



## Court Agenda

**August 19, 2015**

**9:00 a.m.**

### **1.0 Appointment Schedule:**

- 1.1** 9:00 a.m. Public Hearing: To Consider Adoption of an Ordinance Ratifying the Continued Existence of the Intergovernmental Entity Known as Mid-Columbia Center for Living (MCCL), Governed by an Independent Board Known as the Tri County Mental Health Board (the Board) and to Provide for the Terms of MCCL's Governance, Authority and Responsibility
- 1.2** 10:00 a.m. Compensation Board  
Marnene Benson-Wood: Community Transit Compensation Proposal  
Justice Reinvestment Program Coordinator: Proposal to Expand Sheriff P/T Office Help Position
- 1.3** 11:00 a.m. Ron McDermid – Facility Advisory Committee – Recommendation for Project Manager
- 1.4** 11:30 a.m. Rod Asher – Weed District Director – Boat Purchase Proposal

### **Additions to Agenda:**

3.4 Fair board member letter

**Action Items:**

- 2.1 Appointment – Four Rivers Early Learning Hub Governance Board: Sherman County Representative – Amber DeGrange
- 2.2 Kitchen Assistant – Application for Position

**3.0 Discussion Items:**

- 3.1 Senior Center Landscape Plans
- 3.2 Transfer Station Compliance Inspection Report
- 3.3 Commissioner Reports

**4.0 Consent Agenda:**

- 4.1 Minutes of August 5, 2015
- 4.2 Revenue/Expenditure Summary – July
- 4.3 Treasurer’s Report – July

**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**

**August 19, 2015**

**Opened Court: 9:01 a.m.**

Present: Judge Gary Thompson, Commissioner Tom McCoy, Commissioner Mike Smith, Administrative Assistants Melva Thomas & Lauren Hernandez

A quorum was present. No news media was present.

**Additions to Agenda**

**3.4 Fair Board member letter**

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to authorize a first reading by title only of the ordinance regarding the Mid-Columbia Center for Living Intergovernmental Agreement.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to accept the first reading by title only of the ordinance regarding the Mid-Columbia Center for Living Intergovernmental Agreement.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to authorize a second reading by title only of the ordinance regarding the Mid-Columbia Center for Living Intergovernmental Agreement.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to accept the second reading by title only of the ordinance regarding the Mid-Columbia Center for Living Intergovernmental Agreement and adopting the ordinance ratifying the continued existence of the Intergovernmental Entity known as Mid-Columbia Center for Living (MCCL) and declaring an emergency.**

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

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Wasco, Hood River, and Sherman counties to ratify the continued existence of the intergovernmental entity known as Mid-Columbia Center for Living and authorizing Judge Thompson to sign.**

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

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve a salary increase for community transit drivers by 8% as recommended by Transit Coordinator Marnene Benson-Woods.**

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

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the expansion of the Sheriff Department's part-time office-help position to include the coordination of Justice Reinvestment Programs at an FTE of 0.125 at classification 0.61 for as long as grant funds are available.**

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

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to authorize the expenditure of up to \$5,000 by the Weed District for the purchase of a NRS Otter 140 self-bailing raft, the cost of which will be reimbursed with a grant from Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District.**

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

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve and accept the recommendation from the Facility Advisory Committee to hire the Wenaha Group as the Project Manager for the proposed additional facility on the courthouse grounds.**

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

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to hire the Wenaha Group on an hourly basis prior to formal contract completion for an amount not to exceed \$10,000 and authorizing Judge Thompson to sign contract pending final approval of county counsel.**

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

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to appoint Juvenile Director Amber DeGrange as the Sherman County representative on the Four Rivers Early Learning Hub Governance Board.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to offer the position of Kitchen Assistant to Sheila Kinrade.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to authorize the transfer of \$50,000 from the County General Fund to the Sherman County Senior Center and \$20,000 from the County General Fund to the Weed Sinking Fund as recommended by the Finance Director**

**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 \$500.00 for the Oscar Lange Memorial Plaque to be sited at the Mack's Canyon boat ramp on the Deschutes River.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Minutes of August 5, 2015, Revenue/Expenditure Summary for June, and the Treasurer's Report for June as presented.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**1.0 Appointment Schedule:**

- 1.1 9:00 a.m. Public Hearing: To Consider Adoption of an Ordinance Ratifying the Continued Existence of the Intergovernmental Entity Known as Mid-Columbia Center for Living (MCCL), Governed by an Independent Board Known as the Tri County Mental Health Board (the Board) and to Provide for the Terms of MCCL's Governance, Authority and Responsibility**

Present: William Perry Thurston

Judge Thompson opened the public hearing at 9:00 a.m.

Barbara Seatter, Mid-Columbia Center for Living Administrator, called the Court at 9:04 to discuss the adoption of the ordinance ratifying the continued existence of the intergovernmental entity known as Mid-Columbia Center for Living. Melva Thomas, Administrative Assistant, briefly explained the process of

passing an ordinance as recommended by Will Carey, legal counsel. Commissioner McCoy asked if the only change to the Intergovernmental Agreement was eliminating Gilliam County. Melva explained that there was some additional language, such as in section four, and section five was added. Barbara stated that the agreement was updated many times. The old one had very vague language. Melva explained to the Court that Will read the first Intergovernmental Agreement and noted that there was no accountability for a county that chooses to leave. Section four adds liability if an entity terminates the agreement. Will has given his blessing to the ordinance and the Intergovernmental Agreement as amended. William Perry Thurston, citizen of Moro, asked for clarification about the changes in the agreement. He asked if the changes were that in the Intergovernmental Agreement from before, a county could opt out of the agreement with no liability, but now there is a rule stopping that from happening. The Court confirmed this.

Barbara requested the Court accept and approve the revised Intergovernmental Agreement and appreciates all of the work and partnership Sherman County has shown throughout this process. The signed documents will be sent electronically to Mid-Columbia Center for Living after signatures are obtained.

Hearing no additional public comment, Judge Thompson closed the public hearing at 9:12 a.m.

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to authorize a first reading by title only of the ordinance regarding the Mid-Columbia Center for Living Intergovernmental Agreement.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

Judge Thompson provided the first reading by title only of the ordinance regarding the Mid-Columbia Center for Living Intergovernmental Agreement.

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to accept the first reading by title only of the ordinance regarding the Mid-Columbia Center for Living Intergovernmental Agreement.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to authorize a second reading by title only of the ordinance regarding the Mid-Columbia Center for Living Intergovernmental Agreement.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

Judge Thompson provided the second reading by title only of the ordinance regarding the Mid-Columbia Center for Living Intergovernmental Agreement.

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to accept the second reading by title only of the ordinance regarding the Mid-Columbia Center for Living Intergovernmental Agreement and adopting the ordinance ratifying the continued existence of the Intergovernmental Entity known as Mid-Columbia Center for Living (MCCL) and declaring an emergency.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

The ordinance was signed by all Court members.

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Wasco, Hood River, and Sherman counties to ratify the continued existence of the intergovernmental entity known as Mid-Columbia Center for Living and authorizing Judge Thompson to sign.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

Barbara informed the Court Mid-Columbia Center for Living found a therapist who lives in Condon. This employee will be hired in the next few weeks and will be a full-time Sherman County therapist. Commissioner Smith replied that Wes Owens, superintendent of Sherman Jr/Sr High School, has requested to meet with him because there is a great need for mental health services in the high school. Commissioner McCoy stated that Owens said he would like to give office space to a mental health employee to be in the school as much as possible. Barbara suggested working with Mark Corey, Family Nurse Practitioner for Sherman County Medical Clinic, to get the mental health employee into the new clinic building. Commissioner Smith responded there is a space issue in the clinic. Though the clinic would love to coordinate with the mental health employee, they cannot be housed in the clinic. There may be a site in Wasco that is available. Commissioner Smith emphasized that any decisions regarding this matter need to be negotiated with the Health Board. Barbara ended her call at 9:20.

Thurston asked to make a comment about the subject of where to house the mental health employee. He expressed concern about placing the employee in the school because the stigma of a student being seen going into the mental health room could create issues. The idea of making this room discrete should be discussed with the superintendent. He also suggested moving the Wellness Center from Moro to Wasco to free up space. Commissioner Smith reemphasized the need to speak with the Health Board to negotiate what works best for all involved.

**1.2 10:00 a.m. Compensation Board  
Marnene Benson-Wood: Community Transit Compensation Proposal**

Present: Marnene Benson-Wood

At 10:00 a.m., Judge Thompson declared that the Court would now be meeting as the Compensation Board. Marnene Benson-Wood, Treasurer and Transit Coordinator, stated she was requesting increased wages for all transportation employees. Commissioner Smith asked how the figure of an 8% raise was settled upon. Marnene explained that the 8% increase would bring transportation employees up almost to the level of the lowest rate at which the county hires employees. Transportation drivers are outside of the county's employment schedule because they are part time. Marnene explained transportation employees start with \$10.00 per hour, and then they are given the cost of living pay increase, but they have never had anything more than that aside from the dispatcher and a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) driver. Many employees take on extra duties that they do not get compensated for and Marnene would like to bring them up to fair wages. She explained that drivers are required to do many trainings to keep up with their jobs and they are required to be first aid certified. Commissioner Smith asked if the wage increase fit inside of the transportation budget. Marnene said yes, there are funds that will help to support this and those funds look fairly stable. Marnene also noted for the Court that the charge for Medicaid rides will be increased slightly to support the wage increase.

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve a salary increase for community transit drivers by 8% as recommended by Transit Coordinator Marnene Benson-Woods.**

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

**Justice Reinvestment Program Coordinator: Proposal to Expand Sheriff P/T Office Help Position**

The proposal to expand the Sheriff's Department part-time office-help position needs to be assigned an FTE. The Justice Reinvestment Program Coordinator duties will add 5 hours per week for an FTE of 0.125 at classification 0.61. This expansion will continue only as long as the grant funding continues.

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve the expansion of the Sheriff Department's part-time office-help position to include the coordination of Justice Reinvestment Programs at an FTE of 0.125 at classification 0.61 for as long as grant funds are available.**

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

At 10:14 a.m., Judge Thompson declared that Court was out of Compensation Board and was now in regular session.

**1.3 11:30 a.m. Rod Asher – Weed District Director – Boat Purchase Proposal**

Present: Rod Asher

Rod Asher, Weed District Director, informed the court that the Weed District has not sprayed much past Mack's Canyon. This is due to limited access. Purchasing a boat will help the Weed District gain access to do more weed control. The boat will need to be able to handle the river in case any rapids are encountered. The Weed District currently has to rely on Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to operate and make a boat available. This boat purchase will help free up accessibility for the Weed District to complete more weed control projects.

Rod explained that the Weed District currently has a grant from the State Weed Board in the amount of \$40,000. Until now, these funds have been used solely for wages for technicians. They have asked permission to change the use of the funds, but the state has shown hesitation about buying capital equipment. One problem with purchasing capital equipment is that the ownership of the equipment is unclear. The Weed District also has access to a small grant from both the Sherman and Wasco Soil & Water Conservation Districts, each in the amount of \$5,000. These funds have been used for equipment like fuel, oil, gloves, and backpacks. Commissioner Smith asked if this purchase would eventually require more equipment. Rod stated that the boat will be able to fit in the back of a truck or in a small trailer the Weed District already owns. Additional things like dry bags, life vests, helmets, and more, will need to be purchased. To fund this, Rod will most likely use the entire \$5,000 grant from Wasco County and then will use Sherman County and state funds to fill in the gaps. The total cost of this will be around \$5,800.

Rod also reported on some of his other weed spraying projects. Five technicians spent eight days spraying Harris Island a few weeks ago. The Court discussed procedures for spraying a resistant person's property.

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to authorize the expenditure of up to \$5,000 by the Weed District for the purchase of a NRS Otter 140 self-bailing raft, the cost of which will be reimbursed with a grant from Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District.**

**Vote: 3-0**



**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**1.4 1:00 p.m. Ron McDermid – Facility Advisory Committee – Recommendation for Project Manager**

Present: Ron McDermid, Debbie Hayden, Brad Lohrey

Ron McDermid, Facility Advisory Committee member, reported that the Facility Advisory Committee interviewed two Wenaha Group members, Scott Rogers and Heath Gardner. There is a mutual interest between Sherman County and Wenaha Group to work together. The committee held a frank interview with Rogers and Gardner and had no reservations about Wenaha Group.

Commissioner Smith asked if the committee got any other offers after they put out a Request for Qualification. McDermid explained that the committee put out 3 other Request for Qualifications and only received Wenaha Group's qualifications.

McDermid checked the following Wenaha Group references: Tim Kiesecker, Joseph School District's Maintenance Director; Michelle Jones, Pendleton School District's Business Manager; and Bill Tovey, Director of Economic and Community Development for the Confederated Umatilla Tribes. All references were positive. Morrow County also backs Wenaha Group. The Facility Advisory Committee believes it is in the best interest of Sherman County to partner with Wenaha Group.

Commissioner McCoy asked what the purpose was of the \$10,000 spending limit in the interim contract for Wenaha Group. McDermid explained the \$10,000 is rolled into the overall contract. This is a way to give Wenaha Group funds to begin and will allow them to start work immediately on building a preliminary budget, building a preliminary schedule, starting to coordinate survey and geotechnical services at the proposed project site, and start drafting the Request for Proposal for Architectural services.

Next, Wenaha Group will draft a scope of services to identify Sherman County's projects, emphasizing programming, design, and construction services associated with the project. Finally, they will be able to draft a formal contract for the project.

A draft of a timeline and projected costs has been received but will be approved at a later date. The preliminary fee of \$177, 552 has been proposed. The committee feels that this price is fair for the amount of work the county is asking. Will Carey, county counsel, agrees.

Wenaha Group gave the committee an example of a timeline for the project to show that they have a vision of how the project might work. It shows projected pre-design in September of 2015, projected design from October 2015-April 2016, projected construction from May 2016-April 2017, and projected courthouse remodel from May 2017-August 2017. Full cost numbers can be expected by March 2016. The possibility of using a state grant to help fund a portion of the project was discussed.

Scott Rogers will be the lead on the project. Heath Gardner will work in a co-lead capacity on an as-needed basis. Caryn Appler will write the Request for Proposals and will deal with the hard cost and soft cost details. Dave Fishel is the principal and co-owner of the company.

Will expressed curiosity about the Wenaha Group projected amount of \$713 a month for traveling. Brad Lohrey, Facility Advisory Committee member, explained that they will be driving from Pendleton and based their figures on the government mileage reimbursement rate. Will noted that the interim contract referred to scope and service, but no scope or services were detailed. McDermid explained that Wenaha Group is working to define the scope and service and will have that to the committee in a few days. Will emphasized

that the contract needs to clarify that although Wenaha Group resides in Umatilla County, if there is a dispute or litigation, it will be handled in Sherman County. He also questioned the insurance amount listed in the contract. Debbie Hayden, Facility Advisory Committee member, said that the completed contract should be ready in about a week.

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to approve and accept the recommendation from the Facility Advisory Committee to hire the Wenaha Group as the Project Manager for the proposed additional facility on the courthouse grounds.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to hire the Wenaha Group on an hourly basis prior to formal contract completion for an amount not to exceed \$10,000 and authorizing Judge Thompson to sign contract pending final approval of county counsel.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**2.1 Appointment – Four Rivers Early Learning Hub Governance Board: Sherman County Representative – Amber DeGrange**

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to appoint Juvenile Director Amber DeGrange as the Sherman County representative on the Four Rivers Early Learning Hub Governance Board.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**2.2 Kitchen Assistant – Application for Position**

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to offer the position of Kitchen Assistant to Sheila Kinrade.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**2.3 Budget Transfers**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to authorize the transfer of \$50,000 from the County General Fund to the Sherman County Senior Center and \$20,000 from the County General Fund to the Weed Sinking Fund as recommended by the Finance Director**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

## 2.4 Oscar Lange Memorial Proposal

Ron Walp was involved in a project that helped restore and save the old water tower on the Sherman County side of the Deschutes River. Oscar Lange was an avid Deschutes River fisherman. Craig Leslie is an author who writes about the Pacific Northwest.

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to authorize the expenditure of up to \$500.00 for the Oscar Lange Memorial Plaque to be sited at the Mack's Canyon boat ramp on the Deschutes River.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

## 3.0 Discussion Items:

### 3.1 Senior Center Landscape Plans

Melva explained that Rhododendrons are included in the landscape plans. Not many in this area have been successfully grown. Soil PH and moisture issues make it difficult to grow this plant here. Melva expressed this concern to Tiffany Stranz, FLI landscape designer, and was told that the plants selected are hardy and should be successful. If the Rhododendrons do not survive, the county paid \$450 extra for a 1-year plant warranty, and they will be replaced. The Court has already approved the budget for the landscaping project. The Karl Forester Feather Reed Grass grows to be 5-6 feet tall. On the landscape plan, it is located next to the gazebo. When any concert or event happens, the grass will block the audience's view, a shorter plant needs to be planted.

### 3.2 Transfer Station Compliance Inspection Report

Painted boards and wind-blown trash were the only problems identified.

### 3.3 Commissioner Reports

**Smith** – really busy; went to State Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) to make sure the county supported the grant possibility from the state to update our digital switch to the new ISSI so they can talk; will meet again in the future on Aug 26th about this issue; many fiber meetings with CenturyLink, ODOT, Windwave; need an expert who works in rural areas to give a second opinion; MCCFL hired a mental health employee that will be designated for Sherman County and will start talks with the school about how to utilize this person; MCCOG receiving applications for executive director; will meet Sept 1<sup>st</sup> to review applications and then schedule interviews; meeting conflict - asked if Commissioner McCoy could go to the EOCCO meeting so he can go to MCCOG – Commissioner McCoy has to go to MCCOG as well; CAC meeting discussed how to get on-call services for the clinic – the CAC has \$32,000 dollars to fund local health projects; we dedicated the possibility of up to \$6,000 for this but it takes quite a while for this to be approved; talked to Moda Health about helping with the immediate cost because that will move our clinic up a tier and increase their funding for Medicaid; emailed Caitlyn to notify Health Board that this discussion was an option just to keep them in the loop – would like to discuss this more in the future;

**McCoy** – went to high school ground breaking; AOC summer conference – good discussion with Wasco County commissioners; went and talked to Wes Owens at the high school about the Workforce Grant and talked about the county wanting reimbursement if they get the grant; also talked about offering mental health services at the school.

**Thompson** – received complaints about housing and safety issues (cracks in concrete, paint chipping, bad heaters, old windows, etc...) at Sagewind Manor; has plans to speak with Joel about this; went to Bend for AOC conference; went to meeting at AOC in Bend regarding CREA and the Oregon PUC; got a call from the governor's office and wants to meet on October 27; need to confirm the date; Commissioner McCoy asked him to discuss the housing initiative with Joel again, as it would benefit the county; talked to Doug Mitchell about a property next to the courthouse – the owner will come to the Court when she is ready to sell; need to figure out a place to relocate the chemical storage facility for the facility expansion; has been attending miscellaneous meetings and working in the office; plans to meet with ODOT on Monday in Rufus. Commissioner Smith asked Judge Thompson to meet with Kate Sinner about fiber and brought up alternate routes for fiber to get into Grass Valley; Judge Thompson asked the Court about the fires in Grant County – called Scott Meyer, Grant County Judge – and wants to offer any help that Sherman County possibly can; the county will collaborate with them – maybe send somebody from Road Department or Sheriff's Office, for example.

### **3.4 Fair Board Member Letter**

William Perry Thurston, Fair Board member, wrote the Court a letter expressing concern about bleachers on the fairgrounds. The Court reviewed Thurston's letter and asked to see the pictures he took of the damage to the bleachers. Commissioner McCoy asked if other members of the board thought the bleachers were safe. Thurston explained other board members were too busy to address this matter. He said a work crew cut bushes down around the bleachers, and when they did, damage originally obscured by the bushes was exposed. Thurston explained that after looking at the bleachers, untreated wood is sitting directly against the earth. He explained that the bleachers were showing damage such as rotting and separation of supporting boards, boards dropping and sagging, boards directly contacting the ground, main supports sitting on rotten wood, nails sticking out, dipping support beams, and horizontal supports not connecting to anything. He stated that the damages show that the bleachers are not structurally sound.

Thurston said no maintenance had been done on the structure. He explained what when wood is painted, it is actually being inspected at the same time. There hasn't been any painting done on the structure for a long time, so these damages were not caught. Judge Thompson remarked that structural engineers did come and look at the Grand Stands but they not inspect the open bleachers.

Commissioner Smith asked if the soft spot on the walkway could be fixed for the fair, as it is an escape route for an emergency. Thurston suggested blocking the section off with ribbons or 2x4s. Judge Thompson asked if there were plans to section off the bleachers. Thurston said no, but he believes they should be. Commissioner McCoy stated that if there is not an overriding safety issue, the Court would like to have the Fair Board address this issue instead of the Court. Thurston replied that in his opinion, this is a safety issue that needs to be addressed immediately for liability issues.

Commissioner Smith suggested getting a second opinion to objectively look at the damage. Commissioner McCoy reemphasized that the Court wants the responsibility of fairground maintenance to go to the Fair Board, as the county has given \$40,000 to handle these types of issues. All Court members agreed that the bleachers should be looked at by a second person for safety and structural quality. Commissioner Smith suggested calling Robert Nisbet, contractor, to look at the structure. Nisbet has worked with the Fair Board previously. All Court members and Thurston agreed that Nisbet's professional opinion would help settle this matter. Commissioner McCoy remarked that this issue should have gone to the Fair Board, and then the board should have come to Court as a group. Thurston replied that although this issue was unfortunate timing, safety comes first and this issue needed to be acted upon immediately.

Judge Thompson called Nisbet and asked him to look at the bleachers. Nisbet agreed. Judge Thompson called Beth McCurdy, Fair Board member, to inform her that Nisbet was going to look at the structure, and suggested that McCurdy be present for the inspection to keep lines of communication open.

4.0 **Consent Agenda:**

4.1 **Minutes of August 5, 2015**

4.2 **Revenue/Expenditure Summary – July**

4.3 **Treasurer’s Report – July**

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Minutes of August 5, 2015, Revenue/Expenditure Summary for June, and the Treasurer’s Report for June as presented.**

**Vote: 3-0**

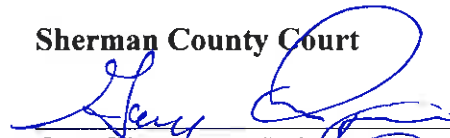
**Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

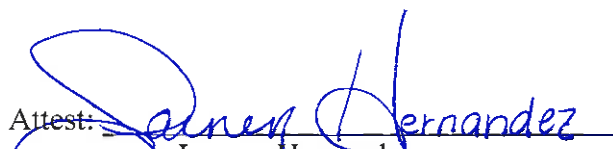
Being no further business before the Court, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

**Sherman County Court**

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

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

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

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