



Court Agenda

October 19, 2016

**1.0 Appointment Schedule:**

- 1.1 9:00 a.m. Ron McDermid – Justice of the Peace – Quarterly Report
- 1.2 9:15 a.m. Jan Byram – Senior Center Director – Quarterly Report
- 1.3 9:45 a.m. Brad Lohrey – Sheriff – Quarterly Report
- 1.4 10:00 a.m. Wes Owens – Sherman County School District Superintendent – Quarterly Report
- 1.5 10:15 a.m. Georgia Macnab – Planning Department – Quarterly Report
- 1.6 10:30 a.m. Jessica Metta – Mic-Columbia Economic Development District – Quarterly Report
- 1.7 11:15 a.m. Sandy Macnab – Extension Services – Quarterly Report
- 1.8 11:30 a.m. Marnene Benson-Wood – Transit Coordinator/Treasurer – Quarterly Report
- 1.9 1:00 p.m. Shawn Payne – Emergency Services Director – Ambulance Service Area Plan Advisory Committee
- 1.10 1:30 p.m. Nate Stice – Regional Solutions – Regional Projects Update
- 1.11 2:30 p.m. Andy Anderson - City of Moro Mayor – Fiber Project Discussion
- 1.12 3:00 p.m. Executive Session in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Personnel

**Additions to Agenda:**

**2.0 Action Items:**

- 2.1 Stepping Up Initiative
- 2.2 Intergovernmental Agreement Creating the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors

**3.0 Discussion Items:**

- 3.1 Wasco Annex Update
- 3.2 Court Communication Format – Citizen Reporter
- 3.3 Sherman County Website
- 3.4 Commissioner Reports

**4.0 Consent Agenda:**

- 4.1 Minutes of October 5, 2016
- 4.2 Revenue/Expenditure Summary – September 2016
- 4.3 Treasurer’s Report – September 2016

**5.0 Future Agenda Items:**

*\*\*If necessary, an Executive Session may be held in accordance with: ORS 192.660 (2) (d) Labor Negotiations ORS 192.660 (2) (h) Legal Rights  
ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Property ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Personnel*



**SHERMAN COUNTY COURT  
REGULAR SESSION  
SHERMAN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTROOM**

**MINUTES**

**October 19, 2016**

**Opened Court: 9:02 a.m.**

Present: Judge Gary Thompson, Commissioner Mike Smith, Commissioner Tom McCoy, Administrative Assistant Lauren Hernandez

A quorum was present. No news media was present.

**Additions to Agenda**

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Transit Periodic Report for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter for 2016-2017.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to enter into executive session in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Personnel.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the Stepping Up Initiative Resolution to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facilities (NORCOR), commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties, and to support a national initiative for county officials, employees, and residents to participate in *Stepping Up*.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement creating the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors to promote public works activities, to promote the professional application of land surveying, to promote the ethical practices of the profession, and to give all counties in Oregon the advantages of these professions in all phases of county services and authorize Judge Thompson to sign pending approval of County Counsel.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Judge Thompson, to sign up for the National Association of Counties' Rural Impact County Challenge**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of October 5, 2016, as presented.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Revenue/Expenditure Summary for the month of September 2016, as presented.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2016, as presented.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**1.0 Appointment Schedule:**

**1.1 9:00 a.m. Ron McDermid – Justice of the Peace – Quarterly Report**

Present: Ron McDermid, Perry Thurston

Ron McDermid, Justice of the Peace, presented a quarterly report. Citations from Oregon State Police (OSP) are steady. OSP is not highly staffed and has a large territory to cover. Sherman County citations are up from the same interval of time last year. Many pay citations through the mail, though some contest them or write letters of mitigation. From the citations written and adjudicated, Justice Court fees ended the quarter at \$139,390.16, which is higher than budgeted.

Seven fish and wildlife cases were filed. Three marine cases were filed. These cases typically involve navigation lights, flotation devices, or invalidated tags. Deputies are not present for the sole purpose of issuing citations but to keep people safe and to educate them.

Ron attended required training in Reedsport with other Justices of the Peace. Administration in the Justice Court is going smoothly, and personnel are full strength and doing a great job.

### **1.2 9:15 a.m. Jan Byram – Senior Center Director – Quarterly Report**

Present: Jan Byram, Perry Thurston

Jan Byram, Senior Center Director, presented a quarterly report. The Senior Center received two infusions of food that helped reduce costs. CityCounty Insurance Services performed a routine walk-through appraisal of the center. Mid-Columbia Council of Governments surveys were passed out and given to Commissioner McCoy to return. A new Area Agency on Aging director has been hired. Cindy Heater-Judah started in August and is doing a great job. Lunch numbers are increasing. Brian Hulke is serving as a new member on the Senior Center Advisory Board. Meal fees were increased starting September 1, 2016. The center has had no negative feedback about this. Sending out to-go meals is going well. Many people hosting at the museum utilize this, and people with sick ones at home also take advantage of this. January 25, 2017, will be the next Pizza Nite. Papa Murphy's donates the pizzas. This event is still being planned. The Thanksgiving holiday lunch date is November 16, and the Christmas holiday lunch date is December 12. The Senior Center Advisory Board is discussing moving the Valentine's Day silent auction fundraiser to St. Patrick's Day. Getting propane through Morrow County Grain Growers is going well. FLI Landscape will be coming in November to winterize the Senior Center

### **1.3 9:45 a.m. Brad Lohrey – Sheriff – Quarterly Report**

Present: Brad Lohrey, Perry Thurston, Wes Owens

Brad Lohrey, Sheriff, presented a quarterly report. Brad reported even though Sherman County speed limits did not change, speeding has increased on Highway 97. Traffic volume has also increased. At this time last year, the county had 37 traffic crashes, and currently, there have been 45. Average speed on the highway has risen from 60mph to 65mph.

Now that the county has a full-time mental health employee, the Sheriff's Department has had half the amount of mental health calls. The mental health employee takes mental health calls, and the Sheriff's Department no longer needs to respond to them. In several instances, assisting individuals in need of mental help would take up to a day of a deputy's time. Now, the mental health worker takes these calls and facilitates getting individuals the help and resources they need. Mental health services are now available twenty-four hours a day. If the employee is not in town, a worker from The Dalles will take individuals in crisis. Between Wasco, Hood River, and Sherman counties, Brad believes Sherman County now has some of the best mental services. When offenders are arrested, upon release, a Multi-Disciplinary Team meets confidentially to discuss offenders the group notices having mental health issues. Sherman County's mental health employee reaches out to these offenders to support them and prevent recidivism.

During budget time, Brad talked about building a shed for the boat. That request was approved. Now, a new building is being constructed in Rufus to house fire trucks. The Sheriff's Department has been offered a bay in the old building to house the boat. Brad is holding off on spending any money to see if this option works out. Brad would like to move back to having a seasonal marine worker instead of removing a full-time deputy from the road to run the program. Losing a full-time deputy makes it harder to respond to calls in the county during

the summer's busy activity. Since Philippi Park has been reopened, the number of calls has remained the same as last year. Rescues are the primary activity. So far this year, the Sheriff's Department has 462 cases.

#### **1.4 10:00 a.m. Wes Owens – Sherman County School District Superintendent – Quarterly Report**

Present: Wes Owens, Perry Thurston, Georgia Macnab

Wes Owens, Sherman School District Superintendent, presented a quarterly report. Staff and students are focused on learning and getting settled into the new building. The grand opening was successful. Homecoming week and the Mid Columbia Producers dinner are happening in the near future. The Hall of Honor program was started this year. Plaques and pictures of the event are on display. Wes hopes to build on this program for many years to come. The school is working with a Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports program. The program focuses on respectful, safe, and responsible behavior. The school is working with the Safety Committee and Sheriff's Department on safety plans for the district. The combined preschool is working well. Having the preschoolers next to the kindergarten room where they will be next year allows for easy transition for both students and parents. The safety features of the new facility and easy access to the lunch room and library are positives of having the preschool on the Moro campus. Brief discussion was held about the possibility of legislation expanding education funding to the preschool level.

#### **1.5 10:15 a.m. Georgia Macnab – Planning Department – Quarterly Report**

Present: Georgia Macnab

Georgia Macnab, Planning Department, presented a quarterly report. Two non-farm dwellings were approved. The Planning Department needs more information on the partition in Biggs. Georgia is working on zoning permits for the new Weed Department facility. She is currently reviewing the site plan and getting sign-offs for the building permit application. There have been a few zoning violations, including one resolved and one in review. Commissioner McCoy asked if Cottonwood Canyon State Park was fulfilling the Conditional Use Permit. Georgia stated in the original master plan, there were no plans to develop the Sherman County side. If any development is done, the master plan needs to be updated and a hearing process would be followed. The Camp Host is receiving ongoing training. Garbage service to the RV Park was an issue but was taken care of. A new washing machine was purchased. The roof of the laundry room is starting to pull away by the eve. Georgia will look at the budget to see if there are funds to hire a contractor to look and see if the roof needs to be replaced or if it can be repaired. Luciano's Tree Service removed a few dead trees. Next year the goal is to keep the grass greener, which proves difficult due to the position of the water hookups. Georgia has been attending many meetings. The organizers of the SHIFT Festival have not yet contacted Georgia about another festival in Sherman County. To allow for planning time, the Planning Department should be contacted about this by this winter. The court may put together an ordinance banning festivals during fire season. A Biological Opinion will be coming down from the federal level which affects developments near streams. A session at the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) annual conference will discuss with this topic. Georgia is current AOC Planning Directors president but will conclude her term this November.

#### **1.6 10:30 a.m. Jessica Metta – Mid-Columbia Economic Development District – Quarterly Report**

The court reviewed the written quarterly report submitted by Jessica Metta, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD). Morrow County has a housing program that has proven successful for them. The program offers incentives to improve existing houses and buildings, which has revitalized their stagnant housing market. Sherman County will focus on rental housing and new construction. The court discussed possible incentives, including offering a set amount per family each rental unit is able to accommodate. The court will continue to work with MCEDD to set up a rental housing incentive program.

Information for the Federal Lands Access Program Grant was sent out.

A public hearing will be held with residents and business owners of Biggs Service District. The district's services need to be expanded to include water service to become eligible for the United States Department of Agriculture grant. There have been concerns that water rates will be too high, but if no action is taken, the health department will require other action, which will be extremely expensive. Taking no action could be detrimental for Biggs.

#### **1.7 11:15 a.m. Sandy Macnab – Extension Services – Quarterly Report**

Present: Sandy Macnab, Marnene Benson-Wood

Sandy Macnab, Extension Services, presented a quarterly report. This will be Sandy's last quarterly report. Cindy Brown withdrew her name and will not be transferring to Oregon State University employment. Cindy has begun working on a temporary SNAP-ED program. Sandy received a letter from the OSU Business Accounting Center stating there is currently \$31,800 in reserves. Typically, \$25,000 is carried in reserves. Sandy is unsure if the \$31,800 is the total unbudgeted reserve or the amount of money not spent in the 2016 fiscal year. When this is determined, a check for unspent funds will be sent to the county. Sandy has been in touch with Mary Corp about phone and Internet service at the extension office. The extension program has paid for internet for the last four years, and the county covered the phone bill. The lease was changed to reflect OSU paying for both phone and internet. The county now owns the land at the Burnet Building. The Burnet Building has T1 connection, but wireless will be provided. The wireless access will be secure and provided through a direct link fixed wireless connection. Commissioner Smith will speak with OSU technicians to make sure wireless is provided in a way OSU is comfortable with. Sandy budgeted the Sherman County office to continue running as if there were a full-time agent. There is no guarantee a full-time agent will be present. Brian Tuck resigned from being Hood River's Experiment Station manager. He will be regional administrator, though Sandy is unsure if he will cover Sherman County. Sandy's position will likely stay open for six months until the process to fill it is started.

#### **1.8 11:30 a.m. Marnene Benson-Wood – Transit Coordinator/Treasurer – Quarterly Report**

Present: Marnene Benson-Wood

Marnene Benson-Wood, Transit Coordinator/Treasurer, presented a quarterly report. A volunteer set up a table at fair with information about the transit program. Transit will be reimbursed for eight hours of volunteer hours. Total passenger one-way rides totaled 1,382. Elderly and disabled one-way rides totaled 1,088. Revenue operation hours totaled 1,563. Revenue and expenses show the previous amount and the current quarter amount. The new fiscal year shows revenue is down \$12,100.66 because insurance for the Bus Barn and vehicles was paid. Revenue service mileage totals 42,821. Grant information shows the STF Formula has an available amount of \$40,000. Another grant has an available \$87,995 to be used for purchasing vehicles. Discretionary funds available total \$121,136 to be used for the purchase of a self-lowering bus. Marnene presented a list of vehicles, vehicle condition, and mileage totals. This quarter there were no accidents, alcohol or drug problems, or civil rights complaints. Transit is considering adding another day to the current two shopping days each week to provide shorter days for those needing only a few hours to complete their shopping and tasks. Marnene stated building another Bus Barn would be good. There are two available lots for this. Using the side lot would eliminate the ability to move county vehicles away from the front of the courthouse. Having water access to a new Bus Barn is necessary for a restroom and washing vehicles. Marnene stated things are going well with the brokerage through Mid-Columbia Council of Governments. Transit drivers are Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPPA) compliant and renewed agreements effective October 1.

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Transit Periodic Report for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter for 2016-2017.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**1.9 1:00 p.m. Shawn Payne – Emergency Services Director – Ambulance Service Area Plan Advisory Committee**

Present: Shawn Payne, Joe Belshe

Shawn Payne, Emergency Services Director, reported an Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Plan Advisory Committee meeting was held and was not successful. South Sherman Fire & Rescue was concerned about the committee being weighted in the Moro area and felt a sub-committee should be chosen from the main committee meeting to be responsible for choosing the Advisory Committee. The 1988 ASA ordinance states members of the ASA Committee “shall be appointed pro tem by the Sherman County Court.” Because of the ineffective meeting, Shawn feels using a sub-committee to determine the ASA Committee will see the same unsuccessful results. Members of the committee come with different expectations and agendas. Gilliam County has an ASA Committee similar to Sherman County, though Gilliam County has two committees and Sherman County has one. As Emergency Services Director, Shawn recommended to the court that the court consider the composition of the advisory committee. The court looked at other ASA Committee makeups. Shawn suggested one possibility is instead of appointing a specific person, a specific number of representatives can be designated per area. Each district or agency could choose their representative. She suggested including dispatch on the committee. The court asked what decisions the committee is in charge of making and what its powers are. This is up for interpretation, though the ordinance states the powers and responsibilities the committee has.

Joe Belshe, Sherman County Ambulance, stated he does not believe fire service should be on the ASA Committee. Commissioner Smith stated not adding fire service eliminates Grass Valley and isolates them. He has heard that if membership is weighted in the Moro area, south Sherman County’s complaints aren’t heard. No matter the composition weight of the committee, any dissenting opinion would be heard by the court. All members of the ASA Committee were invited to discuss the meeting and the committee structure in court.

The court feels it should not determine the makeup of the committee without seeking feedback from the group. Discussion was held about the court naming a position and letting different entities choose the representative or submitting names for the court to appoint. Joe stated the only way the committee will be perceived well is if the court makes the decision and leaves fire personnel out of it. This would include Moro, North Sherman, Rufus, and South Sherman Fire & Rescue. Shawn is concerned this will create further problems and stated the fire districts should remain on the committee so they can be a part of the solution. To balance the committee geographically, positions from Biggs could be added.

The court endorsed proposing the committee be comprised of one community member from Kent, one community member from Grass Valley, one community member from Moro, one community member from Wasco, one community member from Rufus, one community member from Biggs, one member from dispatch, one member from Sherman County Ambulance, and one representative from Sherman County Court. This idea will be proposed to the group, and if no feedback is received, it will be ratified during the next court session. If any member objects, they may write a letter to court or join the discussion during the next court session. Any objections should offer an alternative solution.

Shawn is going to explore offering Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPPA) training for emergency services personnel in Sherman County.



**1.10 1:30 p.m. Nate Stice – Regional Solutions – Regional Projects Update**

Present: Nate Stice, Andy Anderson, Kya Mabe, Will Carey

Nate Stice, Regional Solutions, presented a regional projects update. Nate has filled the position of Kate Sinner. He often travels to Salem to find resources and make contacts to help advance projects. The court updated Nate on Morrow County's housing program. The county offers \$5,000 to anyone who purchases an existing home, which is motivating citizens to fix up homes and increase property values. Statewide, housing is an issue. The court updated Nate about the workforce housing funds available to supplement incentives in conjunction with Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) housing funds. Sherman County needs rental housing, and three individuals have expressed the interest to engage in rental housing projects in the county and are currently working with MCEDD. Different housing proposals were discussed. The court updated Nate on the housing partnership the county sought with Sherman County School District and Mid Columbia Producers. Nate stated public entities like a school district or a county are eligible to take a loan out of the fund at 1% and that prevailing wage kicks in at \$750,000. Nate will verify this information. Discussion was held about scrubland and the connection between land usage and housing needs.

Nate stated he is impressed with the work that has been done in the county regarding broadband. Sherman County is ahead of the game compared to other regions. Nate is looking for leadership from the court when engaging in regional collaboration on broadband. Commissioner Smith stated the court encourages Lightspeed Networks to use the existing fiber line in Sherman County, and the line is an asset for them as it is for any other Internet service provider. The fiber line was installed primarily for emergency services and law enforcement communication.

Nate reached out to Sherman County Raceway in Grass Valley. While infrastructure issues exist, the raceway is in a slow-growth phase. Improvements will be needed in the future, but not at this time. Nate will begin to formulate a path to provide services as a long-term project.

Brief discussion was held about the parks bill in the House and Senate. The court updated Nate about the communication tower being placed in Cottonwood Canyon State Park. The Federal Lands Access Program Grant has been submitted for Starvation Lane.

Rufus Industrial Park will be placed on the Regional Priority Industrial Lands list. This list certifies a specific number of sites per region as priority lands for development. The legislature will be approached for funds or this.

The Biggs water project requires a public hearing to update the district services to include water service. This will allow for application for United States Department of Agriculture grant funding.

The Mack's to the Mouth Trail along the Deschutes River is five miles of railroad bed that needs to be cleaned. Five bridges need to be built to make this a passable trail. Nate asked to be added to the quarterly report list.

**1.11 2:30 p.m. Andy Anderson - City of Moro Mayor – Fiber Project Discussion**

Present: Andy Anderson, Kya Mabe

Andy Anderson, City of Moro Mayor, stated the city needs to catch up on the fiber project. Andy agrees with fiber and believes it is the right direction to go and is important to the citizens and businesses of Sherman County. The city was approached by Lightspeed Networks (LSN) for a franchise agreement for the Internet services they are bringing into town. Andy believed LSN was the company installing fiber. The city is out of the

loop and utilities are in the public right-of-ways with no way for the city to control or maintain them. Many small communities set up a franchise agreement with companies offering services in their city as a way to control who the services are offered to. It is important to make services available to all citizens. The city needs to be in the loop with Internet providers to help protect public right-of-ways. Andy questioned how Windwave got to work in the city limits. He does not believe permits were applied for. The city received complaints when things were torn up. Andy asked that as the project moves forward, Windwave and any other company set up a franchise agreement with the city if they want to provide services.

The court explained Windwave should have applied for permits and a franchise agreement before working in town. Commissioner Smith explained the background of the fiber project. Sherman County spoke with Century Link and other providers and could not get any entity to provide fiber Internet. The goal was to get fiber to the facility in Erskine for emergency services and law enforcement communication. Frontier TeleNet (FTN), owned by Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler counties, partnered to create an emergency services network mixed in with Internet because no providers would service the area. FTN provides internet bandwidth, and currently, Rural Technology Group uses it to provide Internet. The county is not a public utility, but FTN is. Sherman County requested FTN deliver fiber to the county and make it available for Internet providers. FTN awarded the contract to Windwave, a construction company through Inland Corporation. The county relied on Windwave to do any necessary permitting, and the construction manager stated a franchise agreement was picked up in June. Kya Mabe, Moro City Administrator, stated no application was turned in. Before any service is provided, this needs to be turned in. Andy reported several individuals in Moro are unhappy with how things were left after fiber was installed. It is Windwave's responsibility to fix this. Commissioner Smith gave Kya Windwave's contact information. Andy requested as the county moves forward, it talks to vendors and emphasizes the need to approach the city so the city has the leverage to make sure all citizens receive service.

Andy gave a brief update about downtown renovations. The final draft of the application is almost ready. Some projects should be started by the beginning of the year. Moro set aside \$10,000 last fiscal year and \$5,000 this fiscal year, totaling \$15,000.

### **1.12 3:00 p.m. Executive Session in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Personnel**

Present: Ross Turney

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to enter into executive session in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Personnel.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

The court entered into executive session at 3:06 p.m.

Conversation was held outside of the topic of the purpose of the executive session about Joint District Appropriations for 2015-2016 in Wasco, Hood River, Gilliam, and Sherman counties.

The Court discussed a letter of complaint submitted and came out of executive session at 3:43 p.m.

### **Additions to Agenda:**

#### **2.0 Action Items:**

##### **2.1 Stepping Up Initiative**

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the Stepping Up Initiative Resolution to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facilities (NORCOR), commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties, and to support a national initiative for county officials, employees, and residents to participate in *Stepping Up*.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

## **2.2 Intergovernmental Agreement Creating the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors**

An Association of County Engineers and Surveyors is being set up to promote public works activities. The association will help with receiving funding for these types of projects. More funds for roads should come to Sherman County's Road Department from the state.

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement creating the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors to promote public works activities, to promote the professional application of land surveying, to promote the ethical practices of the profession, and to give all counties in Oregon the advantages of these professions in all phases of county services and authorize Judge Thompson to sign pending approval of County Counsel.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

## **3.0 Discussion Items:**

### **3.1 Wasco Annex Update**

The Court received an energy assessment for the Wasco Annex with a rough conceptual budget for the project proposed by DiLoreto Architects. Sora Design Group was asked to look at the newer building in relation to energy usage. Sora estimates the energy improvements contained in the report could result in an almost 20% reduction in energy usage for the newer gym, though this is only about \$1,700 per year. It will take almost \$800,000 to remodel the newer building. Based on this, Commissioner McCoy suggested the court give up the idea of remodeling the newer gym. He suggested if the Wasco City Council agrees to take ownership of the Wasco Annex, the court should offer to invest up to \$250,000 of improvements to the main building and help the city run the building until the end of SIP. If the city does not agree to take ownership, he suggested the court operate the building at minimum level and make no further investments. Commissioner Smith stated no citizens he spoke with like the idea of remodeling the newer gym. If the city does not want the building, one possibility is to remodel the newer building and abandon the older building, but the court acknowledged this is not what citizens want. The results of the Sora study show remodeling the newer building is not a viable option. The court could offer to paint the building, install a new roof, and improve the efficiency of systems up to \$250,000. If Wasco isn't interested in accepting this offer, the court recognized it can keep the building running through the end of SIP but will have a hard decision to make after SIP funding is decreased.

One remaining possibility is senior housing. If senior housing can be funded through grant money and federal dollars, it may not work with the annex in place. It is possible the building could be razed to allow for senior

housing to be built if this is the action taken. Moving the annex in the direction of senior housing will take at least a year, and in that time, the City of Wasco can make a decision about taking ownership of the annex.

Commissioner Smith and Commissioner McCoy attended a Waco City Hall meeting. They gave an overview of the last town meeting held about the Wasco Annex. Commissioner Smith explained if an independent group takes over the annex, there must be a backup plan for failure so the city is not encumbered with the building. If the county provides revenue to the group to get the process going, the group should be able to commit to the city that the building will not cost anything to the city. For example, if the plan does not work, the group could market the building before it becomes a burden to the city. Commissioner McCoy agreed with this plan. Commissioner Smith stated the individual group needs to make a commitment to the city that it will not cost the city anything. The county could provide assistance to allow the building to stay in the community and function well for the community. The court has been looking to lease space in the building and has attempted to make the building usable for Wasco, but the county is not the best owner for the facility. In the event the individual group was not successful in running the annex, the building could be put on the market and costs could be recovered to help avoid expense. If sold, the building would be put on the tax rolls, and the facility may no longer be public access. It is possible a group could form a 501(c)(3) and approach the court for support.

Judge Thompson received an email from National Association of Counties (NaCo) asking if the county would like to sign up for the Rural Impact County Challenge. Counties have the opportunity to engage with United States Department of Agriculture administrative representatives while learning about grants and technical systems. This is at no cost to the county. The county would commit to participating in the challenge and would send a representative from the court to meetings in Washington D.C. or with NaCo. Joining may open up more federal grant resources and gives unique resources and opportunities small rural counties don't always have access to.

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Judge Thompson, to sign up for the National Association of Counties' Rural Impact County Challenge**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

### **3.2 Court Communication Format – Citizen Reporter**

The Sherman County Citizen Reporter, according to one of the first issues published in October of 2000, was created because “the county does not have a local newspaper.” The October issue outlined that other news sources are available, but none cover the general affairs of the county. The Reporter was meant to offer information that helps keep citizens informed about local governments and other important events. The Reporter is a valuable news source, but it lacks news about the general affairs of the county. Lauren Hernandez, Administrative Assistant, suggested the format of The Reporter be modified to accommodate more text and information. She also suggested the issues include more information directly relating to County Court. This could happen in the format of a news release, court bulletins, articles highlighting specific projects, and more. The court supported this change. Lauren will begin to look into changing the format of The Reporter and will begin to compose articles or other informational formats highlighting court information.

### **3.3 Sherman County Website**

Lauren explained to the court that she has been working with MicroSphere Technologies on updating the website but is having issues. The website was created by an outside source, and the county does not own the format or templates. This means no pages can be created to look like the other pages on the website. The Juvenile Department web page is directed to a different domain, which makes it unavailable. Security on the

website is outdated. Lauren has very limited control of changing content on existing pages. She proposed looking into having the website reconfigured so the county owns it in its entirety and can access all of it for editing and updating. The court agreed, and Lauren will begin looking into options to present at the next meeting.

### **3.3 Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Smith – Attended a Wasco City Council meeting to discuss the Wasco Annex; things are moving forward for the building in The Dalles for Mid-Columbia Center for Living; attended North Central Public Health Department meeting; soon there will be a public health summit to talk about public health in our region – Mid-Columbia Medical Center is sponsoring it, but Sherman and Gilliam County are not invited; attended an Ambulance Service Area Plan meeting; attended Association of Oregon Counties District 3 meeting; talked with Gilliam County about the resident incentive program in their county; Gilliam County only offers it to home owners, not renters, and the application only goes out once; attended other regular meetings; attended a Community Action Council meeting; attending the school opening ceremony.

Judge Thompson – Attended a Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone meeting; received an update on John Day pump station and by Dave Van't Hoff; attended a Mid-Columbia Housing Authority meeting; trying to figure out how to spend Mid-Columbia Economic Development District housing loan dollars; special session, safety meetings, school opening; will attend a Community Renewable Energy Association meeting tomorrow; plans to attend a leadership summit in Portland for Business Oregon; attended an Association of Oregon Counties legislative committee meeting in Salem.

Commissioner McCoy – Attended a Community Advisory Council meeting; attended a Senior Advisory Council meeting; attended Soil and Water Conservation District meeting and there was no quorum; discussed right to farm; attended Association of Oregon Counties District 3 meeting; attended the court special session; attended the grand opening of school; attended a Wasco City Council meeting; will attend a Northern Oregon Regional Corrections meeting, and funding is progressing well.

### **4.0 Consent Agenda:**

#### **4.1 Minutes of October 5, 2016**

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of October 5, 2016, as presented.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

#### **4.2 Revenue/Expenditure Summary – September 2016**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Revenue/Expenditure Summary for the month of September 2016, as presented.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**4.3 Treasurer's Report – September 2016**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2016, as presented.**

**Vote: 3-0**


**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

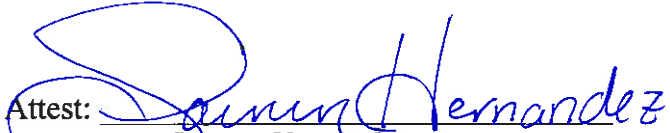
**No: 0**

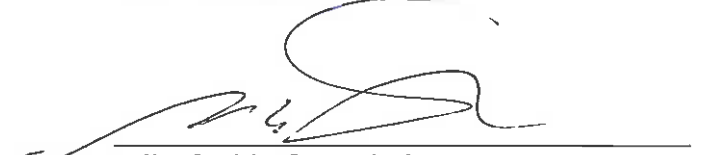
**Abstain: 0**

Being no further business before the Court, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

**Sherman County Court**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Thompson, Judge

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lauren Hernandez  
Administrative Assistant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Smith, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom McCoy, Commissioner