



## Court Agenda

**September 17, 2014**

### **1.0 Appointment Schedule:**

- 1.1** 9:00 a.m. Rod Asher – Weed District – Sprayer Equipment Upgrade; Quarterly Report
- 1.2** 10:00 a.m. Gary Farnsworth – ODOT – Truck Parking in Biggs
- 1.3** 11:00 a.m. Executive Session in Accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Property
- 1.4** 1:30 p.m. Jessica Metta – Economic Development Project Manager – Economic Development Idea

### **Additions to Agenda:**

## **2.0 Action Items:**

- 2.1 Budget Transfer Authorization
- 2.2 Request to Cover Costs of Senior Center Rental
- 2.3 Sherman County Health District Loan Application through Mid-Columbia Economic Development District – County Commitment to Guaranty Loan and Pay Principal

## **3.0 Discussion Items:**

- 3.1 Commissioner Reports

## **4.0 Consent Agenda:**

- 4.1 Minutes of September 3, 2014
- 4.2 Revenue/Expenditure Summary – August
- 4.3 Treasurer's Report - August

## **5.0 Future Agenda Items:**

*\*\*If necessary, an Executive Session may be held in accordance with:*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>ORS 192.660 (2) (d) Labor Negotiations</i> | <i>ORS 192.660 (2) (h) Legal Rights</i> |
| <i>ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Property</i>           | <i>ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Personnel</i>    |



SHERMAN COUNTY COURT  
REGULAR SESSION  
SHERMAN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTROOM

MINUTES

September 17, 2014 9:00am

Present: County Judge Gary Thompson, Commissioner Tom McCoy, Commissioner Mike Smith, Administrative Assistant Melva Thomas, County Clerk Jenine McDermid.

**Summary of Actions Taken**

**Motion** by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to go into Executive Session in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Property and (2) (h) Legal Rights.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carried.

**Motion** by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to authorize the transfer of \$400,000 from SIP Additional Fees Fund to General Road Reserve Fund and the transfer of \$22,000 from SIP Additional Fees Fund to Weed Sinking Fund.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carried.

**Motion** by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to authorize county payment of Senior Center rental fees incurred during the Energy Assistance Program appointments provided by Mid Columbia Community Action Council.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carried.

**Motion** by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to guaranty a loan from Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) in the amount of \$250,000 for the Sherman County Health District clinic remodel project and to

agree to make ten (10) semi-annual payments for five (5) years in the amount of \$25,000.00 until the loan principal is paid in full.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Minutes of September 3, 2014 as corrected, Revenue/Expenditure Summary for August and Treasurer's Report for August as presented.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Smith, McCoy, Thompson

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carried.

Additions to agenda: None

**1.1 9:00 a.m. Rod Asher – Weed District – Sprayer Equipment Upgrade; Quarterly Report**

A quote was provided for a complete 400 skid assembly. This would be installed on the new pickup and be used for roadside spraying. Rod explained this is outside his current budget, but he hopes to eventually upgrade the spray equipment and expects this type of system to be used frequently. This system has three tanks for chemicals and a separate water tank. The chemicals are injected into the water as needed and a radar system controls the application rate based on vehicle speed. Two different chemicals could be applied simultaneously. The driver side nozzle would be beneficial if a spraying contract is secured, possibly with ODOT. Commissioner Smith asked about the timeline if it was purchased in the near future. Rod would like it ready by January 15<sup>th</sup> with the majority of use being from mid-January through April and again in the fall. He estimated annual profit to his department of \$1,000 to \$1,500. Commissioner McCoy asked about funding. Rod said there is approximately \$17,000 remaining in the weed sinking fund and he anticipates the 2000 pickup will be replaced in a couple years. Commissioner Smith recommended retaining a minimum fund balance of \$5,000. Another advantage of this system would be fewer trips to the same work area. Commissioner McCoy suggested recouping expenses with charges for ODOT jobs. Rod said Mark Coles would be in favor of the weed department taking on road department spraying; this would not have an impact on Tom's grounds maintenance activities. He added Tom recently attended training for landscape spraying which is different from roadside spraying. As this quote is outside the current budget, Commissioner Smith suggested preparing a cost to benefit analysis and obtaining additional estimates.

With regard to his quarterly report, Rod's two seasonal employees have been doing spray for hire, including skeleton weed spraying. The crew uses GPS to identify the location of skeleton weed plants. The program is going well. They use a sliding price scale based on terrain, with higher costs on steeper ground, and will probably increase program rates next season. Commissioner McCoy is interested in learning if our programs are helping control skeleton weed. He is concerned this and the Deschutes program may not be

effective in controlling the problem. Rod said a new find in the Deschutes burn areas shows large areas that will need aerial spraying. The courthouse grounds are looking better due to the increase in water being used. Rod wants to improve the grass stand which will help in eliminating weeds. FLI will be working on the irrigation system.

## **1.2 10:00 a.m. Gary Farnsworth – ODOT – Truck Parking in Biggs**

Jaclyn McCurdy and Debbie Hayden were also present. Mr. Farnsworth provided a draft proposal to the court. Debbie Hayden explained the tax foreclosure process which involves a filing into circuit court. The county would acquire the property in 2016 unless someone was to pay all taxes and fees to redeem the property within the next two years. Additional fees and interest at the rate of 16% accumulate during this period. The land is assessed at \$1.5 million.

The identified need is insufficient space for truck parking. There is a funding balance remaining from the project but a solid plan is needed within a year. Gary Farnsworth met with the ODOT Office of Innovative Processes. They recommended going to the National Truck Stop Association where he received interesting feedback. He also contacted an advisory commission on trucking and was cautioned about working with the public sector on the plan. Gary Farnsworth suggested not identifying a specific piece of land but instead simply present the issue to the public and receive their input on how to best utilize the \$2,000,000 in solving the problem. Commissioner Smith advised a site in Biggs would require installation of a water system and asked if this would be a funding source. According to Gary Farnsworth funds spent need to be dedicated to solve the original problem, although these funds could be included with a sum dedicated for a possible public/private partnership. The legislature needs assurance of the following: the funds are a good fit with jobs and transportation act funding; the funds can help with solving the problem; the project is a good investment. There would need to be a Request for Information framing the conditions of the issue which may also be a method of hearing from the private sector. This could take 3 to 6 months. He felt there may be other grant opportunities for a water system; is consistently hearing about the truck parking issue along the Highway 97 corridor. He would like Sherman County to support moving forward with an RFI. Commissioner Smith asked if the land should be secured prior to submitting the RFI so as to expedite the process and avoid a price war; the county could later sell back to the project. Commissioner McCoy said the land could be owned publicly or privately, but the county does not want to run a truck parking facility and there may be alternative solutions without purchasing the land.

It was the consensus of the court to move forward with the proposal. Gary Farnsworth felt this may also serve as an opportunity to see how ODOT addresses truck parking issues between Biggs and Madras. He will prepare a draft RFI outlining the substance of the request, involvement including target groups such as businesses and the trucking industry, and water/safety issues based on recommendation of the state fire marshal. Judge Thompson will be the contact person.

Judge Thompson advised the service access road to the Biggs Service District sewer plant facility needs reworked. Jaclyn McCurdy reported the sidewalk is very narrow. She said Brad DeHart had originally suggested working with the railroad on a new entrance, but she has not seen a draft of that letter. Gary Farnsworth will contact Mr. DeHart.

**1.3 11:00 a.m. Executive Session in Accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Property**

**Motion** by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to go into Executive Session in Accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Property and (2) (h) Legal Rights.

**Vote:** 3-0

**Yes:** Smith, McCoy, Thompson

**No:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Motion carried.**

**1.4 1:30 p.m. Jessica Metta – Economic Development Project Manager – Economic Development**

Caitlin Blagg was present. The court reported the clinic remodel project loan had been approved earlier in the day. Health District Administrator Caitlin Blagg presented draft project plans developed by architect Daryl Sieker and she hopes to receive the final plan by the end of the week. The clinic will be closed for a time during remodeling.

Jessica went on to report about her recent activities including a new John Day River Territory grant for ag and culinary event development with a subsequent RFQ for consultant assistance; received a call from the Army Corps of Engineers regarding upcoming cost projections for park management; beginning in October Kevin Moynihan will be in charge at the John Day Dam; MCEDD has had some turnover in staff; received an inquiry about leasing Philippi; the Mack's to Mouth Trail feasibility study grant was unsuccessful, although the Working Group could review and address the state's concerns and then begin conversations with partners to discuss future options; visited with Tom Peterson at Cottonwood Canyon regarding possible business opportunities there; met with new business owners in Moro; presented a 2012 ag census report including Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler counties; becoming more involved in pump storage conversations; researching downtown improvement funding plans; assumed duties related to IMCP grant at MCEDD, with a forum scheduled for October 28. Judge Thompson is serving on a Clean Energy Works taskforce with lottery dollars available to promote solar and other energy saving projects to improve home energy efficiency, including HUD and low income residences. He added there has been local interest in solar from residential homeowners and a business. Commissioner Smith is involved with a task force group out of Portland that received lottery dollars for promoting solar projects in the Willamette Valley and part of the task is to include rural Oregon. He will email information to Jessica.

**2.0 Action Items:**

**2.1 Budget Transfer Authorization**

A memo prepared by Finance Director Debbie Hayden requesting budget transfer authorization was reviewed.

**Motion** by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Smith, to authorize the transfer of \$400,000 from SIP Additional Fees Fund to General Road Reserve Fund and the transfer of \$22,000 from SIP Additional Fees Fund to Weed Sinking Fund.



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

## **2.2 Request to Cover Costs of Senior Center Rental**

A request was received inquiring if the county would again cover the room cost for two Energy Assistance Program meetings scheduled to be held at the Senior & Community Center.

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to authorize county payment of Senior Center rental fees incurred during the Energy Assistance Program appointments provided by Mid Columbia Community Action Council.**

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

## **2.3 Sherman County Health District Loan Application through Mid-Columbia Economic Development District – County Commitment to Guaranty Loan and Pay Principal**

The court discussed the county paying off the loan early in order to reduce MCEDD interest rate charges. This would benefit both the county and the health district. It was the consensus of the court to move forward with this approach.

**Motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to guaranty a loan from Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) in the amount of \$250,000 for the Sherman County Health District clinic remodel project and to agree to make ten (10) semi-annual payments for five (5) years in the amount of \$25,000.00 until the loan principal is paid in full.**

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

## **3.0 Discussion Items:**

### **3.1 Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Smith: Met with Third Century Solutions, a public relations group out of Portland; the MCCOG board moved Marvin Pohl to deputy director to work on moving to a Medicare type B transfer agency; MCEDD moving toward Gilliam and Wheeler counties joining the board; working on obtaining funding to bring fiber optic into the county; attended district AOC meeting in Boardman; attended EOCCO meeting and it appears our CCO will receive \$1,200 to improve health care in Sherman County; attended ODOT meeting with Senator Johnson and Representative Huffman; it appears

Sherman County was awarded a Veterans transportation grant in the amount of \$50,000 with Gilliam and Wheeler each to receive the same amount.

Commissioner McCoy: met with French wheat growers at Bryan Cranston's shop; attended waste shed meeting with Melva to discuss recycling goals; attended SWCD and library board meetings; attended several recent meetings with Commissioner Smith.

Judge Thompson: Sat in on and voted during a Regional Solutions conference call; in 2016 the fiber optics project may receive \$1,500,000 for a line to the switch, with some funding to both Wasco County and Cascade Locks; Ruby Mason's interim replacement Joel Madsen was hired by Mid-Columbia Housing as director and given a 3 year contract; attended AOC regional meeting at Boardman; will be giving a presentation on the proposed pump storage facility as it relates to the California energy market; asked if solar is working on the county buildings and learned it is okay as repairs were made to the wiring from panels to the internet.

**4.0 Consent Agenda:**

**4.1 Minutes of September 3, 2014**

**4.2 Revenue/Expenditure Summary – August**

**4.3 Treasurer's Report – August**

**Motion** by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner McCoy, to approve the Minutes of September 3, 2014 as corrected, Revenue/Expenditure Summary for August and Treasurer's Report for August as presented.

**Vote:** 3-0

**Yes:** Smith, McCoy, Thompson

**No:** 0


**Abstain:** 0

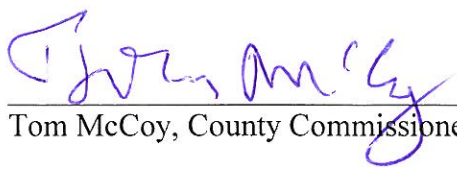
**Motion carried.**

**5.0 Future Agenda Items: None**

**WITH THERE BEING NO FURTHER MATTERS AT ISSUE, COURT WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:30PM.**

ATTEST:   
Jenine McDermid, County Clerk

  
Gary Thompson, County Judge

  
Tom McCoy, County Commissioner

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Mike Smith, County Commissioner