



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

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 4, 2020

Opened Court: 9:00 a.m.

Present: Judge Joe Dabulskis, Commissioner Justin Miller, Commissioner Joan Bird, Administrative Assistant Tammi Gaskey

A quorum was present. No news media was present.

Additions to Agenda

1.0 Appointment Schedule

1.1 9:00 a.m. K'Lynn Lane, Condon Chamber

Present: K'Lynn Lane, Cindy Brown, Mark Coles, Brad Lohrey, Jared Weedman, Guy Weedman

K'Lynn Lane, Condon Chamber, came to the County Court to present her vision for a Tri-County Chamber of Commerce and Regional Visitors Center. She shared a little bit about her background and qualifications.

K'Lynn stated that the Chamber has been given an opportunity to be a Champion for Change, as this year has brought significant suffering to Oregonians. The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply impacted Oregon's local employers, workers, schools, museums, organizations and every facet of our lives. While the impacts continue to mount, the Chamber of Commerce is committed to seeing our communities get through this and come out in the end even stronger. The businesses in Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties are essential and it is our intention to help them keep their businesses open, viable and sustainable.

The Chamber cares about supporting our local communities and enhancing community livability. The Chamber is focused on people and places. When we help each other, our communities grow stronger. The Chamber has a responsibility to help businesses move forward, adjust and adapt. We currently are defining the attributes and engagement in each community and we need the support of the county governments. Our goal is to work together to build partnerships through smart collaboration with businesses while involving those who are invested in the community.

K'Lynn said that the Tri County Chamber of Commerce will benefit each of the three counties and represent businesses, farms, ranches, organizations and community members who want to enhance the economic growth and shared resources of the region.

Beginning January 1, 2021 the Chamber will take a strategic regional approach to its membership recruitment, advertising and marketing strategies. New membership recruitment will take place in Sherman County identifying businesses in Kent, Grass Valley, Moro, Wasco and Rufus. In addition, Gilliam County (specifically in Arlington) and Wheeler County (Fossil, Spray, Mitchell and Kimberly) will also be served.

1.2 9:32 a.m. Sheriff Lohrey – Scott Canyon Signage

Present: Brad Lohrey, Amber DeGrange, Mark Coles, Jared Weedman, Guy Weedman

Brad Lohrey, Sherman County Sheriff, shared with the Court issues that are coming up regarding Scott Canyon and the need for more/better signage. Brad said that signage for Scott Canyon is an ongoing issue that seems to get worse every year. This year, during harvest, the phones didn't stop ringing. Google Maps send tourists and truck drivers to Scott Canyon and trucks have a length restriction on this road. Truck drivers get tickets on this road routinely as well as crashes due to high speeds on sharp corners and/or icy roads. Trucks are always damaging road signs, guard rails, fire hydrants, etc. Brad wanted to emphasize how much this costs the county annually with road damage as well as replacing signs, guard rails, etc.

Sheriff Lohrey says that when one of the deputies stop a truck on Scott Canyon, the truck driver always states that they are following directions from Google Maps or another directional map from online.

Mark Coles, Road Master, met with ODOT on October 12 to come up with ideas to help out with the problems on Scott Canyon. ODOT is going to do a study.

The Court consensus is that Mark and the Sheriff's Office should come up with a plan. Brad says that Scott Canyon is not a 10 year or even a 1 year project but a now project.

Sheriff Lohrey stated that his office has had no luck contacting Google Maps to get Scott Canyon off the map as an alternate route. Judge Dabulskis also noted that his office has tried to contact Google Maps as well.

Judge Dabulskis said that he would contact Kathleen Cathey with Senator Wyden's office for their assistance in this matter. Commissioner Bird said that she would contact BJ Westlund with Senator Merkley's office for their assistance in this matter.

1.3 9:49 a.m. Amber DeGrange, Juvenile Department – Quarterly Report
Present: Amber DeGrange, Kari Silcox

Amber DeGrange, Juvenile Department, gave a brief review of her quarterly report.

Amber stated that work continues to be modified in the following ways due to the COVID-19 pandemic: the bulk of her meetings continue through virtual formats (NORCOR, youth Wraparound, Regional Family Services, Mid-Columbia Trafficking Team etc.), and she has been checking in with youth and families by telephone and with social distance/mask in person.

The Juvenile Department partnered with the school to offer 50 laptop charging backpacks through Juvenile Crime Permission case management funds; appreciated flexibility from the Early Learning Division to allow for a mass purchase instead of child specific. Previously funded re-establishing internet service in a home, as well as getting new service set up with a router purchase.

Amber has continued case planning with DHS partners on crossover youth (youth that are both DHS connected and have delinquency cases). Working to find a better way to ensure kids are safe during this difficult time when there are less/no professional eyes on them.

Amber is very excited to start working with the newly hired Center for Living mental health provider based in Sherman County, and continue to support case management services through Justice Reinvestment funds and student support through Juvenile Crime Prevention.

Amber also mentioned that the Grass Valley Pavilion hotspot is not working. Commissioner Bird is going to email Whitney Cabral to check on the status of the hotspot.

**1.4 10:10 a.m. Kari Silcox, Senior Center – Quarterly Report
Present: Kari Silcox**

Kari Silcox, Senior Center Manager, gave an overview of her quarterly report. Kari stated that Bonne Whitley resigned from her position as caterer, so Kristi Lesh has taken over cooking for MCP Marketing Meetings every other Friday. Joyce Combs, the Senior Center kitchen assistant, will be trained by Kristi to fill in for this position in the event that Kristi cannot make it one day.

To-go meals only: The Senior Center is still doing to-go meals only, and Kari is checking in with Capeco periodically to see if they have a date that the center can re-open to the public. Last Kari checked, they do not have a specific date yet, due to the extreme vulnerability of the seniors that the center serves. Capeco follows the CDC and governor recommendations closely and have said once the county enters into phase 3 the center will likely be able to reopen senior meal sites. Kari will keep the Court posted when Capeco approves the center for re-opening. Center staff are still doing no-contact deliveries while wearing masks and gloves and placing plates out with people's names on them for them to pick up. The center averages anywhere from 10-32 to-go meals each day.

Fundraisers: In the past the center has held bake sale fundraisers periodically during different holidays. The staff have decided that with the Covid-19 situation, the center will put these on hold for now. Typically, the center does a Thanksgiving pie sale but staff will plan to wait until next year to resume that one, assuming things are back to normal at that point.

Capeco letters of encouragement: Capeco has come up with a great idea of sending letters of encouragement, or homemade art pieces, from community members to our home delivered meal recipients as a way to encourage them during these difficult and lonely times. Kari will keep the Court updated on this fun, new project.

Meals on Wheels: The center continues to have an increased delivery list for our home delivered meals, and Janet Pinkerton and Nancy Simpson continue to deliver the meals every Monday. The center has received extra funding from Capeco to assist in covering our increased Meals on Wheels expenses.

2.0 Action Items

2.1 Holidays

Motion by Judge Dabulskis, second by Commissioner Bird, to declare Thursday, December 24, 2020, and Thursday, December 31, 2020, as Courthouse Holidays.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird

No: 0

Abstain: 0

2.2 NACo Membership Dues

Motion by Judge Dabulskis, second by Commissioner Miller, to approve National Association of Counties (NACo) dues for 2021 in the amount of \$450.00.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird

No: 0

Abstain: 0

2.3 Housing Application updates

Motion by Commissioner Bird, second by Judge Dabulskis, to approve the Sherman County Housing Rehabilitation Grant Program Housing Habitability Standards Self Certification with the addition of the Sherman County logo.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Judge Dabulskis, second by Commissioner Bird, to approve the revised Sherman County Application form for the Housing Rehabilitation Grant.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird

Abstain: 0

Motion by Judge Dabulskis, second by Commissioner Bird, to approve the revised Sherman County Application Form for the New Rental Housing Development Grant.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird

No: 0

Abstain: 0

2.4 Credit Card

Motion by Judge Dabulskis, second by Commissioner Miller, to approve Kristi Brown (Weis) to have a Sherman County credit card issued in her name for the Clerk's Office.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird

No: 0

Abstain: 0

2.5 Paulsen Environmental Consulting, Inc.

The Court can't sell or give away the Hactor trailer due to asbestos found in the flooring and roofing of the trailer. Consensus of the Court is to let Judge Dabulskis continue working on getting the trailer removed.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, second by Commissioner Bird, to approve Paulsen Environmental Consulting, Inc.'s invoice of \$2,026.00 for payment of checking for asbestos on the Hoctor trailer.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird

No: 0

Abstain: 0

2.6 Agreement Regarding Positioning and Placement of Solar Trailer

County Counsel reviewed and approved the document regarding Positioning and Placement of Solar Trailer.

Motion by Commissioner Bird, second by Commissioner Miller, to approve Agreement Regarding Positioning and Placement of Solar Trailer between Sherman County and Dan Richelderfer.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner Bird, second by Commissioner Miller, to approve Agreement Regarding Positioning and Placement of Solar Trailer between Sherman County and Patti Fields.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner Bird, second by Commissioner Miller, to approve Agreement Regarding Positioning and Placement of Solar Trailer between Sherman County and Carrie Blagg.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Commissioner Bird, second by Commissioner Miller, to approve Agreement Regarding Positioning and Placement of Solar Trailer between Sherman County and Byron Carlson.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird

No: 0

Abstain: 0

2.7 Executive Session in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (f) Exempt Public Records

Entered Executive Session: 10:45 a.m.

Exited Executive Session: 10:47 a.m.

During Executive Session COVID-19 Business Owners Assistance Application was discussed.

Motion by Judge Dabulskis, second by Commissioner Bird, to approve a COVID-19 Business Owners Assistance Grant in the amount of \$4,000 to The Bulldog Diner LLC.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird
No: 0
Abstain: 0

3.0 Discussion Items

3.1 Livestock show 2021

The Court wants to make sure that Sherman County and OSU are in an agreement about Sue Mabe's involvement in the 2021 Livestock show. Commissioner Bird has questions about insurance and would like to make sure that OSHA and OHA guidelines are being followed in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.2 Justice Court Quarterly

Financials look better than what the Court was expecting.

3.3 Biggs Service District projects

Jones Drilling has started testing water with the new well that they are drilling.

Merrie von Borstel would like to retire from her position as the Biggs Service District Administrator at the end of this year. The advertisement for her position will run in the Times Journal the weeks of November 9th and 16th.

3.4 Commissioner Reports

Judge Dabulskis –

Attended a STOP meeting; North Central Regional Equity meeting; Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee meeting; Leah Horner call; OHA weekly call; Lower John Day Area Commission on Transportation meeting; County Commissioner meeting on school metrics; and Senator Findley's weekly call.

COVID funding that was ear marked for the cities needs to be spent by the end of the 2020 or maybe given to the Counties to spend.

Judge Dabulskis wanted to make sure that everyone knew that there was a scam going around that involves someone in your email address book sending you an email asking for a favor. The favor is for you to buy a gift card for their relative and to mail it to them or the relative. This is not really coming from the person you know – this is a scam.

Judge Dabulskis spoke with Warren Jackson from Oregon State Building Codes. Warren said that the state is ok with Sherman County staying with the state for building codes.

Wind Wave – Jeff Wallace, County Legal Counsel, sent a rough draft for the Court to review.

Jeff Wallace, County Legal Counsel, is working on a contract with GorgeNet about rural internet.

The Hactor trailer parts – pellet stove, etc. Is the Court ok selling parts from the Hactor trailer? The Court told Judge Dabulskis that they are ok selling parts from the Hactor trailer.

DeMoss Park – Judge Dabulskis met with an electrician regarding extra lighting in the parking lot.

Fairgrounds contractor meeting is today, November 4, 2020.

Wasco Asher Lot sale should be closing in December, 2020.

Biggs property sale should be closing in December, 2020.

Commissioner Miller –

Commissioner Miller has set up his email and has already started getting emails.

Commissioner Miller visited the Trunk or Treat in Moro on Halloween. He said that the people who put on the Trunk or Treat did a great job and that social distancing was well observed.

Commissioner Miller did note that he is not getting legal counsel's emails yet.

Commissioner Bird –

Attended zoom meeting with other agencies in regards to homeless and the mentally ill; Mid-Columbia Community Action; and Employee Staff meeting.

Commissioner Bird spoke to residents that had been with RTG from the Kent elevator.

Dr. Gower sent a letter with COVID expenses. Commissioner Bird mentioned that the Court needs a breakdown of Sherman County's portion which was not included in the letter.

NCPHD will be submitting Sherman County's portion of COVID expenses.

4.0 Consent Agenda

4.1 Minutes of October 21, 2020

Motion by Commissioner Bird, second by Judge Dabulskis, to approve the Minutes of October 21, 2020, as presented.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird

No: 0

Abstain: 0

4.2 Claims – October 2020

Motion by Commissioner Bird, second by Commissioner Miller, to approve the October 2020 Claims.

Vote: 3-0

Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird

No: 0

Abstain: 0

5.0 Future Agenda Items

Being no further business before the Court, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Sherman County Court



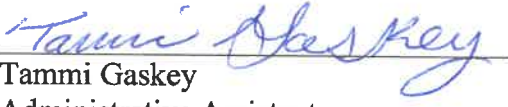
Joe Dabulskis, Judge



Justin Miller, Commissioner



Joan Bird, Commissioner

Attest: 

Tammi Gaskey
Administrative Assistant