



**Court Agenda  
March 6, 2024**

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**Additions to Agenda**

**1.0 Appointment Schedule**

**1.1**    ~~9:30 a.m.~~    9:45 a.m.    Senator Merkley's Representative Sara Schmitt

**2.0 Action Items**

- 2.1    Ethos Training Fees
- 2.2    Prevention Team Member Appointment
- 2.3    Dan Meador
- 2.4    Surplus

**3.0 Discussion Items**

- 3.1    Commissioner Reports and updates

**4.0 Consent Agenda**

- 4.1    Minutes of February 21, 2024
- 4.2    Claims – February 2024

**5.0 Future Agenda Items:**

If necessary, an Executive Session may be held in accordance with: ORS 192.660(2)(a) – Employment of Public Officers, Employees & Agents, ORS 192.660(2)(b) – Discipline of Public Officers & Employees, ORS 192.660(2)(e) – Real Property Transactions, ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection, ORS 192.660(2)(h) - Conferring with Legal Counsel regarding litigation, ORS 192.660(2)(i) – Personnel



**SHERMAN COUNTY COURT  
REGULAR SESSION**

**MINUTES**

**March 6, 2024**

**Court Opened: 9:00 am**

Present: Judge Joe Dabulskis, Commissioner Justin Miller, Commissioner Joan Bird, Administrative Assistant Tammi Gaskey

A quorum was present. No news media was present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Additions to the Agenda:**

**1.0 Appointment Schedule**

**1.1 ~~9:30 a.m.~~ 9:45 a.m. Sara Schmitt, Senator Merkley's Representative**

Present: Sara Schmitt

Sara Schmitt is one of Senator Merkley's Office Representatives who is replacing Dan Mahr. She came to County Court today to meet everyone face-to-face, to get updates on some projects and to hear how things are going.

First off, Sara asked for updates on the following projects:

- Biggs Service District Water System – Water is running and project is wrapping up.
- Grass Valley Sewer – Still gathering funding for this project.
- Solar Trailers – Project is complete. Some trailers probably could be moved to other locations at this time.
- Hemp Facility Fire in Grass Valley – A total loss, will not be rebuilding. Owners are still in the process of thinking of another use for that property.

Sara mentioned that health care places and work force housing came up in the last town hall with Senator Merkley and was wondering if there have been any updates. County Court told Sara that we do have the Sherman County Health Clinic in the County, but otherwise folks have to travel to The Dalles or beyond to see doctors. County Court also stated that Sherman County is still in the need for work force housing.

Sara asked County Court what is going well in the County. County Court listed the following big projects that they are proud of:

- Biggs Service District Water Project

- New Fair arena is completed
- Fiber to the homes in town
- Solar trailers
- Proud of this community and individuals in it

County Court told Sara that Mike McArthur, with CREA, is trying to set up a town hall for the community on the topic of solar. This is to be a non-bias panel of experts from the Department of Energy and other experts around the state. The idea behind the town hall is that so many solar companies are contacting residents in Sherman County right now and County Court and CREA would like residents to be well informed as so much has changed in the last 20 years since the last town hall in Sherman County on this topic.

Sara also asked County Court what things they would like to be bragging about in two years. Some of their answers are listed below:

- Infrastructure sewer and water improvements for the cities
- New housing developments
- EV charging stations around the county

## **2.0 Action Items**

### **2.1 Ethos Training Fees**

**Motion by Judge Dabulskis, second by Commissioner Bird, to authorize payment of \$99 for the Ethos Training for each County Employee that would like to attend and payment will come out of each individual departments training budget line item.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

### **2.2 Prevention Team Member Appointment**

**Motion by Judge Dabulskis, second by Commissioner Miller, to appoint Neita Cecil to the Prevention Team for a period of four years ending June 2027.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

### **2.3 Dan Meador**

**Georgia Macnab, Planning Director, receives a grant to cover the cost of consulting fees but she expects to go over that amount with all the questions that keep coming up in regards to renewable energy. Judge Dabulskis would like to consider giving Georgia extra money for consulting fees for questions in regards to renewable energy.**

**Motion by Judge Dabulskis, second by Commissioner Bird, to authorize \$2,500 to be added to Georgia's Consulting Fee Planning budget to hire Dan Meador to consult on renewable energy questions/projects for the next year beginning March 6, 2024.**

**Vote: 3-0**  
**Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird**  
**No: 0**  
**Abstain: 0**

## **2.4 Surplus**

**Steve Biagi and Verna McClennan looked at the surplus furniture on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The surplus furniture includes chairs, desks, filing cabinets, doors and much more.**

**County Court decided to ask departments to look at the surplus furniture to see if they want anything for their offices. After two weeks of departments looking at the furniture, a sale of the furniture to the public will be planned.**

## **3 Discussion Items**

### **3.1 Commissioner Reports and Updates**

**Commissioner Bird** – Attended a GIS mapping program review by EagleView with the Assessor’s Office; a meeting with Mid-Columbia Housing Authority; a CAPECO meeting; a John Day/Giles French Park meeting; a meeting with Shellie Campbell of NCPH; and a County Court Work Session.

Commissioner Bird spoke to a resident regarding renewable energy.

Kent Water Update – Commissioner Bird stated that there is a need for additional piping to be added to connect to the tank which will be an added expense.

Commissioner Bird wanted to thank Kari Silcox, Keeley Slay, Steve Biagi and all the staff for their hard work on the deep cleaning and renovation projects at the Senior Center.

**Commissioner Miller** – Attended a County Court Work Session; and a John Day/Giles French Park meeting.

Commissioner Miller gave an update on DEQ and the bio solids issue – Company took care of the issue on their own. No DEQ report at this time.

**Judge Dabulskis** – Attended an AOC Membership meeting; a meeting with Drew Messenger, Georgia Macnab and Meredith Smith – County Counsel, with Avangrid; Sherman County Court Security Budget meeting; John Day/Giles French Park meeting; County Employee Appreciation Day; CG Breeze meeting; BOPTA meeting; County Court Work Session.

Judge Dabulskis announced that he is now the AOC Natural Resources Committee Co-Chair.

## **4.0 Consent Agenda**

### **4.1 Minutes of February 21, 2024**

**Motion by Commissioner Bird, second by Commissioner Miller, to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2024, as presented.**

**Vote: 3-0**  
**Yes: Dabulskis, Bird, Miller**  
**No: 0**  
**Abstain: 0**

**4.2 Claims – February 2024**

**County Court had questions on Weed Department mileage/gas reimbursement.**

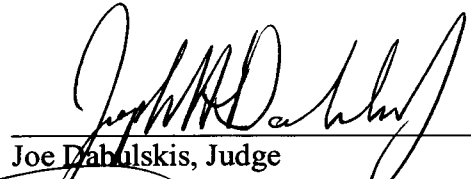
**Tabled until March 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**5.0 Future Agenda Items**

**February 2024 Claims**

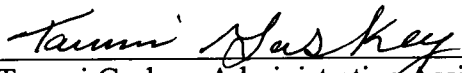
Being no further business before the Court, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

**Sherman County Court**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Dabulskis, Judge

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Justin Miller, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joan Bird, Commissioner

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammi Gaskey, Administrative Assistant