court meeting Wednesday, May 3rd at 2 or 3 p.m., specific time to be established after discussion with County Treasurer Nathan Hammer. The second and third meetings will be held Wednesday and Thursday, May 10 and 11, with a tentative start time of 8:30 a.m. The Public Budget Hearing will be held at 11 a.m., in conjunction with the regular Court meeting Wednesday, June 7.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2017-01 STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve Resolution No. 2017-01 on Stepping Up Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2017-02 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Commissioner Weimar reported that Resolution No. 2017-02 is still in formation. The matter will be placed on the Agenda for the next County Court meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

The Court received:

- A card and note of thanks from the family of Commissioner Dennis Gronquist.
- a letter of appreciation from Alan and Susie Anderson regarding the County Road Department. The Andersons noted that the Road Department, specifically Bill Wagenaar and Roadmaster Dewey Kennedy, went “far above and beyond” to keep the roads open and drivable during this winter’s severe conditions. They also asked that copies of the letter be placed into employee files for Wagenaar and Kennedy.

IN THE MATTER OF GRAIN LAB LEASE AGREEMENT

The Court discussed a Grain Lab lease agreement with the Port of Arlington and concerns that the Port may opt not to renew the contract, which expires Feb. 28. If this happens, it will be necessary to discuss the matter with the Economic Development

Administration (EDA) to determine how to deal with the situation, including funds. The Court will wait for more information from the Port before pursuing the matter further.

IN THE MATTER OF ARLINGTON TV COOPERATIVE REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Alan Cunningham of Arlington TV Cooperative requested that the Court consider providing funding in the amount of \$5,000 for a 10-week Information Technology (IT) / Computer Information Systems (CIS) internship proposed for summer 2017. Proposed partners in the project are Arlington TV Coop, Mid-Columbia Council of Governments, Frontier Telenet, Home Telephone, Arlington School District, Day Wireless and East Cascades Investment Advisory Board. In response to a query by Commissioner Weimar, Cunningham explained that the partners would provide various support functions but would not provide funding. Cunningham also explained that the intern would be paired with a technician in the intern's field of study. The program, which could serve as a model for similar projects in the future, would offer not only technical skills, but advancement of skills in maintaining working relationships and teamwork, as well as self-motivation and working independently. The ultimate goal, Cunningham said, is to keep qualified technicians in the area. Commissioner Weimar expressed concern that this isn't something the County should be doing, but Cunningham said that once the program is in place, plans for funding future projects can be developed later. Judge Shaffer agreed that it would be necessary to continue working for other funding.

MOTION by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to grant Arlington TV Cooperative's request for \$5,000 for IT/CIS internship for summer 2017, to be paid from the County's Gainshare line item. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Judge Shaffer:

- reported on emergency preparedness information presented by Transportation Policy Manager Michael Eliason at a recent AOC meeting. Eliason reported that many bridges and public buildings within the State would not withstand a major earthquake.
- noted that Susan Christiansen, Executive Director of GEODC (Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation) has offered to help Gilliam County promote continuation of the Metro contract, which expires at the end of 2019.

- attended a recent Town Hall meeting in Arlington hosted by State Representative Greg Walden. Key issues concerned the new administration’s approach to Affordable Health Care.
- outlined a recent discussion at a meeting of AOC’s Commission on Economic Development regarding potential legislation that if passed, would allow rural counties to appoint private contractors as building inspectors . The capability to hire a private individual would speed up the process for builders in rural areas. Necessary certification will be specified.

Commissioner Weimar:

- attended a recent Town Hall meeting hosted by Representative Greg Walden.
- attended a meeting of the AOC Transportation Steering Committee. Discussions included upcoming legislative bills and an audit of the Oregon Department of Transportation. He noted that while there is room for improvement, ODOT ranks well in the Western United States. Although there are upper management problems, Roadmaster Dewey Kennedy is satisfied with the way ODOT works at the local level.
- expressed concern that Federal money for trapping services within the County may be going away, and that the County will be looking at the matter in the next year or two.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING

The next Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 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 2:15 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

Mary H. Dyer/Recorder