



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

**MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 2, 2022**

**Opened Court:**

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

A quorum was present. No news media was present.

**Additions to Agenda**

**2.3 ARPA Funds**

**1.0 Appointment Schedule**

**1.1 9:00 a.m. Gorge TransLink Alliance Update – Kathy Fitzpatrick**

Present: Kathy Fitzpatrick, Kelsi Phillips, Theresa Conley, Audrey Rooney

Kathy Fitzpatrick gave a Gorge TransLink Alliance Update. She stated that the purpose of the Gorge Regional Transit Strategy Phase 1 is to combine the goals, policies, and priorities of local transportation planning efforts in the Mid-Columbia Gorge to establish a foundation for a regional strategy and vision for public transportation. Phase 1 objectives included strengthening partnerships, completing local plan assessments, and synthesizing goals and policies into a high-level regional vision.

Phase II of the Strategy will focus on implementation strategies with a gaps and opportunities analysis, a map developed to demonstrate service enhancement per the vision and goals, and a menu of operational options. Phase II of the Strategy is fully funded thanks to state and federal grants administered by both ODOT and WSDOT.

The Gorge Regional Transit Strategy is a roadmap for the future of public transit in the Mid-Columbia River Gorge, establishing a regional vision and identifying strategies that will help the transit system meet the goals and respond to the growing challenges of housing affordability, congestion, environmental degradation, workforce mobility, and the impacts of the ever increasing population growth in the Portland-Vancouver metro area.

One question that Kathy asked was that the MCEDD Mobility Manager is seeking direction regarding how the Sherman County Court would like to continue to engage in Phase II of the Gorge Regional

Transit Strategy planning process. County Court said that they would like to continue participation through the Sherman County Community Transit Department.

**1.2 9:30 a.m. 9:38 a.m. Road Department – Mark Coles**

Present: Mark Coles, Audrey Rooney

Mark came to County Court with concerns regarding his recent open position and how there were not as many people turning in job applications as in previous job openings. Mark said that his department openings usually get up to 40 + applicants and this time he had 4 new applications and 3 rollover applications. Mark asked County Court to help him strategize to get more people interested in a county job again. Mark isn't necessarily asking to raise the salary but he would like to come up with ways to market his job openings to make the county job more desirable.

Judge Dabulskis told Mark that they need to make time to go for a drive and look at the Starvation Lane Boat Ramp.

**1.3 10:00 a.m. Al Barton – Center For Living Quarterly Report**

Present: Al Barton, Audrey Rooney

Al Barton, Interim Director of Center For Living started off his quarterly report by saying that he values the partnership with Sherman County. Al stated that he especially appreciates all the hard work and dedicated service from Commissioner Bird whom sits on the Center For Living Board.

- Leadership change – Dr. Gower left last summer and the interim Director is Al Barton. Center For Living is taking its time to fill the position to give time for employees to heal from all the turmoil from the past year or two.
- Staffing – There are a lot of holes in staffing right now. Management as well as employees have been leaving in high numbers. We are in the process of recruiting. State-wide there is an employment crisis where there are not enough applicants to fill the job openings around the state as well as for the specialized positions of Center For Living.
- Operating – Employees at Center For Living have recently unionized and negotiated a pay increase, changed medical coverage and there is also a loan forgiveness program.

Finance – The bulk of the finances to operate Center For Living comes from GOHBI and PacificSource. Center For Living is hoping for a one-time infusion (stability payment) from PacificSource.

- Data – Al Barton presented a pie chart that showed who received what type of service in 2021.
- Partnerships – Al talked about a few of the partnerships that are currently happening between Center For Living and entities in Sherman County such as:
  - The School District, Sheriff's Office, Juvenile Department have worked together in conjunction with Center For Living to create a Mental Health Counselor position at the school. Center For Living legal counsel is working on an agreement to pass through money to the school for this position, to provide licensure supervision, and crisis services/coordinated care.

- Medical clinics are always the biggest referrals for adults that need mental health counseling services. Center For Living is currently in talks with the Moro Medical Clinic to provide an on-site mental health professional. This position would be paid for by Center For Living.
- Work Environment – Wasco County employees have helped with human resources, payroll and IT services while Center For Living has been experiencing a shortage of employees in these areas. Tyler Stone and Silas negotiated the PacificSource contract. Silas is performing workplace assessments. Silas is helping us figure out our internal problems so that we can work on them as a team and become a cohesive unit again so that we can better serve our community.

Commissioner Bird thanked Al Barton for all of his continued hard work and dedication to Center For Living and its mission.

## **2.0 Action Items**

### **2.1 Building Codes**

Table until Judge Dabulskis can talk to Warren Jackson and Jeff Wallace. The County does not currently have a process for responding to building code violations.

### **2.2 Chamber of Commerce Sponsorship**

**Motion by Commissioner Bird, second by Commissioner Miller, to approve a \$500.00 sponsorship for the Chamber of Commerce.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

### **2.3 ARPA Funds**

**Motion by Commissioner Bird, second by Commissioner Miller, to transfer \$25,000.00 of ARPA funds to Biggs Service District for Wastewater improvements.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

## **3.0 Discussion Items**

### **3.1 Written Senior Center Quarterly Report**

Good report

### **3.2 Employee Handbook**

Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> 12:30-2:30 p.m. Employee Handbook Work Session

3.3 Library  
Justin from Bend Commercial Glass looked at the windows in the library on January 31, 2022. He is not sure that it is the windows.

Commissioner Bird needs to contact Bustos again regarding the window sills and the masonry work.

3.4 Commissioner Reports and updates

**Judge Dabulskis** – Attended a 911 Budget Committee meeting; a Regional 911 meeting; a MCEDD Executive Board meeting; a MCEDD Loan Board meeting; a Columbia Gorge Resolution Center meeting; a NORCOR Board meeting; a AOC Courthouse meeting; a Regional Solutions Advisory meeting; and a meeting with Nate Stice from Regional Solutions.

Judge Dabulskis stated that Mike Hatchett from TC Energy said that his company has \$5,000-\$10,000 to donate for a community project. TC Energy also has a scholarship program available for high school students.

**Commissioner Miller** – Attended a Fair Board meeting; a CEDS meeting; a Weed District meeting; met with Democratic Candidate For Governor; and also participated in Road Department interviews;

Commissioner Miller stated that a resident contacted him about getting internet to his home. This resident is in a hole. Judge Dabulskis stated that he is looking into the county purchasing conduit for residents to purchase at cost from the county.

**Commissioner Bird** – Attended a Mid-Columbia Housing Authority meeting; a CAPECO meeting; a MCCAC Executive Director’s meeting; a Library meeting; and a MCCAC Board meeting.

**Recessed at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Reconvened at 1:15 p.m.**

#### 4.0 Consent Agenda

##### 4.1 **Claims – January 2022**

**Motion by Commissioner Miller, second by Commissioner Bird, to approve the Claims for the month of January 2022, as presented.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Dabulskis, Miller, Bird**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

#### 5.0 Future Agenda Items:

**Blood Drive – Judge Dabulskis would like to have the support of County Court to proceed with getting a blood mobile to Sherman County so that residents can donate blood for the Red Cross. County Court all agreed that this was a good idea.**

Being no further business before the Court, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

**Sherman County Court**

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Joe Dabulskis, Judge

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Justin Miller, Commissioner

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Joan Bird, Commissioner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Administrative Assistant  
Tammi Gaskey