

6-21-2017

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

IN THE MATTER OF CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Judge Shaffer announced the following additions to the agenda:

- A discussion regarding office space for North Central Public Health Department.

IN THE MATTER OF NORTH GILLIAM SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Court discussed 2017-18 Special Projects grant requests submitted by entities in North Gilliam County. This year, grant requests exceed available funds by \$44,015.93, including one late application submitted by Arlington Community Schools.

Judge Shaffer noted that he proposed at the last meeting that several of the South Special Project grant applications be funded by a recreational funds provided by the County's SIP Fund, which could possibly be used to fund requests by the Arlington Lion's Club for trap shooting equipment and City of Arlington for China Creek Golf Course. Commissioner Weimar asked if the Saddle Club's request would also be considered for SIP recreational funds, and Judge Shaffer said their request could be considered, although the Lion's Club and City of Arlington requests were one-time projects while the Saddle Club requests yearly support. The Court agreed to fund the Lion's Club and City of Arlington projects from the recreational funds line item, thus trimming \$37,000 from the total requests.

North Gilliam County Health District Coordinator David Anderson was present to discuss a proposed Community CPR Project in the amount of \$5,000. A request for half of the amount, \$2,500, was denied by the Court at the June 7 meeting after Gilliam County Fire Services Coordinator Shannon Coppock indicated that South Gilliam County already has CPR mannequins and training capability. Anderson questioned why a volunteer was able to argue against funding and stressed that the project is about teaching people how to save lives. He said the North-South divide is archaic and does the citizens a disservice, and that he hopes that the CPR project will unify the entire County. The Court agreed that the project should be funded for the full amount, \$5,000. After "crunching the numbers," the Court agreed to fund all requests in full with one exception, as follows:

North Gilliam County Special Project Grants

- \$12,661.00 to Arlington Saddle Club
- \$ 6,354.93 to Arlington Community Chamber of Commerce
- \$20,000.00 to Arlington Education Foundation
- \$10,000.00 to The Woolery
- \$ 5,000.00 to North Gilliam County Health District
- \$7,484.07 remaining amount to Arlington Community Schools, the one late application

SIP Recreational Funds

- \$25,000.00 to City of Arlington for China Creek Golf Course
- \$12,000.00 to Arlington Lion's Club

The Court also agreed the South Special Project grant applications as reviewed as last meeting would be awarded as follows:

South Special Project Grants

- \$15,000.00 to Condon Chamber of Commerce
- \$ 5,000.00 to Condon Scholarship Foundation
- \$ 7,500.00 to Condon Education Foundation
- \$12,000.00 to Gilliam County Historical Society
- \$ 7,000.00 to Condon Elks Lodge
- \$15,000.00 to South Gilliam County Ambulance Service

SIP Recreational Funds

- \$2,000.00 to Condon Little League
- \$2,610.00 to Condon School District for Tumbleweed Tournament

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to grant Gilliam County 2017-2018 Special Projects requests for North Gilliam County and South Gilliam County in the total amount of \$61,500 each as listed above. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Motion Carried.

It was stated SIP Recreational Funds will be awarded, rather than Special Project Funds, to four Special Project grant applications, as noted above.

IN THE MATTER OF ATTAINABLE HOUSING PROJECT

Oregon Solutions Project Manager/ Facilitator Jim Jacks and Oregon Solutions co-conveners Julius Courtney and K'Lynn Lane provided an update on the progress of Gilliam County's Affordable Housing Project. Courtney thanked the Court, County staff, and Pioneer Community Development Corporation for their ongoing support. Lane, who is also Executive Director of the Condon Chamber of Commerce, spoke of the importance of improving housing options county-wide. She explained that she regularly receives calls from people who hope to move to the County but aren't ready to purchase homes. Jacks explained that the group is about halfway through the process, and that possible solutions are gradually being winnowed down. He explained that a Declaration of Cooperation outlining more specific short-term, mid-term and long-term housing goals will be ready for signing in September.

The group encouraged Gilliam County residents, non-resident property owners and people who are employed within the County but live elsewhere to complete the Oregon Kitchen Table survey regarding Gilliam County Housing Opportunities.

Judge Shaffer asked how a local improvement district might work, and Jacks said that the designation is usually not used for residential projects, but the group is looking at what other communities have done to mitigate risk and improve incentives.

The next meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team is scheduled for July 24 at the Fire Hall in Condon.

IN THE MATTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Port of Arlington Manager/Economic Development Officer Peter Mitchell and Port President Ron Wilson were present to discuss an Intergovernmental Agreement between Gilliam County and the Port of Arlington. According to an Agreement signed November 3, 2006, the Port agreed to reimburse \$750,000 owed to the County via an arrangement in which the Port would sell rock crushed by the County Road Department at the Willow Creek site and return a portion of the profit to the County. Wilson said that the County stopped crushing at 14,000 square yards and pulled the crushers from the site when the project ended. He also noted that engineers have changed spec requirements and as a result, the crushed rock can only be used for drain fields. The Port has attempted to sell the gravel with no success. Therefore, the Port doesn't see an obligation to continue with the agreement.

Judge Shaffer stated that it's a fact that the County has invested \$1 million in the site, and Mitchell said the project is ongoing but currently at a critical crossroads. All agreed that it's necessary to develop, amend, or update the Agreement.

IN THE MATTER OF PORT OF ARLINGTON QUARTERLY REPORT

Peter Mitchell's quarterly report included the following:

- The Port encourages passage of the transportation bill currently before the Oregon legislature.
- Regarding the County's recent request for proposals, several parties have expressed interest in the concrete batch plant at Shutler Industrial Park. A committee will be formed to review the proposals, which will be opened July 10.
- Several people have expressed interest in the grain lab, but most proposed business projects are unsuitable due to restrictions associated with an Economic Development Administration grant for the building and equipment.
- Still in the process of obtaining an appraiser to appraise the Grain Lab.
- The A-Town Throwdown was a success and brought positive attention to the new launch site.
- The Port is moving ahead with plans for construction of a 6,000-foot flex building.

IN THE MATTER OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE REQUEST

District Attorney Marion Weatherford and Office Manager/Victim's Advocate April Aamodt presented a request for purchase of Prosecutor by Karpel (PbK) case management software. Weatherford noted that the office hasn't changed its technical platform since 1998, and Aamodt explained that the new software would make it easier to access files and cases during court proceedings, decrease errors in legal documents, provide more efficient time management, and would be fully integrated with Oregon's current E-Court system. The software is currently used by 28 Oregon counties. Cost to purchase the software is \$19,790. The Juvenile Department has agreed to fund \$2,500 of the total cost. Discussion was held about where the funds would come from for the purchase of the software with a concluding agreement it should come from Fund 199 Non Departmental computer and technology line item. Commissioner Wetherell asked about ongoing costs, and Aamodt said expenses would be \$2,000 annually.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve purchase of case management software for the District Attorney's Office in the amount of up to \$19,790. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Motion Carried.

IN THE MATTER OF CIS INSURANCE RENEWAL

John Anderson of Wheatland Insurance, Gilliam County Insurance Agent of Record, presented a CIS Property and Liability Proposal Summary, effective date July 1, 2017. Anderson noted that small increases were due to the Four-Wheeler Rodeo and Eclipse camping at the Fairgrounds. Court Administrator Leanne Durfey reminded the Court that the County's Worker's Comp Insurance renewal is also due by July 1.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve renewal of Property and Liability through CIS Insurance with Wheatland Insurance in the amount of \$139,075.30; and Worker's Compensation insurance through CIS Insurance with LaRue Insurance in the amount of \$76,000. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Motion Carried.

Commissioner Weimar asked Anderson to request that in the future, CIS provide a proposal sooner so the Court has time to review before making a decision.

IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT AGENDA

The Court discussed the best ways of making corrections to Court Minutes when needed, noting errors and omissions in minutes of the June 7 meeting. Mac Stinchfield of the Times-Journal urged the Court to be careful about changing minutes, and the Court responded that the matter didn't involve changing what was said, but rectifying certain errors and omissions.

The Court agreed to table approval of the June 7 minutes.

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH DHS

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve Amendment No. 2 to State of Oregon Dept. of Human Services Intergovernmental Agreement No. 148065 for the Financing of Community Developmental Disability Services, agreement extending the agreement to September 30, 2017. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Motion Carried.

IN THE MATTER OF WILDLIFE SERVICES WORK AND FINANCIAL PLAN

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve Cooperative Service Agreement No. 13-73-41-5186 between Gilliam County and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS), for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Motion Carried.

IN THE MATTER OF CONDON CHILD CARE REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Court tabled a request by Condon Child Care for release of \$150,000 previously earmarked. Condon Child Care Director Jennifer Bold will be asked to provide an update regarding status of grants.

IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACT RENEWAL

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve a contract renewal with Mary H. Dyer/High Desert Writing Services. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Motion Carried.
Other than dates, the contract remains unchanged.

IN THE MATTER OF CRICKET UPDATE AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

OSU Extension Agent Jordan Maley provided an update on management of the Mormon cricket infestation in Arlington, noting that a recent community meeting was well-attended. Arlington Mayor Jeff Bufton and Arlington resident April Aamodt were also present.

Maley reported a discussion with an entomologist who said the problem is cyclical and may continue for five to 21 years, and that every female can lay 100 eggs, creating a serious issue for next year. Maley reported that “Tempo” is an insecticide deemed safe for spraying within Arlington City limits, and asked the Court for financial support in the amount of \$4,000.

Mayor Bufton said the City is working out logistics, and that while most citizens are amenable to using pesticides to control the crickets, a few are committed to an organic techniques. He also said that the City is trying to be proactive and gain some control to help next year. The State of Oregon has declined to help.

Aamodt commented on the seriousness of the problem, noting that while two crickets per square foot is considered an infestation, Arlington is dealing with 50 to 100 pests per square foot.

Maley said that while it's important to put pressure on the State, an immediate community-based solution is critical because the crickets will lay eggs in three to four weeks. A more comprehensive plan involving ranchers in the surrounding area will be devised for next year. The County's Weed Department is licensed only for herbicides and is unable to assist.

Court Administrator Leanne Durfey expressed concern that the amount requested may not be sufficient, and that it might be worthwhile to consider hiring a pest control expert. The Court agreed that the amount may be too conservative and Judge Shaffer proposed that the County provide up to \$10,000.

MOTION by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to grant the City of Arlington up to \$10,000 for fighting the Mormon cricket infestation. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Motion Carried.

IN THE MATTER OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve Resolution No. 2017-09 declaring a 2006 Pontiac, VIN #1G2ZG558064126220 as surplus equipment. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Motion Carried.

IN THE MATTER OF VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

The Court discussed a proposed Volunteer Registration Form. Commissioner Weimar expressed concern about a request for Social Security Numbers, since volunteers aren't bound by the same requirements as employees. Leanne Durfey also expressed concern and offered to research further, but said the CIS HR Consultant advised the number is necessary for background checks required for some volunteer positions. Commissioner Weimar agreed with the need for background checks, but reiterated the need for more information. The Court agreed and the matter was tabled.

IN THE MATTER OF NORTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

Judge Shaffer reported that North Central Public Health District has been using space in the ESD building but will be required to pay \$171.67 per month beginning July 1. Otherwise, a new location must be arranged. He said the location must be confidential for the public health nurse and others to meet with clients, and that the ESD space has worked well. Condon Elementary School and Summit Springs Village were suggested as alternatives. Judge Shaffer said it would have been better to learn of the need at budget time and that while the County can help, the expense needs to be in the District's budget next year, regardless of County support.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to provide funds for rent of office space in the North Central Education Service District building on a month-by-month basis until other arrangements can be made. Weimar – Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; Motion Carried.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was noted at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

- Judge Shaffer reported that a permanent tax levy for NORCOR failed, although the levy passed in Gilliam County. The matter will come before voters again in next year’s general election. Judge Shaffer commented that Gilliam County pays its share and agreed with Commissioner Weimar’s comment that it’s important to do a better job of educating Gilliam County voters regarding ramifications of the tax levy.
- Commissioner Weimar said he had no report other than a Transportation Package update, which was provided earlier by Peter Mitchell.
- Commissioner Wetherell said her report could wait until the next meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING

The next regular Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 5, 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 1:45 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____
Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____
Michael Weimar, Commissioner

By _____
Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

Mary H. Dyer/Recorder

