



## Court Agenda

**October 5, 2016**

### **1.0 Appointment Schedule:**

- 1.1** 9:00 a.m. Amanda Hoey and Jessica Metta – Mid-Columbia Economic Development District – Review and Approval of the Sherman County Coordinated Transportation Plan 2016-2019; Workforce Housing
- 1.2** 10:00 a.m. Shawn Payne – Emergency Services Director – Quarterly Report
- 1.3** 10:45 a.m. Rod Asher – Weed District Director – Quarterly Report
- 1.4** 11:00 a.m. Amber DeGrange – Juvenile Director – Quarterly Report
- 1.5** 11:30 a.m. Beth McCurdy – Fair Board Secretary – Quarterly Report
- 1.6** 1:00 p.m. Debbie Hayden – Finance Director – Supplemental Budget Hearing
- 1.7** 1:15 p.m. Tom Peterson – Cottonwood Canyon Park Manager – Cottonwood Canyon State Park Annual Report/Starvation Lane Road Use Data
- 1.8** 1:45 p.m. Jenine McDermid – Clerk – Quarterly Report/Board of Property Tax Appeals Appointment

### **Additions to Agenda**

- 3.2 Letter to the City of Moro – Fiber Project
- 3.3 Fiber Update

### **2.0 Action Items:**

- 2.1 Resident Incentive Program Request – Doris Alley
- 2.2 Library Board Appointment – Larry Hocter
- 2.3 Gorge Technology Alliance Sponsorship Renewal Request
- 2.4 FLI Landscape Fall Clean-Up/Winterization Estimate – Courthouse and Senior Center
- 2.5 Agreement for Services – Portland State University and Sherman County – South Sherman Fire & Rescue District Income Survey

### **3.0 Discussion Items:**

- 3.1 Commissioner Reports

- 3.2 Letter to the City of Moro – Fiber Project
- 3.3 Fiber Update

**4.0 Consent Agenda:**

- 4.1 Minutes of September 21, 2016
- 4.2 Claims – 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 5, 2016**

**Opened Court: 9:05 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**

- 3.2 Letter to City of Moro
- 3.3 Fiber Update

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to adopt the Sherman County Coordinated Transportation Plan 2016 Update as recommended by Mid-Columbia Economic Development District and authorize Judge Thompson to sign.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to adopt a resolution making appropriations within the Weed Control Fund and Tri-County Veterans' Fund in the amounts for the purposes presented in the Summary of Supplemental Budget for a total of \$26,191.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the appointment of Jeanne Kuettel and Justin Miller from the Non-Office Holding Pool and Gary Thompson with Mike Smith as alternate from the Office Holding Pool to the 2016-2017 Board of Property Tax Appeals.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the Blanket Purchase Agreement between Mid-Columbia Council of Governments and Sherman County for Medicaid transportation.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to deny the Resident Incentive Program appeal from Doris Alley due to Ms. Alley's moving out of the county before payment is sent, making her ineligible to receive a check.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to re-appoint Larry Hctor to the Library Board for a four-year term to expire July 1, 2020, as recommended by the Sherman County Public/School Library Board.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve sponsorship renewal of Gorge Technology Alliance at the Silicon level in the amount of \$500 for the period October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve an estimate from FLI Landscape in the amount of \$1,165 to provide general fall clean-up maintenance and irrigation winterization to the courthouse and in the amount of \$80 to provide irrigation winterization at the Senior Center for a total of \$1,245.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Agreement for Survey Services contract between Portland State University and Sherman County on behalf of South Sherman Fire and Rescue District to conduct an income survey that can be used to apply for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant funding 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 Smith, second by Judge Thompson, to approve the minutes of September 21, 2016, as presented.**

**Vote: 2-0**

**Yes: Smith, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 1**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Claims for the month of September, as presented.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**1.1 9:00 a.m. Amanda Hoey, Jessica Metta – Mid-Columbia Economic Development District – Review and Approval of the Sherman County Coordinated Transportation Plan 2016-2019; Workforce Housing**

Present: Amanda Hoey, Jessica Metta

Amanda Hoey, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) Executive Director, presented the Sherman County Coordinated Transportation Plan. The Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee met twice to set plan priorities, review public comment, and make necessary revisions. The plan is required for any entity receiving state or federal funds for transportation services and allows Sherman County to continue to receive Special Transportation Funds. The process of revising the plan included reaching out to stakeholders, conducting an inventory of existing services and equipment, and developing strategies to address needs and gaps in Sherman County's public transportation. The plan's focus remains on the high priority of funding and maintaining current services. Most expansion services fell into the medium-low priority category. Extending additional transportation services for older adult clients for medical services fell into the high priority category. The Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee adopted the plan at their last meeting.

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to adopt the Sherman County Coordinated Transportation Plan 2016 Update as recommended by Mid-Columbia Economic Development District and authorize Judge Thompson to sign.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

Jessica Metta, MCEDD, summarized Sherman County Court has expressed the desire to use workforce housing dollars to encourage and support projects that develop new housing in the county, primarily for rent but also for sale. The county offered construction loans in the past, working directly with homeowners. This is something that could be continued, though the requirement would remain that applicants must be denied by a bank to be eligible for the loan. The county could also work with employers to encourage them to create their own programs to encouraging housing. The court could partner with entities like Mid Columbia Producers, though this will be explored in the future.

Jessica provided a list of other options to encourage housing-for-rent:

**Grants:** The county could provide grants to encourage rental housing with the understanding that grant dollars will not be returned to the county. A *developer contribution assistance match grant* could provide matching funds with specific parameters to a developer to help cover down payments. The county could match a percentage up to a set dollar limit per rental unit of the project. A *project completion grant* could be provided to the developer up to a specific dollar amount per rental unit or a percentage of the overall project. A *rent subsidy grant* could be given per rental unit or as a percentage of the rent to the developer on a monthly or annual basis. This will allow the developer to charge a lower rent to allow the project to provide a higher rate of return to incentivize the developer to do the project.

**Donation of land:** The county could donate land for development of rental housing but stipulate the county will be paid upon sale of donated property.

**Subsidized interest rates:** The county could subsidize rates on loans to pay for rental housing construction. These funds would buy down the interest rates other lenders would charge. The effective rate for the borrowers will be 0% in most cases. The court is interested in looking into subsidizing interest if the loan comes from outside the county. The court is not in the position to determine if projects are viable, which is why working with MCEDD and the loan board is a good option. Funds used for these housing options would be a mixture of county workforce housing dollars and MCEDD housing loan funds. Different loan types and lenders were discussed. Amanda explained subsidizing interest rates could be a flexible tool for the county and could be used for housing programs or commercial loans, though workforce housing is the focus. Incentives to help people build homes were discussed, though the challenge with this is many are looking for acreage that is not available.

**Low interest and/or deferred loans:** The county could loan funds at low or 0% interest rates or could offer deferred loans to be paid back when the project sells. This type of loan has a longer return term. In each of these options, MCEDD could use the loan board structure to decide if a project meets the criteria for the chosen option. Funds could come from the \$1.9 million of MCEDD housing loan funds, though Sherman County housing dollars will be used to cover what the loan fund cannot cover, like grant options.

**Low or zero-interest construction loans, construction loan guarantees, forgivable loans:** Jessica suggested the construction loan offered to home builders could be offered to a developer trying to build rental housing. Mixing county dollars with MCEDD dollars will increase the funds available to support housing projects. The menu of options presented by Jessica could be offered to applicants. MCEDD will accept the applications and work with applicants to get them into the Attainable Housing Revolving Loan Fund or a United States Department of Agriculture loan program. For projects in Sherman County, the applicant could request an option from the list. The county could use the loan board to negotiate the terms and details of the option chosen.

Commissioner Smith suggested the possibility of the county buying down interest or forgiving a portion of the loan. For example, for every \$100,000, the developer could recover \$5,000. The portion recovered can be used to buy down the interest. The court brainstormed scenarios using this option. A menu of options that treats all applicants the same but allows them to choose according to individual needs is ideal. Amanda suggested the court calculate incentives based on the anticipated amount expected back from property taxes. The county will recover grant funds through property tax. Without the incentive, no taxes would be received because no projects would be started. The court would like to move forward with potential projects as a program is built and adjust if needed in the future.

Commissioner McCoy stated he is not favorable to having the county make private loans to individuals, though he is not opposed to subsidizing loans to an extent if the loan is provided by an outside entity.

Of the options presented, the court is interested in grants, donation of land, and subsidized interest rates. A construction loan program is already in place and will be continued. Forgivable loans could be an option if the loan is funded by MCEDD and the county forgave a small portion of it. The county's obligation should be fixed

and short-term to fix an immediate rental-housing shortage problem. The court favors the idea of offering applicants a menu of options. Brief discussion was held about the possibility of partnering with local banks. The rental-housing program will take time to set up, and MCEDD will take the options provided by Jessica and develop a more formal program package. Currently, there is at least one active proposal and a few others that may be coming forward. The court would like to maximize MCEDD's housing loan fund to save Sherman County housing funds for incentives on the list.

## **1.2 Shawn Payne – Emergency Services Director – Quarterly Report**

Present: Shawn Payne

Shawn Payne, Emergency Services Director, presented a quarterly report. Sherman County Ambulance received payment from South Sherman Fire & Rescue (SSFR) for the Emergency Medical Technician class. Shawn will no longer do billing for SSFR. SSFR came to the decision to have their new administrative assistant complete the billing. Shawn will work with the new assistant and offer support as needed. The Ambulance Service Area (ASA) and Emergency Aid meeting will be held October 13 to determine the ASA Advisory Committee structure. Shawn is starting a few grants, including a Sherman Development League grant for North Sherman and Sherman County Ambulance. Sherman County Ambulance is planning on updating its EKG machine to a Lucas machine. Shawn is working on organizing the annual banquet to be held on December 10. One volunteer will attend an EMT class being held in Condon using Polycom technology to attend lectures.

## **1.3 10:45 a.m. Rod Asher – Weed District Director – Quarterly Report**

Present: Rod Asher

Rod Asher, Weed District Director, presented a quarterly report. Seasonal crew will be working on the Deschutes until the end of the month. November 1 is the approximate cut-off date for seasonal crew. Much progress has been made and the crew is treating lots of Skeletonweed. Paul Dornbirer, Lower Deschutes Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator, is making contacts in Wasco County. Most of the work done in September was done on the Wasco County side. This spring, one canyon was infested with Skeletonweed. This September when crews went back to spray, cows grazing the land chewed and stomped the weeds. Only existing plants were sprayed to kill off the root systems. No Skeletonweed was found outside of the canyon. Crews strung 600 feet of hose under the culvert as far as possible to spray and then backpacked from there. Equipment approved during last court session was ordered. Rod is working on end-of-the-year billing and wrapping up summer projects and summaries. Columbia Tree Service has been hired to do tree maintenance in DeMoss Park and should do the work this fall. Rod talked to Heath Gardner, Wenaha Group, about chemicals in the storage room and provided a list and typical quantities kept on hand to be used for planning for the new Weed Department facility storage room. The new building should break ground this fall. Rod reported all equipment is functioning well. Rod stated in the future he would like to approach Wasco County about being a full weed-control partner so the crew can stay on all season long. Many other entities contribute funds, including Wasco County's Soil and Water Conservation District. Noxious weeds cause problems in both Sherman and Wasco County. Judge Thompson will approach Wasco County commissioners about a potential partnership. Rod plans to do some restoration work in burn zones with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on the Sherman County side. Rod may submit an informational article in the spring for the Citizen Reporter about the function of the Weed Department, the benefits of the work being done, and where funding comes from.

#### **1.4 11:00 a.m. Amber DeGrange – Juvenile Director – Quarterly Report**

Present: Amber DeGrange, Beth McCurdy

Amber DeGrange, Juvenile Director, presented a quarterly report. Currently, four delinquency cases are open, including three formal and one informal. Five dependency cases are open.

Amber reported the Four Rivers Early Learning Hub was getting push back about the budget being heavy on strategies like regional trainings to make the most out of class interactions. The alternative plan for the budget is to take funds and give them directly to preschools in the region. There is already a specific allocation for preschool in the tri-counties, and this \$51,000 would remain. The rest of the funds would be allocated to Wasco and Hood River County, which have significant issues with preschool access. \$88,000 was moved from the training budget line item to the mobile preschool line item to expand the mobile preschool program. Discussion is still being held about how to distribute the resources. Kindergarten Partnerships and Innovation funds were allocated to Gilliam, Sherman, and Wheeler counties, as schools in those counties applied for the funds. About \$80,000 will add onto Healthy Families and home visiting services. The budget also funds coordination of the hub, including a new employee hired to help with communications and other tasks. The total budget is approximately \$980,000. Approximately \$500,000 is being spent on services. Approximately \$380,000 is spent on administration of the hub. Remaining funds are reserved for contingency and grant funds.

Working with Mid-Columbia Bus at the preschool is going well. The program is at full capacity. One teacher chaperones the students on the bus. It may be possible to operate the county bus with a Type 10 license (a passenger vehicle license) instead of a Certified Driver's License. This could open up the applicant pool.

Amber continues to supervise kids on probation. She attended an Effective Practices in Community Supervision program and participates in monthly coaching sessions. The Sanctuary Model is how trauma informed care is laid out in Wasco County, and discussion was held about using this model in Sherman County. The court would welcome an informational presentation about this in the future. Amber will attend a trauma summit at the end of the month.

The Prevention Coordination position is still in flux. Commissioner Smith is in discussion with North Central Public Health District about contracting out the coordinator position and ensuring Sherman County is in compliance with funding requirements and can provide as many services as possible. Amber spoke with Mid-Columbia Center for Living (MCCFL) about contracting out the coordinator position, and though MCCFL may not be the right fit for this position, there may be different scenarios that could make partnership possible.

#### **1.5 11:30 a.m. Beth McCurdy – Fair Board Secretary – Quarterly Report**

Present: Beth McCurdy, Jeremy Shull

Beth McCurdy, Fair Board Secretary, presented a quarterly report. She presented the Oregon Fairs Association (OFA) 2016 County Fair Report. Use of the fairgrounds is up, and injuries are up. Premium payouts are up. Attendance was up. Ron McDermid, Justice of the Peace, attended a Fair Board meeting and gave updates about the Weed District building project. The board is looking forward to visiting with representatives about the project as it moves forward. The board is in support of the plan. Two trainings in November will be held for the Fair Board. The board is functioning well, and everyone thought the fair went well. The barbeque was a change, though having the board facilitate it was successful. The OFA report lists the fair's annual funding as \$40,000.

Jeremy Shull, Sergeant, gave an update on the baseball fields. Water rights are being determined, and the rights will most likely go through. Future fall projects include getting the culvert in, building the road, installing the well pump, and irrigating. Seeding may take place this fall. Sodding will take place in spring.



**1.6 1:00 p.m. Debbie Hayden – Finance Director – Supplemental Budget Hearing**

Present: Debbie Hayden, Tom Peterson, Aaron Lafky, Bryan Hunt

Open up the supplemental budget hearing at 1:00 p.m.

Debbie Hayden, Finance Director, explained supplemental budget hearings typically happen at the end of the fiscal year, but the Department of Veterans is in the second year of the biennium and more dollars than anticipated have carried over. Bryan Hunt, Veterans' Services Officer, will use the funds to attend trainings. The beginning fund balance was increased to \$32,561. The Weed Department received extra funds from Wasco County that were not planned. These additions increased the budget by approximately \$40,000.

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to adopt a resolution making appropriations within the Weed Control Fund and Tri-County Veterans' Fund in the amounts for the purposes presented in the Summary of Supplemental Budget for a total of \$26,191.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

The supplemental budget hearing closed at 1:05 p.m.

**1.7 1:15 p.m. Tom Peterson – Cottonwood Canyon State Park Manager – Cottonwood Canyon State Park Annual Report/Starvation Lane Road Use Data**

Present: Tom Peterson, Aaron Lafky, Marnene Benson-Wood

Tom Peterson, Cottonwood Canyon Park Manager, presented the Cottonwood Canyon State Park Annual Report. Between the J.S. Burris recreation site and Cottonwood Canyon State Park, there are approximately 60-65,000 vehicles per year. The first year open, the park saw 2,045 campsites sold. The second year saw 2,489. This year saw 3,115. Campers are returning and are more likely to spend money in local communities. Fall and spring remain the highest seasons of use.

The annual emergency meeting with the sheriff and fire departments was held. The number of emergency calls was tabulated. Last year, not many calls came in, but this year there have been several fires. This year there was a fire on Memorial Day Weekend, a fire on the Gilliam County side, and a fire on Highway 206 leading into the canyon. Those responsible for the Memorial Day Weekend fire were identified and worked for Oregon State Parks removing thistle for a day. The Gilliam County fire burned 32,000 acres, 15,000 of which was State Park property. A full restoration of the Hay Creek Canyon area will be done so the area can return to native seed. This may help with invasive weeds that have been a problem in this area. Tom is unsure if Brad Lohrey, Sheriff, has been called to the park for emergency services. State Parks wrote a citation for a fire in the park. Vandalism is low compared to other park facilities.

The process has been started to install a telecommunications tower in the park. The tower will be on private property and not on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. Placement of the tower was discussed. Aaron Lafky, property owner, asked if the communication system would only serve park headquarters. Commissioner Smith explained the tower will give emergency services the ability to communicate in the park, but the goal is also to hang internet antennas to beam broadband, which will allow the park to have functional phone and broadband. Aaron stated not all activity that requires emergency response occurs at headquarters. The tower will primarily serve the camping area and headquarters, but the signal will reach as far as possible.

Reaching around bends and over hills is a challenge. More than one antenna may be needed. Possible placement of future towers was discussed.

Aaron offered testimony that the requirement of the Intergovernmental Agreement is that the park as a whole be serviced, not just the headquarters. As the process moves forward, he requested that this be considered, and the need for this is immediate. This summer during emergencies, 911 communication service was limited, and emergency services entities assisting could not speak to one another on their radios. Commissioner Smith explained the tower will be tied into the state radio system to fix this problem. Cell phone service may not be able to be repeated, but wireless signals can be. The tower may provide the opportunity to hook into the nationwide Broadband Emergency Services Network.

Tom reported State Parks is continuing to work with BLM on an Environmental Assessment and a Cooperative Management Agreement. The goal is to get the agreement to public meeting in the next 3-4 months. Opening season for deer hunting was on Saturday. State Parks rangers did not see not many hunters in the area. In September, one truck was at Starvation Lane, and in October, another truck was spotted. One truck was camping on BLM land. The river gate was opened on Saturday. The gate was locked because when the water level lowers, vehicles drive through the dry river bed to the island in the middle of the river. No complaints were received during the time the gate was locked. Discussion was held about at which point the river becomes floatable depending on water levels. The gate will be locked again until the water is high enough to prevent vehicles from driving to the island.

Aaron reported there was a large camp set up at Starvation Lane, and hunting weapons were fired, which is not in compliance with posted *no hunting* signs. Aaron stated State Parks has mapped all BLM land to look like it is part of the park, yet there remains no agreement with BLM about how to administrate issues that happen on BLM or State Parks land. He suggested the map be changed to reflect park owned property that has been properly planned with Conditional Use Permits (CUP) and not include land that is not included in the master plan. Other instances of camping and parking at Starvation Lane were discussed.

Judge Thompson asked for a traffic count on Starvation Lane to assist with the Federal Lands Access Program grant. Tom can also provide photos of the full parking at the J.S. Burris site. It may be possible to use a car counter in the future to get an accurate count of usage.

Aaron stated he was present to testify that Cottonwood Canyon State Park continues to operate outside of the CUP. A day use area has been created with signage, fencing, and parking. This issue needs resolution. The county needs to enforce the land use code and CUPs granted, or the state needs to amend the master plan. The road continues to be an issue. The grade is beaten down to bedrock. Aaron stated he lost a spring assembly on his pickup truck due to this. By the land use approval housed with Sherman County, the state is supposed to have entered into a maintenance agreement for county roads, and this has never taken place. There is no emergency communication system in place, and there is clear evidence of the need for this. This was supposed to be in place before the park opened.

**1.8 1:45 p.m. Jenine McDermid – Clerk – Quarterly Report/Board of Property Tax Appeals Appointment**

Present: Jenine McDermid, Marnene Benson-Wood

Jenine McDermid, Clerk, presented a quarterly report. An order for Board of Property Tax Appeals was presented. All board members will need training this year.

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the appointment of Jeanne Kuettel and Justin Miller from the Non-Office Holding Pool and Gary Thompson with**

**Mike Smith as alternate from the Office Holding Pool to the 2016-2017 Board of Property Tax Appeals.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

Jenine reported she attended BOPTA clerk training and was able to have a tour of Umatilla County's election facility. Ballots for this year's general election go out October 20. No BOPTA appeals were received last year, and the year before that, 2-3 were received. On September 12, Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins toured Sherman County's election facility. Every few years Citycounty Insurance Services hires an appraiser to look at the county's higher-value properties. The appraiser looked at several buildings to reevaluate and confirm that each was appraised properly. Jenine has been preparing for the election. Sherman County's voting machine is not connected electronically. Ballots go through it, but it is not connected to the internet or any other system. Results are entered by hand into the state computer. This year, results will also be entered into the Election Night Reporting system. Oregon has been well investigated and has had no problems with voting machines being hacked.

Marnene Benson-Wood reported she received an email from Mid-Columbia Council of Governments (MCCOG). The Blanket Purchase Agreement between MCCOG and Sherman County for Medicaid Transportation expired September 30, so a new one needs to be signed. There will be no changes except to add new vehicles and drivers.

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the Blanket Purchase Agreement between Mid-Columbia Council of Governments and Sherman County for Medicaid transportation.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

## **2.0 Action Items**

### **2.1 Resident Incentive Program Request – Doris Alley**

Although Doris Alley, previous Sherman County resident, will maintain her home, she is not eligible to receive Resident Incentive Program funds. Residents who move out of the county before payment is sent are not eligible to receive a check. Eligibility requires residency within the county, and applicants cannot be absent for a period longer than 90 days. Applications have been denied based on these requirements in other similar situations.

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to deny the Resident Incentive Program appeal from Doris Alley due to Ms. Alley's moving out of the county before payment is sent, making her ineligible to receive a check.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**2.2 Library Board Appointment – Larry Hocter**

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to re-appoint Larry Hocter to the Library Board for a four-year term to expire July 1, 2020, as recommended by the Sherman County Public/School Library Board.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**2.3 Gorge Technology Alliance Sponsorship Renewal Request**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve sponsorship renewal of Gorge Technology Alliance at the Silicon level in the amount of \$500 for the period October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**2.4 FLI Landscape Fall Clean-Up/Winterization Estimate – Courthouse and Senior Center**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve an estimate from FLI Landscape in the amount of \$1,165 to provide general fall clean-up maintenance and irrigation winterization to the courthouse and in the amount of \$80 to provide irrigation winterization at the Senior Center for a total of \$1,245.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**2.5 Agreement for Services – Portland State University and Sherman County – South Sherman Fire & Rescue District Income Survey**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Agreement for Survey Services contract between Portland State University and Sherman County on behalf of South Sherman Fire and Rescue District to conduct an income survey that can be used to apply for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant funding 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 Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Smith – Attended the Wasco School meeting; great discussion and citizens were enthusiastic and understand a lot of the issues stem from misunderstanding and miscommunication; the court discussed scenarios for the City of Wasco taking ownership of the building; attended a Federal Lands Access Program Grant tour of

Starvation Lane; the grant board seemed enthusiastic about the project; attended an Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization meeting in Baker to request how to spend dollars given back to the state for meeting all goals; met with Greg Smith, Century Link, Oregon Telephone, and Association for Telecommunications in Oregon to discuss overbuilding issues and sharing existing systems; Century Link and Oregon Telephone are interested in figuring out how to partner; involved in conversations about placing a tower at Cottonwood Canyon State Park; partners are in place, and the state is supportive; the tower will provide Wi-Fi access and improve emergency communications at Cottonwood; attended an Oregon Broadband Advisory meeting.

Judge Thompson – Attended a pumped storage meeting in Goldendale; the project has potential to be started again; attended a Federal Lands Access Program Grant tour; Sherman County may do the construction work, which will simplify the project; this could cut the grant amount requested from \$1.5 million to approximately \$1-1.2 million; attended Lower John Day Area Commission on Transportation meeting; came out with a scope of US 97; 45% of vehicles traveling on 97 are semi-trucks, 15% are dual-axel trucks, and rest are motor cars; Sherman County is at the highest risk of accidents in rural areas of any stretch between Biggs and Shaniko/Cow Canyon; there may be a four-lane road from Biggs to Cow Canyon or at least twice as many passing lanes in near future.

Commissioner McCoy – Attended a Mid-Columbia Council of Governments (MCCOG) meeting; Marvin Pohl is leaving, so MCCOG is hiring a new Area Agency on Aging director; the Students Recycling Used Technology program will survive – dues to schools were raised and most of them accepted; building codes reported the increase in building code applications are for marijuana growing facilities; workforce moved out of the MCCOG building and is now downtown The Dalles; discussed code of conduct and bi-laws; approved an Emergency Transportation Resolution Memorandum of Understanding; attended a Library Board meeting; the company who installed the library roof sent someone to inspect it and reported it wasn't an instillation problem but a siding problem; there are cracks in the siding, and the roof leaks when snow is on the roof; waiting for Kirby Nagelhout Construction to inspect it; attended the Wasco School meeting; the court discussed the maintenance and operation cost of the Wasco Annex building as well as needed updates to the outside of the building.

### **3.2 Letter to City of Moro**

Commissioner Smith wrote a letter to the City of Moro and submitted it in place of his attendance at the City Council meeting. The court would like City of Moro to use the fiber being installed. The City of Moro had a franchise request from another fiber provider, which the court supports as long as the agreement allows for competition, doesn't shut any other entity out, and encourages the use of existing fiber. Commissioner Smith stated citizens reported to him that Lightspeed Networks presented to City of Moro and claimed that they have a contract with the courthouse and will provide fiber to the courthouse. This is incorrect. The county will supply fiber to the courthouse using its own fiber. The instillation of fiber has encouraged other entities to take interest in fiber projects in Sherman County, and the court would like to encourage partnerships that take advantage of the fiber asset already in the county.

### **3.3 Fiber Update**

Judge Thompson asked the timeline for fiber connection to Mid Columbia Producers (MCP) and the Extension Office. A quote was received to bury fiber to MCP, and the cost is high. It makes more sense to air-shoot fiber to MCP from the courthouse. This is an easy, fast, affordable option. It is possible MCP could get up to a gigabit of speed. Commissioner Smith is putting together quotes so MCP can take advantage of the fiber without being directly connected to it. If MCP is connected wirelessly, the Burnet Building and the library can be connected easily from the MCP grain tower. The library may be connected via conduit at the school, but Commissioner Smith will follow up with Wes Owens, Sherman County School District Superintendent, about the school's preference. The school is concerned about unfiltered internet, though there are solutions to this. If

the school would like county fiber to be a back-up in case of emergency, this is easily achievable at no charge to the school district. Once the decision is made to hook up MCP, fiber can be up and running within a few weeks. Frontier TeleNet will provide service. Discussion was held about possible fiber access through existing cell phone towers. Commissioner McCoy asked if Lightspeed Networks (LSN) will be providing service to the Circuit Court. Commissioner Smith stated LSN would like to connect to the courthouse, but the County Court can determine how they connect and can require LSN to use fiber already connected to the courthouse. LSN is currently using Frontier TeleNet to provide fiber service to some customers.

**4.0 Consent Agenda:**

**4.1 Minutes of September 21, 2016**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Judge Thompson, to approve the minutes of September 21, 2016, as presented.**

**Vote: 2-0**

**Yes: Smith, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 1**

**4.2 Claims – September 2016**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Claims for the month of September, as presented.**

**Vote: 3-0**


**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

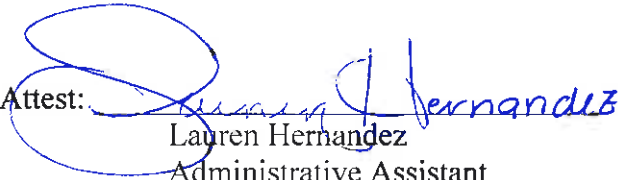
**No: 0**

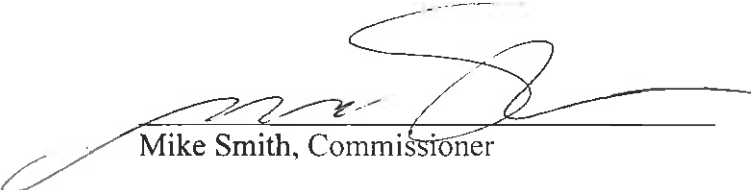
**Abstain: 0**

Being no further business before the Court, the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

**Sherman County Court**

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

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

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

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