

9-20-17

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

IN THE MATTER OF CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Judge Shaffer noted no changes to the agenda.

IN THE MATTER OF PORT OF ARLINGTON QUARTERLY REPORT

Port of Arlington Manager/Economic Development Officer Peter Mitchell presented a quarterly report focused on the Port Marina, small business development, and industrial development.

Port –

- Worn parking areas and potholes in parking areas and the Island Park way, as well as cracked runways to the grain elevator, were repaired with Oregon Marine Board and MCP grants. Mitchell thanked the County Road Department for a job well done.
- River access project on the north side of Island Park was completed in March.
- A Town Throw Down, an event sponsored by the Port and Arlington Chamber of Commerce in June, was a huge success.
- Mitchell also presented a video showcasing recent activities at the Marina.

Industrial Development –

- Insitu held a demonstration tour of their Arlington Facility. The company is also requesting public support for a proposed office complex in Bingen.
- Community leaders from several towns in the Gorge had an opportunity to see a ScanEagle launch and recovery at Arlington Airport.
- Work has begun on a flex building in Mesa Industrial Park. The current plan is for a 6,000 square foot building. A bid package will be ready in early November.
- The Port has conducted six site tours and completed four major site submissions to prospective clients in the past two months, and has assisted with advancement of several projects linked to Shutler Station Industrial Park and the County's fiber project. Port staff has also assisted with development of solutions for housing projects.
- Mitchell congratulated Transportation Coordinator Marla Davies and Gilliam County Transit for receiving an award of \$150,000, which will be used to expand facilities, acquire new vehicles and improve the County's transportation program.

Small Business Development –

- The Port continues to assist small businesses with planning, as well as expansions of existing businesses.

- In the past quarter, the Port has actively advised two new startups.

IN THE MATTER OF RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve reciprocal agreements with Morrow County and Sherman County for appraisal services. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF REPORT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY ACCESS

Dave Van Hof, wind energy consultant for the five-county Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, and Dana Peck, Executive Director of the Goldendale Chamber of Commerce, presented a report on renewable energy for Gorge wind projects. Peck said that although much of the California market was lost because “we weren’t paying attention and didn’t know to pay attention,” it’s now important to stay up to date on what’s going on in Sacramento, to take steps to make local wind more valuable, and to reopen the California market to Mid-Columbia wind energy. He said that a pump storage facility would make local wind more valuable to California. He also noted that as technology changes, many wind companies are repowering turbines to a higher output and that assessors will have to address the issue. Judge Shaffer acknowledged there have been some inquiries about repowering turbines in Gilliam County. It hasn’t yet been determined how increased output will impact the County.

Van Hof discussed the political climate in California in regards to energy, including a requirement that 50 percent of retail energy must be provided by renewable sources. SB 100, which demands a 100 percent renewable energy standard, didn’t pass but will be on the ballot again in the near future. He agreed with Peck’s comments that availability of pump storage will play an important role for the future of wind energy. When asked what the County can do, Van Hof said that California is facing an energy crisis. He recommended the Court to be persistent, and to interact with the Public Utility Commission. Peck advised the Court to stay in contact with Congressman Walden, who is “always talking to Pacificorp lobbyists,” and to ask him, “What are you going to do for our folks?” Van Hof said the Court should weigh in on any discussions and let it be known at the state level why it’s important to support wind projects in rural areas to ensure California energy doesn’t go to Wyoming at the expense of Oregon.

IN THE MATTER OF GREATER OREGON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Kevin Campbell, CEO of Greater Oregon Behavioral Health (GOBHI) in The Dalles was present for a discussion on GOBHI’s interest in providing services currently provided by Mid-Columbia Council of Governments. Also present was Marcie McMurphy, who managed CAPECO’s AAA program for several years.

Campbell explained that GOBHI operates various services for older adults in the twelve-County region of the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization. He said that if CCOs are going to grow, it's important to look at ways various service organizations can complement one another, including programs such as Project Independence, SHIBA, senior meal sites and others. He said it's important to be familiar with the five counties in MCCOG's region, to understand the AAA programs, and to build on what works. Campbell commented that Gilliam County is a model for preventative behavioral health, and that the same strategy could be used for older adults. Commissioner Weimar asked about MCCOG'S other programs, and Campbell said that GOBHI is interested in all programs except for Building Codes. He noted that GOBHI is already subcontracted with MCCOG for non-emergency medical transportation. It appears that most of the Workforce program will be handled by colleges. McMurphy explained that Area Agencies on Aging provide various services including respite care, family home care, money management, senior meals, SHIBA and free legal services. Veterans programs have also been integrated into the process, which has helped to beef up the program. She said it's important to determine what services are needed, what is lacking, and how those needs can be met. Judge Shaffer commented on the growing senior population in Gilliam County, and stressed the importance of AAA and coordinated care. Commissioner Weimar suggested that the structure of GOBHI should be reviewed.

IN THE MATTER OF ROADMASTER STAFF REPORT

County Roadmaster Dewey Kennedy provided a quarterly report, noting the following:

- Gary Hardie has been hired to replace Larry Hardie as the Department's mechanic.
- Excavation, base rock and tie-in of the Heritage Lane project has been completed at less than \$25,000.
- Crack sealing projects are complete with over 17 tons of crack seal blocks put out.
- The Department chip sealed and fog sealed several county roads, as well as the Arlington School parking lot and the helicopter pad at South Gilliam County Health Center.
- Morrow County will do striping for Gilliam County in October.
- Rock production at the Potter pit is complete. The crusher will be moved to Lonerock Road for paving on Lonerock Grade.
- Kennedy met with survey crews at the Philippi Quarry regarding ODOT's use of the pit and future plans for mining.

- Kennedy had several conversations and meetings with BPA engineers regarding a problem with a tower leg against the edge of Rattlesnake Grade. BPA has come up with a fix to protect the structure.
- The crew finished work on a new shoulder machine, which was used to finish shoulders on Trail Fork Road. The machine works well and will also be used on Ramsay Canyon and Wehrli Canyon roads.
- Employee Trevor Waugh turned in his notice Aug. 29 and quit unexpectedly on Sept. 10. Herb Winters filled in.
- Wheeler County has received a Western Federal Lands grant for chip seal of Rowe Creek Road. ODOT was unable to do the work, so Gilliam County Road Department completed the job.

IN THE MATTER OF BPA APPLICATION FOR RIGHT OF WAY

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve an Application for Activities in Gilliam County Right of Way for construction on Rattlesnake Road, submitted by United States Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve an Interagency Agreement with Western Federal Lands Highway Division for Gilliam County Road Department project on Rowe Creek Road in Wheeler County, in the amount of \$582,076. Kennedy explained that due to time constraints associated with the project, the Agreement will actually be signed after the fact. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF ARLINGTON ROAD DEPARTMENT SHOP IMPROVEMENT

Kennedy asked the Court for approval for the Road Department to make improvements on the new shop in Arlington.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve the Road Department's request to make improvements on the new Arlington shop in the amount of \$24,902.48, funds to come from the Capital Projects line item. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF CENTURY LINK APPLICATION FOR RIGHT OF WAY

MOTION by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve an Application for Activities in Gilliam County Right of Way for construction on Mikkalo Road, submitted by Century Link. Commissioner Weimar commented that the application form needs revision. Judge Shaffer agreed and said that County Legal

Counsel Will Carey is reviewing the document. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF ROCK CRUSHER JOB DESCRIPTION

MOTION by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve a job description for Crusher Equipment Operator as presented. The description will be subject to review. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF BOARDMAN SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

Todd Cornett and Katie Clifford, Department of Energy siting staff, updated the Court on the Boardman Solar Energy Facility and provided an overview on the Court's role as Special Advisory Group for proposed facilities. Clifford said that the Boardman Solar Energy LLC's preliminary Application for a Site Certificate has been submitted to the Oregon Department of Energy and has been deemed complete with the Court named as a "reviewing agency." Public comments regarding the project will be accepted until Oct. 6, 2017. The Department will hold a public information meeting regarding the application and site certificate review process today, (Sept. 20), at Sage Center in Boardman.

Clifford explained that the facility will be a solar photovoltaic energy generation facility with a peak generating capacity of 75 MW. The facility will be located immediately south of I-84, approximately 12 miles east of Arlington and 12 miles west of Boardman, in Morrow and Gilliam Counties, encompassing a border of 798 acres. The section in Gilliam County involves a 2.1-mile transmission line that connects the facility to the BPA transmission grid.

Clifford also advised that the Court can designate an authority to act on the County's behalf, and Judge Shaffer said that the Planning Director will be given authority.

IN THE MATTER OF CAPECO'S INTEREST IN PROVIDING SERVICES

CAPECO CEO Paula Hall was present to discuss that organization's interest in providing service currently provided by Mid-Columbia Council of Governments. She said, however, that plans can't move forward until the State's Unit on Aging receives official notification of MCCOG's intention to dissolve.

Hall stressed the importance of ensuring there is no gap in services and that Gilliam County receives all it is entitled to. She said that although CAPECO is very interested, the driving factor is what's best for the community.

Commissioner Weimar said the Court must put pressure on the State and let them know the Court's concerns regarding programs in our area.

IN THE MATTER OF COURT MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

The Court agreed to table approval of Sept. 6 Regular Court Meeting and Executive Session Minutes.

IN THE MATTER OF TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PLAN

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve the 2017-19 Tri-County Community Corrections Biennial Plan as presented. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT WITH DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to approve Intergovernmental Agreement No. 5458 between the State of Oregon and Gilliam County. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

Judge Shaffer commented that in the future, the Court needs more notice before signing the Agreement.

IN THE MATTER OF ARLINGTON CHILD CARE REQUEST

Motion by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Commissioner Weimar, to approve grant disbursement to Arlington Child Care Center in the amount of \$76,500 as allocated for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

Judge Shaffer reported that he asked Family Services Coordinator Teddy Fennern to inquire about potential causes for the recent decrease in the Center's QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) ratings.

IN THE MATTER OF ARLINGTON HELP CENTER REQUEST

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Judge Shaffer, to approve grant disbursement to Arlington Help Center in the amount of \$8,000 as allocated for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE

The Court received a note of thanks from Katherine Conboy for contributing to the auction pool at the Gilliam County Fair.

IN THE MATTER OF GRAIN LAB APPRAISAL REPORT

Judge Shaffer reported that the recent appraisal report received for the Grain Lab values the Grain Lab at \$332,000. The Court is waiting for a determination from the Federal Economic Development Department regarding the County's responsibility for repayment of the loan. Initially, the Court was told the County is responsible for 60 percent of the value, but the value is less than expected. It may be necessary to discuss the issue with Congressman Walden and Senators Merkley and Wyden.

IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT FUND ORDINANCE

Court Administrator Leanne Durfey presented a red-lined copy of the Gilliam County Economic Enhancement Fund Ordinance, reflecting changes determined at an Aug. 16 work session. Durfey noted also highlighted in yellow were corrections/revisions to the Ordinance.

Judge Shaffer noted Sheriff Bettencourt's request to add Emergency Services Communication Equipment to the criteria allowed for expenditure of the Law Enforcement Fund rationale. The Court agreed with Sheriff Bettencourt's request. Roadmaster Dewey Kennedy expressed concern about the Court's decision to reduce the Public Works (Crusher Department) fund by 2%, from 14.5% to 12.5%, while increasing the Bridge Fund by 2%, from 1% to 3%. Kennedy discussed the importance of the rock crusher, which is "money in the bank," because stockpiles throughout the County provide more flexibility and allow more projects and improvements. He said that funds moved to the Bridge Fund would be better spent in Public Works. After discussion regarding condition of the County's bridges, the Court agreed to return 1% to the Public Works Fund and allocate 2% to the Bridge Fund.

The Court agreed that Hearings regarding the Ordinance should be held during the day since there was no public attendance at a recent Ordinance work session held during the evening. Public Hearings will take place during regular Court meetings Nov. 1 in Condon and Dec. 6 in Arlington.

IN THE MATTER OF LGPI CONSULTANT FOR JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Leanne Durfey discussed the progress of draft updates to Gilliam County job descriptions prepared by a Local Government Personnel Institute consultant, which are ready for feedback and review. Durfey suggested that the consultant be asked about the additional expense involved if she spends a day in Condon reviewing job descriptions directly with department heads and supervisors. Commissioner Weimar commented it would be money well spent.

MOTION by Commissioner Weimar, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to accept a change order in the scope of work with LGPI to include meetings with department heads, up to \$2,000. Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

IN THE MATTER OF COURT REPORTS

Judge Shaffer reported that:

- he attended a recent meeting of Frontier Telenet, which included an update on radio service in Cottonwood Canyon. Neighboring regions must approve the use of radio frequencies before service can be completed and utilized. He also briefly

discussed fiber-related activities in Wheeler County, as well as in the Cities of Wasco and Rufus. A Service Agreement with the Burns Paiute Tribe is still in progress.

- NORCOR recently received a letter from ACLU protesting housing of ICE prisoners, which ACLU believes aren't treated as they are at other facilities. Judge Shaffer said that according to NORCOR sheriffs, the prisoners aren't treated differently. However, the NORCOR Board approved a Resolution stating that a criminal charge must be in place before ICE individuals can be held at the facility. He also noted that NORCOR is considering another levy.
- he plans to attend a meeting of CREA later in the week. He expects that Counties may be asked to fund a wind energy analysis involving a comparison of wind projects in different areas.
- he and Commissioner Wetherell met recently with four METRO councilors and provided testimony at METRO Council meeting on METRO's decision process regarding request for proposals for solid waste disposal contracts. He said that although the process seems to be going well, there is no guarantee that the landfill will receive 100 percent of METRO's tonnage, and that some will probably go elsewhere.
- he spoke about the review of the Columbia Ridge Landfill Conditional Use Permit.

Commissioner Wetherell:

- also reported on the recent METRO meetings, as noted above by Judge Shaffer.
- said that she will attend the final three-day session of County College in Salem later this week.
- said she was contacted by the Arlington Fire Chief, who is concerned about Waste Management's policy of not helping with fires off WM property, and their intention to no longer pay volunteer firefighters who leave work to assist with community firefighting efforts. Citizens have also expressed concern that scheduling of WM events sometimes conflicts with other well-established community events. Judge Shaffer said he would discuss the matter with WM.

Commissioner Weimar:

- stated that his report had already been well covered in previous discussions regarding CAPECO, MCCOG and GOBHI.

IN THE MATTER OF SIP WORK SESSION

The Court agreed that a work session should be scheduled to begin the process of long-range planning for SIP monies as the fund decreases. Scheduling will be discussed at the Oct. 4 regular Court meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEXT COURT MEETING

The next regular Gilliam County Court meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 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 3:35 p.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Steve Shaffer, Judge

By _____

Michael Weimar, Commissioner

By _____

Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

Mary H. Dyer/Recorder _____