



Court Agenda

April 6, 2016

1.0 Appointment Schedule:

- 1.1** 9:00 a.m. Amber DeGrange – Juvenile Director – Quarterly Report
- 1.2** 9:45 a.m. Rod Asher – Weed District Director – Weed District Full-Time Position
- 1.3** 10:15 a.m. Marylou Martin – Sherman County Public/School Library – Quarterly Report
- 1.4** 10:30 a.m. Debbie Hayden – Finance Director – Driving Records
- 1.5** 10:45 a.m. Shandie Johnson – Prevention Coordinator – Quarterly Report
- 1.6** 11:00 a.m. Sherman County Court - Internet Access Discussion
- 1.7** 11:30 a.m. Mark Coles – Road Master – Quarterly Report
- 1.8** 1:00 p.m. Joel Madsen – Mid-Columbia Housing Authority – Housing Update

Additions to Agenda

2.0 Action Items:

- 2.1 Local Community Advisory Council – Letter of Resignation
- 2.2 Biggs Service District – Letter of Resignation
- 2.3 Appointment – Sherman County Area Watershed Council: Josh Macnab
- 2.4 2016 Oregon Department of Agriculture Wolf Grant Award
- 2.5 Discretionary Bus Application Package – Grant Application
- 2.6 John Day River Territory Budget Request 2016/2016
- 2.7 Appointment - Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization - Community Advisory Council: Karl Richter, Delores Richter
- 2.8 Biggs Pump Failure
- 2.9 Oregon Youth Conservation Corps Crewmember Job Descriptions
- 2.10 Bid Opening – Surplus Bowflex Revolution Home Gym
- 2.11 2016-2017 Victims of Crime Act One-Time Grant Award Letter

3.0 Discussion Items:

- 3.1 Sherman County Revised Investment Policy
- 3.2 Mid-Columbia Center for Living Notice to Vacate
- 3.3 Wasco Annex Room Usage
- 3.4 Wolf Committee Report
- 3.5 Commissioner Reports

4.0 Consent Agenda:

- 4.1 Special Session Minutes of March 1, 2016
- 4.2 Minutes of March 16, 2016
- 4.3 Claims – March 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

April 6, 2016

Opened Court: 9:07 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

Consensus: The Court came to the consensus to support the establishment of a full time Lower Deschutes River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator.

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to enter into Executive Session in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Personnel and ORS 192.660 (2) (h) Legal Rights.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Judge Thompson, to accept a letter of resignation from Shandie Johnson as Local Community Advisory Council Coordinator, effective immediately.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to accept a letter of resignation from Rene' Moore as Biggs Service District Administrator, effective May 31, 2016.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the appointment of, as a new Director to the Sherman County Watershed Council, Josh Macnab (North Sherman Watershed) for a term of four years to expire December 31, 2019.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Discretionary Bus Application Package Grant in the amount of \$121,135.50 as submitted and recommended by the Transportation Coordinator.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to recommend to the Budget Committee a contribution matching last year's amount in support of the tourism activities of the John Day River Territory.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to appoint Karl Richter and Delores Richter to the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization Community Advisory Council.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to enter into Biggs Service District Board of Directors.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to authorize the expenditure of up to \$750, to be taken from the maintenance fund, to repair the grinder pump located east of the Highway 30 bridge in Biggs.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the Sherman County Oregon Youth Conservation Corps job descriptions for the Crew Supervisor, Jr. Crew Supervisor, and Corp Member, and the Student Contract, as updated.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to accept the bid for the surplus Bowflex Revolution Home Gym from Curtis Mason in the amount of \$300.00.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the 2016-2017 Victims of Crime Act One-Time Grant Agreement in the amount of \$3,989.73 to provide materials and training for the Director of Victim's Assistance and authorize Judge Thompson to sign.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to accept a Notice to Vacate the Senior Center from Mid-Columbia Center for Living, effective March 24, 2016.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve housing the Sherman County Community Outreach program in the Wasco Annex.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the Special Session Minutes of March 1, 2016 and the Minutes of March 16, 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 Claims for the month of March 2016 as presented.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

1.0 Appointment Schedule:

1.1 9:00 a.m. Amber DeGrange – Juvenile Director – Quarterly Report

Present: Amber DeGrange, Dean Dark

Amber DeGrange, Juvenile Director, presented a quarterly report. Amber's current caseload includes three delinquency cases and five dependency cases, two of which just closed. Most of Amber's time has been dedicated to Four River's Early Learning Hub. She is acting as the fiscal agent liaison. Amber also coordinates the local Early Childhood Committees, participates in the Fiscal Work Group, and participates in a variety of other committees related to this.

Amber reminded the Court that at the last Tri-County Court meeting, the counties discussed transferring the bulk of operations listed in the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Sherman County and the State of Oregon regarding Hub funds to Columbia Gorge Education Service District (CGESD), though Sherman County would remain the contracted agent for fiscal purposes. Sherman County would receive the money and send the money to the individual programs. This process is currently under discussion with CGESD. Amber is hoping that eventually Sherman County, as fiscal agent, can send a check to each county and that each county will disperse the money to their own programs instead of Sherman County having to send checks to each individual program. If checks go to each county, the second tier contract won't have as many legal requirements, which will make the process more efficient.

Sherman County will take an administrative fee to act as the contracted fiscal agent, but the amount is not set. It was suggested a Memorandum of Understanding be created with the other counties in the Hub stating they will not take an administrative fee to disburse their money to their own programs. Amber believes an administrative fee of three percent is reasonable for the amount of work required to act as fiscal agent. Discussion was held about taking two percent and asking the other counties to take none at all. Amber briefly discussed possible compensation increases at CGESD.

The original IGA between the State of Oregon and Sherman County could not be changed significantly. Instead, Amber took that IGA and added it to the IGA Sherman County has with Christa Rude, Early Learning Hub Coordinator, as a contract attachment stating CGESD will perform all of the requirements listed in the state's original IGA. Amber asked the court about this format and stated she would like the agreement approved on the Court session on May 18th.

Amber reported she is working with Shandie Johnson, Prevention Coordinator, on prevention activities like the Children's Fair on June 9th and Swim Bus. Spring break cleanup was successful, and workers managed to pick up 70 bags of garbage, including 41 large 50 gallon bags. The Northern Oregon Regional Corrections budget was briefly discussed.

1.2 9:45 a.m. Rod Asher – Weed District Director – Weed District Full-Time Position

Present: Rod Asher

Rod Asher, Weed District Director, presented a proposal for the creation of a full-time Lower Deschutes River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator. The request will go to Budget Committee. Rod explained the Deschutes River project began in 2013 with Jeremy Thompson, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and with Brian Stradley from the conservation district. ODFW secured a grant for \$40,000 to support funding wages for the crew of this project. Much progress is being made in the canyon, and the hope is to expand the area covered. ODFW has come up with partial funding in the amount of \$35,000 for the position, though the funding would have to be renewed yearly. Rod stated Jeremy feels the funding will be funded each year, though he hopes to eventually put this funding in the budget as a full regular line item. Sherman and Wasco County conservation districts are also potential funding sources. Rod is asking each district for \$10,000, which puts Sherman County's estimated cost at \$26,497 depending on insurance.

A new full-time position would relieve some of Rod's workload. Without another employee, the Deschutes River project cannot expand. The new employee would be working with the crew about 90% of the time. Discussion was held about the possibility of hiring a full time employee for management and planning purposes and hiring another employee to add to the spraying crew. An interview process will be held if the Budget Committee approves of this request.

Rod explained one current issue is lack of equipment. Most likely, the Weed Department will need to purchase another truck for spraying.

Consensus: The Court came to the consensus to support the establishment of a full time Lower Deschutes River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator.

1.3 10:15 a.m. Marylou Martin – Sherman County Public/School Library – Quarterly Report

Present: Marylou Martin, Lowell Smith, Mark Coles, Debbie Hayden

Marylou Martin, Sherman County Public/School Library, presented a quarterly report. The biggest change to the budget is adding sick leave hours for employees in accordance with Senate Bill 454. Marylou reported the library internet works well and citizens have access to it even after hours, if needed. Discussion was held about the possibility of workforce training through Mid-Columbia Council of Governments and the possibility of updating library computers. Workforce training can enhance the use of the library and will continue to be discussed in the future.

Marylou presented a list of statistics showing how many books are checked out. Some of the data is combined with data from the entire SAGE library system, not just the Sherman County library system. Discussion was held about the impact of library security after the elementary school joins the high school campus. Library hours will remain the same and the library will remain open to the public.

Marylou reported Eagle Roofing has not yet looked at the library roof, but they will look when they visit the campus for the grade school roof. She presented pictures of library activities done with students, other library activities, and a list of upcoming events.

1.4 10:30 a.m. Debbie Hayden – Finance Director – Driving Records

Present: Debbie Hayden, Mark Coles, Brad Lohrey

Debbie Hayden, Finance Director, explained the county's insurance provider has recommended a program offered by the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to alert the county to any activity on an employee's driving record including renewal of a license, a name change, or an address change. The county already uses the Law Enforcement Data System every quarter to check employee driving records free of charge. The DMV will charge an enrollment fee, a fee of \$2 to sign employees up, and a fee of \$2 to remove employees from the system. Because the current system is working, the Court agreed to continue using it.

1.5 10:45 a.m. Shandie Johnson – Prevention Coordinator – Quarterly Report

Present: Shandie Johnson, Mark Coles, Brad Lohrey

Shandie Johnson, Prevention Coordinator, presented a quarterly report. The Prevention Program has been extremely busy. The program at the high school has much lower numbers now due to spring sport activities. Shandie is continuing to attend monthly meetings for Gorge Prevention Coordinators. She has scheduled meetings with other prevention coordinators to collaborate with them about gathering data, implementing data

in yearly plans, and more. The monthly meetings provide an opportunity to receive mentoring from other prevention coordinators.

There are many questions regarding how the minimum wage increase will impact the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) program. The increase begins July 1st, 2016, and the budget may need to be adjusted to accommodate this. The budget originally reflected \$9.40 per hour for corps members, but the increase would raise hourly wages to \$9.50. For five crew members, this will be an overall increase of around \$1,000. Shandie presented a draft work schedule. As of now, corps members are scheduled to spend a week with South Sherman Fire & Rescue which will meet the requirements for enrichment activities for the program.

Shandie is working on creating a summer activity calendar where programs and events from county wide entities will be available all in one place. Swim Bus is in the process of being scheduled. The Children's Fair is being scheduled and Shandie is collaborating with Mid-Columbia Center for Living and the Sherman County Public/School Library to create a summer curriculum that will work on self-esteem, addiction, positive choices, and other topics to offer prevention activities for Sherman County youth in the summer. The Prevention Program is collaborating with the Sheriff's Office to reward youth who are caught showing positive behavior. They will receive a certificate given to them by a Sherman County deputy and can turn them in at local stores for treats.

Shandie updated OYCC job descriptions and student contract and tweaked them to fit Sherman County's program. The descriptions and the contract will help students and parents understand requirements, guidelines, and expectations.

1.6 11:00 a.m. Sherman County Court - Internet Access Discussion

Present: Mark Coles, Brad Lohrey, Jim Macnab, Jeremy Shull, Wes Owens, Ron McDermid

Commissioner Smith explained slow internet speed at Sherman County schools has been a problem. The hope was that switching over the county's internet system to fiber in Wasco would take pressure off of the system and help with the school's internet speeds. The switch did not help as much as anticipated due to choke points identified in the system. Commissioner Smith joined a teleconference with North Central Education Service District (NCESD) and Day Wireless to discuss how to fix this problem. Day Wireless, who manages all of the physical work on the system, explained choke points were identified and the problem was being worked on. They noticed residential usage of the system is higher than expected. All usage of the internet has grown exponentially over the last few years. They suggested capping residential service during the day to help free up bandwidth and increase speeds at the school. A cap was put in place. The NCESD performed speed tests to determine available bandwidth. The data fluctuated but showed speed improvement with the high school at around 40 megabits (megs) of speed. Commissioner McCoy questioned why this solution wasn't done earlier. Commissioner Smith explained that during daytime, residential use was about 60 megs. Capping residential use at 60 megs, which is the current rate of use, will not have a large effect on residential customers. Dedicating the extra megs to the school will help greatly. Day Wireless has programmed the system to cap residential use at 60 megs during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. while school is in session so extra bandwidth can be used at the school. After 4 p.m. the cap will be lifted and usage can continue as per usual. Commissioner Smith continued to explain connecting to fiber in Wasco is a huge relief to the system itself, but not necessarily to the schools. The cap on residential use will have a huge effect on how school internet operates. This is not a solution, only a temporary patch, but other fixes are on the way:

1. Getting fiber through Moro to the school and then on to Erskine gets rid of a huge pinch point that exists because of limitations of the microwave. A fix for the Juniper location across the river has been discovered. Replacing a piece of equipment at that location will open up more broadband speed. Commissioner Smith will verify this update is completed and inform the Court when it happens.

2. A wireless back-up system will need to be created for the fiber line in case there is ever damage done to the fiber line. Commissioner Smith suggested using the antennas that the system was upgraded with to get internet to the school. This could be done quickly. Tower locations would need to be identified, an antennae would have to be placed at the school, and then the air fiber link would be used. The system would hook in to the Wasco fiber, be pointed towards Moro, bounce off of a few other antennas, and then reach the school. When fiber arrives, this system can be used as a backup. Commissioner Smith asked for a price quote to bring to the Court.

Commissioner McCoy asked why these simple fixes had not already been done if they would make the system function so much faster. Commissioner Smith replied he was unsure, but now that solutions are identified, they need to be put in place before looking in to the reason behind why they had not already taken place. Commissioner McCoy asked Superintendent Wes Owens, Sherman Jr/Sr High School, if he has noticed internet speeds at the school improve. Wes replied that it was hard to say, though the numbers presented from the NCESD study looked like they had improved. Commissioner Smith asked if state testing had been threatened due to slow internet speed. Wes replied yes. The testing window is open now and continues through May. The county implementing getting the switch taken care of will have another impact regarding state testing. Commissioner Smith stated the county will continue with solutions to continue to get the school better internet connection.

Wes stated he and Commissioner Smith have been in touch regarding his concerns. He is concerned that if a community citizen does not have quality internet service during the school day, the school will be blamed for slow internet speeds. Wes stated the school is a community group and team player, and he does not want the school to be blamed for internet speeds. Commissioner Smith replied the cap was chosen at the number of megs residents are using, and it should be a seamless transition because of this. His own personal testing of his system at home has shown no negative impact on his internet speeds. Fixing the switch will make a huge difference in the evening time, which is when most consumers are really using the system. In the next few weeks, the system should have more bandwidth available from the antenna switch. If a backup system is hooked up as previously discussed, it would have zero effect on residential usage. Commissioner Smith stated if the county approves of the backup system idea, it would be at no cost to the school. It would be here for the benefit of the school. The County Court would own the backup system and would provide the internet service to get the school the bandwidth it needs. This would help every school on the system because if Sherman Jr/Sr High School is using the air fiber backup, it will free up bandwidth. With the two gigabyte antennas, 100 megs could be beamed to the school.

Wes asked if the internet fixes would be provided through Frontier Telenet. Commissioner Smith clarified Sherman County owns the wireless internet devices. The County uses Frontier Telenet to manage the devices and make sure they are maintained properly. The internet connection is provided by Frontier Telenet. Judge Thompson added Frontier Telenet owns the towers, broadband connections, and pays for the bandwidth. Discussion was held about the connection problem at the Juniper location. The switch was scheduled for an upgrade planned for this summer, though that fix has been moved to take place as soon as possible.

Wes asked why the county was so interested in the school and bandwidth because in the past, the county was not going to run fiber by the school. He stated while the Court discusses making fixes the right way and doing the right thing, the district was in the process of doing that, and he believes politics got involved in the education of the kids of Sherman County regarding pulling out of NCESD. He asked why the county and Frontier Telenet are so interested in the school and e-Rate dollars. Commissioner McCoy stated the county has always had the intention of running fiber to the high school, though Wes stated that was not the impression he and the school board had due to comments made. Commissioner McCoy added e-Rate dollars are an important source of revenue for Frontier Telenet. Commissioner Smith clarified Frontier Telenet serves three counties: Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler.

Brad Lohrey, Sheriff, clarified his own statements at the school board meeting that may have caused confusion. He was asked to speak for three minutes in front of the school board. Brad was asked if the school chooses to use an alternate internet provider, will the county still run a fiber line to the school. Brad explained he answered why would the county install fiber by the school if the school had no plans to use it? Brad stated this discussion happened on the same night the school board was talking about pulling out of NCESD, which is not related to internet connection. Brad asked Wes if his comments were the source of Wes' confusion about the county's intentions. Wes answered prior to the school board meeting, he had the strong impression the county was in the position that they weren't going to run fiber by the school if the school wasn't going to use it. He explained the school board was looking at services for Sherman County students. Fiber was pulled into that discussion because of e-Rate dollars. No vote was made at the school board meeting because talks of fiber greatly confused the discussion.

Commissioner Smith stated the county has been interested in bringing fiber into the county and connecting the school for over a year. Wes replied the current conversation came up only days before the school board was to vote on NCESD. Internet was to be a piece of the NCESD conversation. Commissioner Smith clarified the Court has no connection to the school board's NCESD decision. Wes stated the Court was heavily involved in the decision. Commissioner Smith stated he was surprised to hear the district was looking at other internet providers, as he had been unaware of this decision. Wes explained this decision came from hearing fiber wasn't going to be installed until December, and the school is having major issues with internet speeds coming through connections at NCESD. He was looking at best choices for students and staff, which is why the district was looking at other options. The district would not have to opt out of Frontier Telenet every year and could choose another internet provider next year if they chose. Wes acknowledged fiber is the best option for internet, though that option would not be available until December. Commissioner Smith stated running fiber by the school is a terrific asset even if the school chooses not to hook up to it for a year, and there was never any doubt in the Court's mind that this would happen. Commissioner Smith added the estimated completion date for getting fiber to the school is July.

Wes explained some of the school's resolution dollars through NCESD go towards internet service and providers. He questioned how hooking up to fiber would impact these dollars and how the firewall would work. Commissioner Smith answered whatever the school pays now is what they would pay in the future through e-Rate dollars. The cost of installing fiber and connecting to it will cost the school nothing. Installing the fiber, connecting the school to fiber, and installing an onsite firewall will be provided for the school by the county. Wes asked about the cost of connectivity and if there would be a monthly or yearly fee. Frontier Telenet will be reimbursed through e-Rate dollars. Commissioner Smith stated he would advocate getting the school the highest possible megabits at the school for the same amount e-Rate dollars is currently paying for right now. Because internet will be delivered through fiber, the cost drops. Commissioner McCoy added the price drop will most likely lower the price of Frontier Telenet and probably reduce the rate of e-Rate dollars they get reimbursed. The bid process was discussed. Frontier Telenet provides a yearly bid on what it costs to bring internet connection to the school and has already provided a bid to deliver bandwidth to the school for next year. Commissioner Smith stated after the school is connected to fiber, if the cost of service drops, he would advocate reflecting the cost drop in the amount of bandwidth available to the school. The bid last year from NCESD was \$567,000 for the three-county area. Wes asked for clarification that if the e-Rate dollars don't cover the amount of internet needed after fiber is installed, the county would pick up the difference. Commissioner Smith replied the fiber project will provide the county with ten gigabytes of bandwidth, and that the school will be provided with an exceptional amount of internet bandwidth through fiber while Frontier Telenet uses the e-Rate dollars. The internet service will be paid for using e-Rate dollars, which are dedicated towards internet access and other technological areas. The e-Rate dollars don't have to go to Frontier Telenet, just to whichever entity is providing internet access. If the cost of getting internet to the school lowers because fiber is installed, e-Rate dollars will likely be lowered and adjusted accordingly. The government provides e-Rate dollars in the amount provided on the accepted bid for the company chosen to provide internet service.

Discussion was held about developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to specify what will happen when fiber reaches the school. Questions about the legality of the document were brought up. The MOU would state the county will run fiber by the school and will not charge the school for the connection. The Court believes running fiber by the school and providing the resource to the community is extremely important. Commissioner Smith stated the county does not benefit from e-Rate dollars in that e-Rate dollars do not flow into the general fund. Frontier Telenet may be involved as a party in the MOU. With an MOU, the school can outline service expectations. Legal council will be involved in this process.

Wes asked for clarification about the high interest in Sherman County School District being a member of Frontier Telenet. Commissioner Smith answered it is incredibly hard in rural areas to get services citizens deserve. The county has stepped forward on many occasions and has created opportunities to get those services through partnerships, including internet. Commissioner McCoy clarified Frontier Telenet will not own the fiber line. It will have access to 10 gigabytes of bandwidth and will provide internet using that bandwidth. Commissioner Smith stated the fiber project allows the county to control internet costs for at least a generation, which is something rural counties must have in order to be vital.

1.7 11:30 a.m. Mark Coles – Road Master – Quarterly Report

Present: Mark Coles, Joel Madsen, Jessica Metta, Carol Olmstead, Sharon Chard

Mark Coles, Road Master, presented a quarterly report. The base paving in Scott Canyon was completed. Shoulder rock is being put down and crew are starting on the guard rail. The multi-plate is in and looks great. A few change orders have come through. Mark added Jersey barriers, and some money was credited back in one change order. The plans Tennyson Engineering and Mark came up with do not match exactly what is under the pavement, so an additional two feet has to be dug on each side of the road to get more base in. This would cost around \$90,000 to do. Tennyson suggested grinding it up and laying out the grindings to use as the base. This will save Tennyson Engineering time on the project. Allowing the road to be closed will allow \$160,000 to be credited back to the county, which is why the road is closed. The project is back on track time wise. Around 1,000 feet of guardrail will be hauled out and reused, if possible.

The closed-cab broom was purchased and had 300 hours less than originally thought. Spring grading is now finished. Mark spoke to Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) about The Highway Safety Improvement Program. ODOT said it can take out Edgeline striping from the plan. Edgeline striping narrows the road and has a short lifespan, so Mark prefers to leave it out of the plan. The 2016 Fund Exchange Agreement at Monkland Lane was sent in and accepted. Mark attended an annual training. Brief discussion was held about Starvation Lane. Starvation Lane is a public access road and will not be closed. However, access off of the road is being controlled through the use of gates.

1.8 1:00 p.m. Joel Madsen – Mid-Columbia Housing Authority – Housing Update

Present: Joel Madsen, Jessica Metta, Carol Olmstead, Sharon Chard

Joel Madsen, Mid-Columbia Housing Authority (MCHA), presented an updated. He explained MCHA promotes adequate, affordable housing, economic opportunity, and a suitable living environment free from discrimination for lower income households. Joel stated a home is more than a home and is connected to other parts of the community. MCHA has four main lines of business including rental assistance programs, asset building and resident services, development, asset management, and property management, and homeownership resources. Currently, in Sherman County, MCHA is working on one foreclosure avoidance case. Sherman County has provided minor home repair programs, so MCHA's home repair program has not been utilized much in the county.

MCHA's largest line of business annually is investing in the Housing Choice Voucher Program, which allows low income families to afford homes. Joel stated it is important to preserve this critical resource and important for delegates to hear that good investments are being made with federal allocations. In Sherman County, the median family income is \$58,600. This qualifies yearly incomes of \$34,000-38,000 as low income.

The Court met with Joel at the Wasco Annex and toured the property and building to look for opportunities for senior housing.

1.9 Executive Session – Personnel and Legal Rights

Present: Brad Lohrey

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to enter into Executive Session in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Personnel and ORS 192.660 (2) (h) Legal Rights.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

The Court entered into Executive Session at 3:09 to discuss personnel issues and legal rights. Discussion was held about Frontier Telenet and Northern Oregon Regional Corrections budget issues. The Court exited out of Executive Session at 4:18 p.m.

2.0 Action Items:

2.1 Local Community Advisory Council – Letter of Resignation

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Judge Thompson, to accept a letter of resignation from Shandie Johnson as Local Community Advisory Council Coordinator, effective immediately.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

2.2 Biggs Service District – Letter of Resignation

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to accept a letter of resignation from Rene' Moore as Biggs Service District Administrator, effective May 31, 2016.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

The Court expressed they appreciate the efforts of Rene' Moore, Biggs Service District Administrator. The position will be advertised.

2.3 Appointment – Sherman County Area Watershed Council: Josh Macnab

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the appointment of, as a new Director to the Sherman County Watershed Council, Josh Macnab (North Sherman Watershed) for a term of four years to expire December 31, 2019.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson
No: 0
Abstain: 0

2.4 2016 Oregon Department of Agriculture Wolf Grant Award

Paperwork for this grant has not yet been received.

2.5 Discretionary Bus Application Package – Grant Application

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Discretionary Bus Application Package Grant in the amount of \$121,135.50 as submitted and recommended by the Transportation Coordinator.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson
No: 0
Abstain: 0

2.6 John Day River Territory Budget Request 2016/2016

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to recommend to the Budget Committee a contribution matching last year's amount in support of the tourism activities of the John Day River Territory.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson
No: 0
Abstain: 0

2.7 Appointment - Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization - Community Advisory Council: Karl Richter, Delores Richter

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to appoint Karl Richter and Delores Richter to the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization Community Advisory Council.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson
No: 0
Abstain: 0

2.8 Biggs Pump Failure

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to enter into Biggs Service District Board of Directors.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson
No: 0
Abstain: 0

The Court entered into Biggs Service District Board of Directors at 10:08 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to authorize the expenditure of up to \$750, to be taken from the maintenance fund, to repair the grinder pump located east of the Highway 30 bridge in Biggs.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

The Court exited out of Biggs Service District Board of Directors at 10:08 a.m.

2.9 Oregon Youth Conservation Corps Crewmember Job Descriptions

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the Sherman County Oregon Youth Conservation Corps job descriptions for the Crew Supervisor, Jr. Crew Supervisor, and Corp Member, and the Student Contract, as updated.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

2.10 Bid Opening – Surplus Bowflex Revolution Home Gym

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to accept the bid for the surplus Bowflex Revolution Home Gym from Curtis Mason in the amount of \$300.00.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

2.11 2016-2017 Victims of Crime Act One-Time Grant Award Letter

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the 2016-2017 Victims of Crime Act One-Time Grant Agreement in the amount of \$3,989.73 to provide materials and training for the Director of Victim's Assistance and authorize Judge Thompson to sign.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

3.0 Discussion Items:

3.1 Sherman County Revised Investment Policy

The Sherman County Revised Investment Policy was reviewed, and no changes were made.

3.2 Mid-Columbia Center for Living Notice to Vacate

Motion Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to accept a Notice to Vacate the Senior Center from Mid-Columbia Center for Living, effective March 24, 2016.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0
Abstain: 0

3.3 Wasco Annex Room Usage

Present: Katie Paul

Katie explained she is working on a contract with Cody Kunigel. Cody will provide Moral Reconciliation Therapy, a program that teaches how to change criminal behavior and about life skills. He will contract through Sherman County Community Outreach. Cody needs a location to meet with parolees once a week to start with, though he may need more time as the program grows. It will start with 1-2 people and will eventually bring in as many as five at a time. Each person will be met with individually. Katie also needs a space to meet with clients for outreach, as she cannot meet with them in the District Attorney's office. The grant funding this program will expire on June 30, 2017. If Cody and Katie use the annex, they will need to assign very specific hours and schedule around the preschool. Cody will need an Outlook email address and calendar for scheduling.

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve housing the Sherman County Community Outreach program in the Wasco Annex.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

3.4 Wolf Committee Report

Present: Dean Dark

Commissioner Smith explained a Wolf Committee was held with federal representatives, state representatives, local ranchers, a representative from Senator Merkley's office, and a few members of the press. Some conversation centered around the possibility of notifications being sent via text if wolves are spotted. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is unwilling to send text notifications to private citizens but is willing to send text notifications to Dean Dark, Wildlife Services. This may allow for the collection of accurate wolf data and will allow for Dean to work with ranchers to provide support and wolf education. Dean emphasized timeliness is an issue, as he cannot do anything about animal signs unless they are fresh. Local ranchers want to avoid trouble with harming wolves, and education and more specific data are ways to accomplish this. When ranchers are aware wolves are in the area, they can become more proactive around their herds and can take nonlethal action to keep the wolves away.

Judge Thompson explained Sherman County has received a grant to be used for educating locals about wolves. Dean offered to be a part of the education process and emphasized if the ultimate goal is to delist wolves, it is important to take the right steps.

3.5 Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Smith - Working on internet issues at the school; came up with a few alternatives to continue improving connection; attended Wolf Committee meeting that was very successful; working with citizens on a project for Grass Valley school on possible use for the grounds; working with citizens on weatherization through community action; found resources for a veteran; went to Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO) meeting; working on agreement with EOCCO for doctor placement; worked with new possible clients for Mid-Columbia Economic Development District for a possible new restaurant in Moro; working on Victim's Advocates funding through Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention; finding interest in

other counties and other Eastern Oregon agencies interested in the county's 911 call center and using the county's digital switch; working on budget with Wasco County for North Central Public Health District.

Judge Thompson – Attended a Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone meeting with David Van't Hof; signed new contract with David for services next year; Lower John Day ACT meeting; met with Dana Peck on pumped storage and opening up the California market; setting me up a meeting with the head of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Portland soon; Mid-Columbia Housing Authority meeting; met with Jessica Meta about grant writing but also encouraged Lauren Hernandez, Administrative Assistant, to look into grant writing classes; attended China Economic Development Summit; Sherman County is #1 in the state in average median income - highest in the state per capita as of 2015 - might be influenced by wheat prices; going to NaCo's Western Interstate Region Conference May 25-27th.

Commissioner McCoy – Attended a Mid-Columbia Council of Governments board meeting; attended a Hub meeting and toured two preschools; attended school ribbon cutting ceremony for new building; attended Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Budget Meeting; attended Mid Columbia Producers marketing meeting; attended Lower John Day ACT meeting.

4.0 Consent Agenda:

4.1 Special Session Minutes of March 1, 2016

4.2 Minutes of March 16, 2016

Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the Special Session Minutes of March 1, 2016 and the Minutes of March 16, 2016 as presented.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

4.3 Claims – March 2016

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Claims for the month of March 2016 as presented.

Vote: 3-0

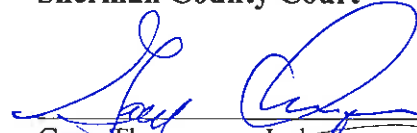
Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Being no further business before the Court, the meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Sherman County Court



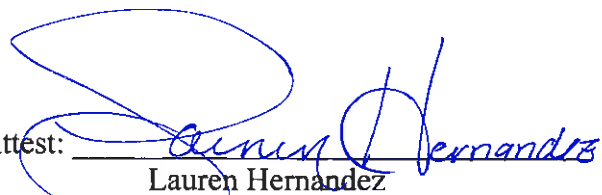
Gary Thompson, Judge



Mike Smith, Commissioner



Tom McCoy, Commissioner

Attest: 

Lauren Hernandez
Administrative Assistant