



**SHERMAN COUNTY COURT
WORK SESSION
SHERMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM**

MINUTES

AUGUST 29, 2018

Present: Judge Gary Thompson, Commissioner Tom McCoy, Commissioner Joe Dabulskis, Administrative Assistant Kayla von Borstel, Mark Coles, Jeff Wallace, Joanne Gildersleeve, Ruth Pullen, Carrie Pipinich, Aaron Cook.

The work session opened at 10:43 a.m.

The purpose of the work session was to meet with new County Counsel, Jeff Wallace, and his staff, to go over projects that needed immediate attention once they were moved over from prior County Counsel, Ruben Cleaveland.

Mark Coles, Road Master, spoke to Jeff Wallace, County Counsel, on the Finnegan Creek Bridge project. Sherman has 10 bridges on the National Bridge Inventory list, and Finnegan Creek Bridge was selected to be rebuilt with Federal funds, which are being allowed to be exchanged with State funds. Mark tried to solicit three quotes, however, could only obtain one quote; the second company was too busy, and the third company never responded. He brought this matter to County Court for approval. According to Ruben Cleaveland, prior Counsel, the project was over a certain dollar amount per ORS rules, and Ruben believed the whole process needed to be started from scratch with a Request for Proposal (RFP), and a different personal services contract as the one submitted for review was created using a contract from Polk County as a template. Mark inquired if Jeff could look into next steps with the project. The project had been in Ruben's possession for many months and the work that needed to be started immediately for the bridge design to be completed in October, could not be done without all the approvals first. Mark also stated the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant was another project he was working on that may require some Counsel help; funds were awarded for road improvement of Starvation Lane down to Cottonwood Canyon State Park. Lastly, Mark needed to meet with Jeff regarding gravel sales as well.

Judge Thompson and Carrie Pipinich, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD), spoke on the Sherman Fiber to the Home project. They explained the County went through the RFP process in the spring to find service providers. Three proposals were received; the Review Committee selected GorgeNet's proposal to build within the Cities and Biggs Service District. The County, Cities, and GorgeNet will all provide funds in conjunction with a grant through the Regional Infrastructure Fund towards, the implementation of the project. A meeting was held with GorgeNet, City/County representatives, and their attorneys, to discuss next steps and creating construction and operating agreements in order to move forward. Ruben Cleaveland, previous County Counsel, initially started on this project, and the Court hoped he would continue to finish the contracts. Kayla von Borstel, Administrative Assistant, stated new Counsel would need to be involved as Ruben emailed her

with concerns revolving around conflicts as he was no longer the County Counsel, however, he remained to be Counsel for some of the Cities.

Brief discussion held on a fee to be collected by the Cities to help offset any remaining costs; the County agreed to match \$30,000 to the Cities' paid portion. If the grant wasn't awarded, the County agreed to temporarily fill the expense gap to complete the project. There is also a wireless system that serves the rural area that would need to be updated next as well. Kayla was asked to see if Ruben would complete the fiber agreements, and what kind of finishing timeline he would have.

Sherman County was awarded a Technical Assistance grant from Department of Land Conservation District (DLCD), to do Economic Opportunities Analysis work focused within the cities, but looking at the County as a whole. DLCD is contracting with Anderson Perry & Associates to provide those services. A Memorandum of Understanding will need to be signed by the County, all four Cities, and DLCD, which commits Sherman to supporting the project; no County funds are required. Judge Thompson has been pushing DLCD and the State to change Oregon Land Use Laws to give small Counties the opportunity to slightly alter Land Use Laws for non-resource land; this would allow the change of designation from Exclusive Farm Use (EFU, to something else that would allow building of housing, etc. The County has been losing population and cannot support a school or businesses as there is not enough housing, and cannot build housing due to urban growth boundaries.

Brief discussion was held on weed ordinance violations, and addressing the Weed Master gaining property access. Kayla von Borstel Administrative Assistant, will send Jeff Wallace, County Counsel, the memo provided to the Weed Master on property access procedures compiled by Ruben Cleaveland, previous County Counsel.

Brief discussion held on public meeting law and group emails. Carrie Pipinich, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, stated League of Oregon Cities (LOC) provides this service, and believed if training was set up with multiple cities, LOC would not charge; Carrie thought the County might be able to join.

Brief discussion held on Strategic Implementation Program (SIP) re-negotiations; Commissioner McCoy stated David Van't Hof has been hired as an expert lawyer to represent the County during the re-negotiations; County Counsel might be involved in reviewing final documents. Commissioner McCoy, stated he has a potential conflict of interest as he is a landowner in the project area.

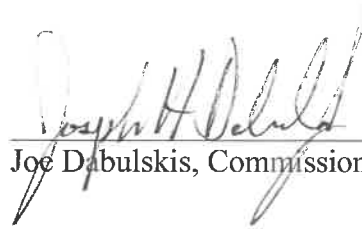
The work session was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Sherman County Court



Gary Thompson, Judge

Tom McCoy, Commissioner



Joe Dabulskis, Commissioner

Attest:



Kayla von Borstel
Administrative Assistant