

4-5-2017

Judge Shaffer called the regular Gilliam County Court meeting to order at 10 a.m. The meeting was held at Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon. Present were Judge Steve Shaffer, Commissioner Michael Weimar and Commissioner Leslie Wetherell.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2017-05, ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

Gilliam County Assessor Chet Wilkins asked the Court to approve Grant Application including Resolution No. 2017-05 required for the County to apply for an Assessment and Taxation grant provided by the Oregon Department of Revenue.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve Resolution No. 2017-05, including Assessment and Taxation Grant Application. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT

Maintenance Department Staff Darryl Houghtelling presented his semi-annual report regarding activities of the Maintenance and Grounds Department, as follows:

Courthouse and Grounds

- Rob Turrie was hired as part-time janitor.
- The Courthouse roof has developed leaks due to winter weather. Houghtelling is pursuing bids for re-roofing.
- Sections of the sidewalk are also in need of repair.
- Carpet runners have been put in the hallways and entrances for safety purposes.

Burns Park

- Posts and lights damaged by RVs will be repaired.
- The park opened for business on March 15.
- Park Committee recommendations include increased fees for pavilion usage, facility improvements, plans for Solar Eclipse weekend and policies regarding use of the park during Gilliam County Fair.

Shutler Industrial Park

- Water samples have been clean this year.
- Broken pipes at the concrete batch plant have been repaired.
- The Grain Lab will be cleaned periodically to prevent problems with dust and insects.
- Monthly water readings to the Treasurer are ongoing.
- Houghtelling and the Weed Control Officer Don Farrar have agreed on a weed spraying plan.

Gilliam County Library

- The library is cleaned and garbage taken out weekly.
- Landscaped yard behind building is cared for weekly.
- Sidewalk next to warehouse still needs attention.

Senior Transportation Driving

- Houghtelling reported that he drove sporadically this winter, averaging one to two times per week. Now that spring is here, he will drive only on small trips or in emergency situations.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2017-06, ESD WITHDRAWAL

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve Resolution No. 2017-06 by the Frontier TeleNet Board of Directors for withdrawal of North Central Education Service District from Frontier TeleNet Intergovernmental Agency. Judge Shaffer noted that there is no financial impact or obligation associated with the withdrawal. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF GILLIAM COUNTY LIBRARY REQUEST

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve the Library's request to apply to NASA for a grant in the amount of \$2,100, with no match, for youth programming to strengthen STEM knowledge. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT

Community Development Coordinator Rachel Weinstein presented a Community Development Staff Report, noting her participation in the following projects:

- Housing review and subsequent Governor approval of Gilliam County Attainable Housing Project/Oregon Solutions.
- Ongoing plans associated with 2017 solar eclipse. Elizabeth Farrar has been hired as Eclipse Coordinator, funded by an EOVA grant of \$30,000.
- Tourism/Eastern Oregon Visitors Association, including potential agritourism, water sports in Arlington and other projects and plans to promote Gilliam County.
- Continued involvement with Condon and Arlington Chambers of Commerce.
- Projects for City of Condon, including Library E-Rate and potential for growth of Industrial Hemp in Gilliam County.
- GEODC and SBA: business retention, expansion and succession planning.
- Oregon Economic Development Association fall conference.
- AOC Product Tasting last November, catered by Two Country Girls.
- Ongoing projects include County newsletter, special project grants, volunteer appreciation Dinner, reservations and scheduling for Ford Family tables and chairs, and Governor's Conference on Tourism.

IN THE MATTER OF CONCRETE BATCH PLANT

American Rock Products, currently month-to-month lessee at the concrete batch plant, has offered to pay for repair of damages caused by broken pipes due to lack of proper winterization. It was also noted that American Rock has kept up on payments for rent of land and use of equipment. The Court agreed that proposals will be requested from companies interested in leasing batch plant land and equipment.

IN THE MATTER OF WASTE MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

Waste Management Senior District Manager Alan Anderson provided a report for the first quarter 2017 and full year 2016. Anderson reported that 2016 was Columbia Ridge Landfill's second best year, although volumes for the first quarter of 2017 are down, primarily due to

weather. The year was one of the worst for Chem Waste Management, but improvements are expected this year. Anderson also reported that:

- The company is implementing an employee mentor program.
- Both sites are actively recruiting employees for various positions.
- A thermal desorption unit at CWM is near completion.
- Landfill 14, Cell 4 liner construction has begun and should be completed by the end of the second quarter.
- CRL construction projects include railroad expansion, which would be completed by the end of the second quarter.
- Court members will tour CRL and CWM on April 12.
- Community outreach includes ongoing education, periodic tours for community members and information regarding types of materials and packing requirements at both landfills.
- Consideration of better ways to cover gondolas is ongoing.
- A proposal for Snohomish County, Washington looks promising.

Judge Shaffer reported that a vote to extend the WM contract with the City of Seattle through 2024 has been approved. Anderson concurred that it was approved but not yet signed.

Regarding a discussion at a recent meeting of the Columbia Ridge Landfill Citizen's Advisory Committee, Commissioner Wetherell asked if WM no longer plans to participate in fire control efforts. Anderson responded that the company will still participate at some level, but it has recently come to the company's attention that there is a liability issue associated with driving equipment through the County. Commissioner Weimar commented that area farmers face the same liability issues when helping with fires, and said he hopes they don't "pull back too far." Judge Shaffer agreed that liability is a difficult issue and suggested that Anderson discuss the matter with Shannon Coppock of Gilliam County Fire Services.

Commissioner Wetherell asked about Waste Management discontinuing scholarships to local high school graduates. Anderson said they are looking at reinstating the scholarship program but will be asking the schools to administer them. In response to Commissioner Wetherell asking if scholarships will be offered this year, Anderson said it's possible they will be offered this year.

IN THE MATTER OF DESCHUTES COUNTY REQUEST

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to donate \$2,000 through Association of Oregon Counties to Deschutes County to help with expenses associated with hosting the Western Interstate Region Conference scheduled for May 24-26, 2017 at Sunriver. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF FIRE SERVICES SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Shannon Coppock, Gilliam County Fire Services, presented a semi-annual report, including the following:

- North Gilliam County RFPD had a higher-than-usual number of fire calls (74) in 2016; a mix of wildland fires, motor vehicle accidents and structure fires.
- South Gilliam County RFPD had 33 fires during the year, which is approximately average. Fires were a mix of wildland fire, motor vehicle accidents and structure fires.

- North Gilliam County has gained seven new firefighters since last fall. South Gilliam County has added one new firefighter.
- Structural fire training continues at South Gilliam County. North Gilliam County has increased training to meet training standards and get new firefighters ready for the upcoming fire season.
- Both departments continue to provide education on fire prevention, fire safety, and wildland fires for area students.
- Two grants are currently opened. Both can be used for wildland or structural equipment. Funds may be used for mobile repeaters to alleviate serious safety issues caused by communication problems.
- Umatilla County Fire District is considering dropping a mutual aid agreement with Gilliam County unless Umatilla County is compensated for payroll expenses. The mutual aid agreement is still in effect for now, but the County should determine how to proceed in the near future.

Coppock also noted that NGFD chose not to accept donation of a fire truck offered by Waste Management due to liability issues caused by NGCRFD's lack of control over drivers.

Concerning a structure fire in Arlington, Commissioner Wetherell commented that embers were landing on neighboring houses, yet neighbors weren't notified of the fire. She asked if there is a better way of notifying neighbors of the fire, possibly by law enforcement. Coppock agreed, and also noted that the Department now has a siren to notify residents of structure fires.

Judge Shaffer asked Coppock to keep the Court updated on discussions with Waste Management regarding that company's participation in firefighting efforts within the County.

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR ACTIVITIES IN COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY

Judge Shaffer provided some explanation regarding the application.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve an application by Zayo Group for installation of underground fiber-optic cables within the County right-of-way. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF ARLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUEST FOR FUNDS

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve release of previously budgeted funds in the amount of \$375,000 to Arlington School District. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF MAY 17 COURT MEETING CANCELLATION

The Court agreed to cancel the May 17, 2017 Court meeting due to the absence of Judge Shaffer and Commissioner Wetherell. A special meeting will be called if necessary.

IN THE MATTER OF SUMMIT SPRINGS VILLAGE REQUEST FOR FUNDS

Cindy Hess, Managing Director of Summit Springs Village Corporation, and Board Members Kathy Burres and Jude Berray were present to request that the Court provide \$100,000 in funds previously set aside for Summit Springs. Hess also provided Profit and Loss statements for 2016 and 2017 to date. Commissioner Weimar asked why numbers of residents are so low, and Hess said that although there is a waiting list, people often wait as long as possible before

moving in. She reported that marketing efforts are being increased and spending is carefully managed. Commissioner Weimar stated that a possible conflict of interest because his mother is a resident, but the Court agreed no conflict exists.

MOTION by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve distribution of \$100,000 in additional funds that were earmarked for Summit Springs Village Corporation. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF DISTRIBUTION OF 2017-18 GRANT FUNDS

Letters of application for 2017-18 grant funds have been received and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION ON FIBER PROJECT

Mike Smith, Frontier Telenet Marketing Director; Rob Myers, Frontier Telenet Operations Manager; and Blake Lawrence, Windwave Interim General Manager were present for a discussion on upcoming fiber project. Myers presented information regarding history and essential public purposes services provided by Frontier Telenet, Tricom, Frontier Regional 9-1-1 and Frontier Digital Network.

Lawrence discussed the pros and cons of aerial vs. buried installation, noting that underground fiber is better protected and has a better chance at attaining a customer base, and that the cost of maintenance is lower. Aerial is easier and less expensive to install, but maintenance costs are higher. In response to a question posed by Judge Shaffer regarding maintenance of aerial vs. underground cable, Lawrence said that aerial installation has a 30 percent higher need for attention than underground. Commissioner Wetherell asked for a ballpark estimate regarding cost difference between the two and Lawrence responded that while it depends on the route and the amount of rock encountered, underground cable is approximately 60 percent more expensive than aerial.

Smith discussed the future of Frontier Telenet and noted that technology is constantly changing in significant ways, and that needs are also changing rapidly. The company is identifying different partners and potential ways to use the services, noting that other counties are looking for services as funding for 9-1-1 is lost. He noted the importance of Mission Critical service and said that when aerial cable fails, it is usually during storms, fires, or other emergencies when it is needed most.

IN THE MATTER OF MEETING WITH CODE 4 TAXING DISTRICTS

Judge Shaffer asked the Court for direction regarding the April 12 meeting with Code 4 Taxing Districts and distribution of \$500,000 in SIP Community Service fees. He will use the suggestions to create a Powerpoint presentation for the meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell to approve the March 15 regular Court meeting as amended and claims pending review. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Judge Shaffer:

- Plans to schedule a meeting with Zayo Group.

Commissioner Weimar:

- Attended two MCCOG meetings. Activities included budget approval and hiring of new interim director.
- Attended a meeting of CAPECO, which included work on the organization's Personnel Policy.

Commissioner Wetherell:

- Attended a recent meeting of the Columbia Ridge Landfill Citizens Advisory Committee.
- Has an appointment to tour Arlington TV Co-op.
- Met with Ness Campbell Crane Representative Jim Wright, per his request to discuss business opportunities.
- Is unable to attend an Economic Development Administration meeting regarding the Grain Lab on April 24. Judge Shaffer indicated he will attend.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

The Court received:

- CIS (City/County Insurance Services) 2016 Membership Report.
- Justice of the Peace report and accounting of continuing legal education hours. Gilliam County Justice of the Peace Chris Patnode explained that according to Oregon Law, a Justice of the Peace who is not a member of the Bar must attend a minimum of 30 hours of educational program every two calendar years.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING

The next Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon.

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 3:00 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

By _____

Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

Mary H. Dyer/Recorder