

8-2-2017

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 CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Judge Shaffer noted the following change to the Agenda:

- Information on recent METRO work session.

IN THE MATTER OF MCCOG RESTRUCTURE

The Court discussed possible restructure of the Mid-Columbia Council of Governments organization. Judge Shaffer noted correspondence from MCCOG Director David Meriwether regarding analysis of the four entities operated by MCCOG: Area Agency on Aging (AAA), transportation, workforce development and building codes.

Commissioner Weimar related Meriwether's opinion that AAA overhead is too high, but said that in his opinion, expenses are on the high side but not unreasonable compared to similar organizations.

Meriwether's analysis also noted that the four programs might be better under the auspices of various organizations such as nonprofit organizations, Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI), or Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD).

Judge Shaffer said that AAA and the Transportation program have been beneficial for Gilliam County, and Commissioner Weimar agreed that closing down MCCOG would be detrimental to Gilliam County. Commissioner Weimar inquired about the Court's alternate to MCCOG and Court Administrator Leanne Durfey said that Judge Shaffer is the alternate. Commissioner Weimar encouraged Court members to attend meetings regarding potential restructure and the future of the organization.

IN THE MATTER OF NORCOR MEETING NOTICES

Judge Shaffer said that he would request that Commissioners Weimar and Wetherell be added to NORCOR's mailing list. Commissioner Weimar is the alternative representative for the Gilliam County Court on the NORCOR Board of Directors.

IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Weimar noted that two sections are out of order in the draft minutes. Court Administrator Leanne Durfey said the mistake will be rectified in the final version.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve the July 19 Regular Court Meeting Minutes and July Claims pending review. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENT TO COLUMBIA RIDGE LANDFILL CAC

Commissioner Wetherell offered to serve as representative to Columbia Ridge Landfill Citizens Advisory Committee in place of Commissioner Weimar and heard no objection. Commissioner Wetherell also noted that with proper notice, she can usually attend NORCOR and MCCOG meetings held in The Dalles. Judge Shaffer will ensure she is on the mailing lists for those organizations.

IN THE MATTER OF GRAIN LAB APPRAISAL

Judge Shaffer noted that five bids have been received from the County's Request for Quote for Commercial Appraisal of Gilliam County Grain Lab on Shutler Drive. The bids were as follows:

RP Herman and Associates: \$6,500

Jackson Group NW, Inc.: \$4,500

RSP and Associates, LLC: \$4,500

Appraisal Group of Central Oregon, LLC (AGCO-Moore Valuation, Inc.): \$6,000

Bratton Appraisal Group, LLC: \$2,900

Commissioner Weimar said that if all the entities are properly qualified, there is no reason not to go with the lowest bid, based on available information.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to contract with Bratton Appraisal Group, LLC to appraise the Gilliam County Grain Lab as specified by the Economic Development Administration, to be completed within 30 days from contract award. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT #11071 WITH ODE

The Court discussed Intergovernmental Agreement No. 11071, which provides funding for youth programs, including a school-based counselor in Condon and Arlington, as well as summer activities and counseling programs, tutoring, and administrative costs.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve Agreement No. 11071 between Oregon Department of Education Youth Development Commission and Gilliam County in the amount of \$90,000 for the biennium, as outlined in Exhibit F. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

Judge Shaffer noted he received a letter from Rock Creek resident Rod McGuire regarding the water situation in that area. Judge Shaffer said he spoke with Watermaster Ken Thiemann, who said he and McGuire have been working on the issue for two years and have moved through the public process. According to Thiemann, the water situation could be rectified by deepening the McGuire's current well.

Commissioner Weimar said there are similar problems across the state. He is concerned when landowners have to deepen a well so that irrigators who come later can pull the aquifer down.

IN THE MATTER OF VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER QUARTERLY REPORT

Veterans Service Officer Bryan Hunt presented a Quarterly Report for the Fourth Quarter 2017. He noted 69 interviews in Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler Counties – 28 of those in Gilliam County. Total recoveries in Gilliam County were \$33,900.42. Hunt's report also included mileage and expenses associated with Outreach, Enhancement and Expansion for the fourth quarter, and a Plan Expenditures Table for 2016-2017.

Hunt also noted that the State of Oregon has provided additional money to help fund Veterans Service programs and the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, but he isn't satisfied with the amount given to the local program.

IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT & REIMBURSEMENT FOR CONDON SWIMMING POOL

City of Condon Administrator Kathryn Greiner was present to discuss an Intergovernmental Agreement between Gilliam County and City of Condon for funding and operation of Condon Swimming Pool. Greiner said the Agreement looks fine, but she would prefer a one-year contract but would consider a multi-year agreement if it allowed for a possible increase in funding reflecting upcoming increases in minimum wage.

Commissioner Weimar suggested an automatic renewal contract or some type of flexible arrangement, in which the amount would be negotiable. Greiner said she had no problem with such an arrangement, although it's easy to miss the renewal date. She offered to discuss the matter with the City's attorney, but it was agreed that County Legal Counsel Will Carey will be asked to provide advice.

Greiner also noted that prices for swimming lessons did not increase this year, and that the pool employs nine people, most of which are part-time. She said Condon School District remains an involved partner.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to authorize reimbursement of \$38,962.18 to City of Condon for operation of Condon Swimming Pool for July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF AUGUST 16 WORK SESSION

The County will hold a work session regarding the Gilliam County Enhancement Fund Ordinance on August 16 at 6 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION, METRO CONTRACT

Judge Shaffer noted correspondence from Will Elder, Senior Solid Waste Operations Planner for Metro, regarding a recent work session in which Metro developed criteria for the landfill selection process. The criteria considers operations, price, community impact and environment/energy. Landfills being considered include Columbia Ridge Landfill, Finley Butte Landfill, Wasco County Landfill and Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Washington.

Commissioner Weimar said he would like to see Metro’s analysis be open and transparent. The Court will invite Elder to attend the August 16 Court meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEMBER REPORTS

Judge Shaffer reported:

- Frontier Digital is in the process of dissolution. Frontier Telenet will absorb the assets.
- NORCOR is involved in a lawsuit, filed in Wasco County Circuit Court by Oregon Law Center July 21, regarding holding of ICE detainees.
- The Gilliam Attainable Housing Project Team continues to whittle down possibilities and priorities for housing in Gilliam County. Survey results are still coming in.
- He was approached by Cottonwood Canyon Park Manager Tom Peterson, who reported an issue regarding boaters taking out at Starvation Lane on the Sherman County side, although the original intention was for them to take out at Hay Creek. There is no reason for two take-out sites, and possible solutions are under discussion.
- In the coming week, he plans to attend Through the Eyes of a Child, an annual conference hosted by the Oregon Judicial Department; as well as the LGPI conference and an AOC Retreat.

Commissioner Weimar reported:

- He was unable to attend the last CAPECO meeting.
- He plans to attend the upcoming meeting of the Lower John Day Area Commission on Transportation.

Commissioner Wetherell reported:

- She is still working on scheduling one-on-one meetings with Metro Councilors. September 21 is a possible meeting date.
- She toured the Frontier Regional 911 Center in Condon.

IN THE MATTER OF ZAYO GROUP, MIDDLE-MILE FIBER BUILD

Zayo Group Representatives Chris Burns and Stuart Taubman presented information on Zayo Group’s proposed Middle-Mile Fiber Build through Gilliam County. Burns noted that Zayo works only with underground fiber, which is stable and protected from fire, smoke, ice, dust and accidents. He said that the initial purpose of fiber was to support 911 operations, as wireless capabilities will soon exceed maximum capability. The company’s goal is to provide “five-nines,” which indicates that the fiber is reliable 99.999 percent of the time. Burns also noted that anybody, including Home Telephone and Frontier Telenet, will be able to purchase fiber.

A preliminary estimate for total cost of construction from Arlington to Condon is approximately \$2.3 million, but closer approximations will be available as time goes by.

Commissioner Weimar noted that Zayo previously indicated they didn't want to work with Gilliam County, and asked what changed. Burns said that the company does a lot of long haul builds for different customers who like alternate routes.

When asked about the next steps, Burns said next steps in the process include a design for stable and reliable underground fiber, determination of funding, and a meeting with the partners, including Columbia Basin Electric, Port of Arlington, City of Condon, Home Telephone, Frontier Telenet and the County. Judge Shaffer suggested Windwave also be included in the discussion.

Judge Shaffer said his goal is to ensure everybody gets what they want and need. He asked about expectations for a timeline, and Burns said that once a contract is signed and permits are in place, the project should take approximately 12 to 18 months.

Brief discussions also included possibility of eventually extending a fiber build to Fossil and Mitchell, the County's anticipated lease payments, maintenance fees and the RFP process. Judge Shaffer suggested formation of a work group consisting of one representative from each entity, who would bring recommendations back to the Court. Lori Anderson, President of CBEC Board of Directors, suggested that a telecom attorney should also be part of the group. It was also agreed that a County Court representative should also be part of the group.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING

The next regular Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon. A work session will be held at 6:00 p.m.

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 2:45 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

By _____

Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

Mary H. Dyer/Recorder _____