



WASCO COUNTY COURT
AMENDED REGULAR SESSION
OCTOBER 7, 2009

PRESENT: Dan Ericksen, County Judge
Sherry Holliday, County Commissioner
Bill Lennox, County Commissioner
Kathy McBride, Executive Assistant

At 9:04 a.m. the meeting was called to order by Judge Dan Ericksen.

OPEN TO PUBLIC.

Phillip Sisson met with the Court to request a waiver of the penalty fee for a Land Use Application. A handout was presented to the Court, (Attached as Exhibit A).

Judge Ericksen noted that the Court considered his request back in August, 2009 when only two members of the Court were present. The Court did not render a decision so Sisson is back to make his request again.

Sisson stated that he lives down in Rowena Dell. His home is the only one without a garage. In the spring he received a letter that there would be no more homes built down in the canyon. So he wanted to get his garage built before they do not allow a garage to be built.

Judge Ericksen noted the Court ruling in regards to homes being built in Rowena Dell.

Some discussion occurred regarding the issue of building in the Rowena Dell area.

Sisson went over his handout at this time.

Kathy McBride, Executive Assistant, noted that the fee is \$1,700 because it doubled in price. The original fee was \$850.

Todd Cornett, Wasco County Planning & Development Director, stated that he spoke with his staff. It sounds like Sisson did everything that he could have; he could have waited until Monday to get the right information.

Commissioner Holliday stated that he probably thought he got the right information.

Further discussion occurred.

The Court feels we need to work on the issue of communication between the Planning & Economic Development Department and Building Codes.

Judge Ericksen stated that Sisson was directed by an agency to go ahead with the work. He planned to get the permit for the garage. He was told by the contractor and Building Codes that no permit was needed. Judge Ericksen feels Sisson has done his due diligence.

Commissioner Holliday agreed. She feels that the County needs to have a discussion with Building Codes.

{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to waive the penalty fee in the amount of \$795 for Phillip Sisson. Judge Ericksen seconded the motion; it then passed by a vote of two to one. Commissioner Holliday and Judge Ericksen voted yes, while Commissioner Lennox voted no.}}}

Cornett informed the Court that it costs the County money to make a refund since the County has already collected the fee.

Tim Dahle requested that the Court waive the penalty fee for his Land Use Application to place a shed on his property. Dahle informed the Court that they bought a log shed with the intention of putting it on their place in Rock Creek. He went to the Planning & Development Department and obtained a permit. They are no longer able to afford to put their home in Rock Creek since cherry harvest so they are putting the property up for sale.

Dahle noted that the log shed needed to be moved by August. Cherry harvest finished on August 1st and they started pear harvest the second week in August. He needed to do something with the logs in order to insure that the wood would not warp. The logs were stacked; the building is not complete. The Building Inspector came up and told him he needed a permit. He went in on Monday and was told by the Planning & Development Department that the land use application fee is \$1,065. Since he did not get a permit before beginning the work the fee has doubled.

Dahle stated that he could not complete the building for that; things are tight. He is laying off almost all of his crew, which he has never had to do before. Dahle does not

know if he can pay the whole fee. He is requesting that the County reduce the permit fee in half and that the penalty fee be waived.

A lengthy discussion occurred.

Cornett informed the Court that the fee is for a Scenic Area Review.

Judge Ericksen stated that the fees are pretty well set. Dahle is his neighbor who he has a close relationship with.

Dahle stated that he has been through the permit process. It is not by his choosing to omit it this year. It is not the way he wants to do business.

Commissioner Holliday stated that a permit was gotten for his Sportsman property.

Dahle stated that the cost of the concrete work at Sportsman Park became prohibitive. He could not place the shed there.

Cornett noted that the permit for Sportsman Park was an over the counter permit. It was not a full review. You are talking about different locations and further evaluation.

Commissioner Holliday stated that she understands Dahle's situation. She would be willing to waive the penalty fee.

Commissioner Lennox stated that he agrees with Commissioner Holliday. He would be willing to waive the penalty fee.

Cornett stated that there is no guarantee that the shed will be permitted in that location.

{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to waive the penalty fee in the amount of \$1,000 for Tim Dahle for a Scenic Area Review. Commissioner Lennox seconded the motion; it was then passed by a vote of two to zero. Commissioner Lennox and Commissioner Holliday voted yes, while Judge Ericksen abstained from voting.}}}

OPEN TO DEPARTMENTS.

Tim Lynn, Wasco County Assessor/Tax Collector, informed the Court that he had to recertify the County's tax roll. The Department did not want to correct 3,000 accounts so they choose to recertify the roll.

Lynn informed the Court that he plans to speak to the software company in late November, 2009, in regards to new assessment and taxation software to replace the Awbrey software system currently in place.

Judge Ericksen informed Lynn that he would need to speak to all three vendors who market the software due to the County's Contract Review Board Rules. Judge Ericksen would like Lynn to inquire as to whether or not the company has gone through a bid process with another County, if not the County may need to go through a Request for Proposals process.

Some discussion occurred.

The Court discussed the proposal received from NuMark Office Interiors for a partial remodel of the Assessment & Taxation Office.

Tyler Stone, Wasco County Employee & Administrative Services Director, stated that the quote is a little over \$19,000 for three workstations and the front counter. The funding is available in the current fiscal year.

Lynn stated that the front area of the Office has been the problem area for three years. The project has been scaled back to the area that needs the most attention. He put the money in the budget and included it in the County Assessment Function Funding Assistance (CAFFA) Grant Document. He would feel uncomfortable getting the state funding without expending the dollars for the intended use.

Commissioner Lennox stated that by doing only a portion of the remodel in the Assessment & Taxation Office it would not keep us from doing future work down the road.

Some discussion occurred.

Lynn feels that the County needs to do Phase I of the Office remodel.

*****It was the consensus of the County Court to move forward with remodeling the front office in the Wasco County Assessment & Taxation Office during Fiscal Year 2009-2010***.**

Lynn noted that the Office just recertified the tax roll for \$30,932,049. The County share is \$7,047,222.

Todd Cornett, Wasco County Planning & Development Director, asked the Court if they were interested in the County's consultants giving a similar presentation during next month's Public Hearing on the adoption of the Transportation Systems Plan as they presented at the hearing before the Wasco County Planning Commission.

The Court felt that they did not need another presentation from the consultants since they received enough information during the Planning Commission Hearing.

Cornett will let the consultants know that they do not need to come to make a presentation. If the Court has any technical questions, an Oregon Department of Transportation Representative will be in attendance to answer any questions.

Some discussion occurred regarding yesterday's Planning Commission meeting.

Christa Rude, Wasco County Commission on Children and Families Administrator, informed the Court that parenting classes are beginning and that the Commission is short one staff member.

Rude noted that the Agreement with the State of Oregon requires them to receive approval of the Commission's Chair and the County Court of their budget. This is the funds that they will be accessing during the biennium. She went over the document that needs to be signed by the Court, as well as the funding streams noted in the document.

{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to approve the Agreement between the Mid-Columbia Children's Council and Wasco County Commission on Children and Families and the Grant Agreement between Wasco County Commission on Children and Families and The Next Door, Inc. Commissioner Lennox seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}

Teri Thalhofer, North Central Public Health Director, stated that it has been a busy week in public health. She reported on the following: walking event at the local elementary schools; H1N1 vaccination; and the distribution of the vaccine.

Thalhofer informed the Court of the phone call she received from Gilliam County Judge Pat Shaw in regards to the adoption of an Ordinance establishing the North Central Public Health District as an ORS 190 agency. Apparently there is some confusion in Gilliam County as to when the District was formed. Thalhofer stated that the only thing changing is the governance model. The District was formed in July and in October all the agreements with the State of Oregon will be with the North Central Public Health District.

Some discussion occurred.

The Court told Cornett that they would be discussing the issue of the Planning & Development Department remodel at 11:15 a.m. since the Court had a 10 a.m. appointment.

**PRESENTATION on economic development in Wasco County; presented
By Jessica Metta, Wasco County Economic Development Coordinator.**

Jessica Metta presented the economic development report, (Attached as Exhibit B).

Metta noted that she has been searching for funding for the Maupin Translator District. They are mostly looking for operational funding. There is not funding for that purpose. The District is talking to the electrical company to see if they want to take the service on. The worst case scenario would be that they would need to close.

Metta noted that the cost to rent a van for the County wide tour with members of the Economic Development Commission and members of the County Court would be \$125 per day, which does not include the cost of gas or insurance.

Joan Silver, Economic Development Commissioner Member, is asking that the Court provide \$200 towards the cost of providing the van, gas and insurance.

Some discussion occurred regarding the available funding within the Special Economic Development Payments Fund.

Metta noted that the County will be asked to provide funding assistance again this year for the wind energy booth.

*****It was the consensus of the County Court to support the request from the Oregon Economic Development Commission that the County contribute up to \$300 towards the cost of renting and insuring a van and covering the fuel cost for the County wide tour***.**

The Court recessed at 10:24 a.m.

The Court reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

DISCUSSION on the structure of the Wasco County Court.

Judge Ericksen noted that the discussion on the structure of the Wasco County Court first began on September 9, 2009. The consideration has been to change from a County Court to a Board of County Commissioners, where the Commissioners would elect the Chair.

Judge Ericksen opened the meeting to those wishing to address the Court on this topic.

Mel Omeg, Wasco County Budget Committee Member, stated that he is excited about the possibility of where this could go. He noted that the title of County Judge is misleading. The public is assuming that the Judge is a Circuit Court Judge, when the Judge is actually an administrator.

Omeg noted that over the last 15 years the Budget Committee has been confronted with some really difficult decisions; downsizing County government. He finds it concerning when we are downsizing our law enforcement and our juvenile counselors. He would hope that the County Court makes this change then the three members of the Court could split up these duties and define the areas to administer the County. He encouraged the Court to bring in others to help with this process. Omeg stated when we talk about reducing key services we also have to examine the potential reduction in administration. He feels it is time to look at restructuring our government's administration.

Judge Ericksen stated that he received a request from Eric Nisley, Wasco County District Attorney/County Counsel, to read into the record his letter.

Judge Ericksen read out loud the letter from Nisley, (Attached as Exhibit C).

Judge Ericksen noted that Nisley has endorsed this process. His advice to the Court was that this would be the time to take this action since an election is coming up. This would allow a potential candidate to know what he/she would be filing for.

A lengthy discussion occurred amongst members of the County Court as to the language within the proposed Order in the matter of abolishing the Office of the County Judge and transferring power to Board of County Commissioners.

During the discussion ORS 203.230 (1) and ORS 203.230 (4) was reviewed.

Some language changes were proposed to the Order. Staff was directed by the County Court to make the proposed changes to the Order and have County Counsel review the proposed changes. The Court will consider adopting the Order at their Regular Session of October 21, 2009.

Commissioner Lennox stated that he is supportive of making the change from a County Court to a Board of County Commissioners. The Order can be as simple as the Court chooses to make it; it gives us flexibility to redefine the duties and powers of the Commissioners.

Judge Ericksen stated that government needs flexibility.

Commissioner Holliday stated it will be much easier to explain what a Board of County Commissioners is.

The entire Court is supportive of the change to a Board of County Commissioners.

Other Business:

Commissioner Lennox updated the Court on the reclamation of the Oregon Department of Transportation Rock Pit, located along Highway 30, West of The Dalles.

The Court discussed the Planning & Development Department Remodeling Project with Todd Cornett, Wasco County Planning & Development Director, and Tyler Stone, Wasco County Employee & Administrative Services Director.

Judge Ericksen informed the Commissioners that they had a discussion yesterday with representatives from Mike O'Brien Construction. The proposed work order changes were reviewed and discussed. They were told that we needed to look at some possible cost savings due to the high cost of the entire project. Cornett expressed that he would rather wait a year or two if we could not do the entire project at once due to the disruption to the Department.

Judge Ericksen stated from a facility standpoint we have identified the relocation of the IT Room as a high priority.

The Court was presented with a handout from Fred Davis, Wasco County Facilities Manager, listing facility projects and their projected costs, (Attached as Exhibit D).

The first project to be discussed was the relocation of the IT Room. Davis noted that The Dalles Historical Landmarks Commission will be reviewing the County's application on October 28, 2009.

Judge Ericksen stated that the County originally had \$70,000 budgeted for the IT Room. The funding got cut back to \$40,000. There is \$10,000 budgeted in the Facilities Department for moving the electrical services. That would leave \$25,000 to be drawn from the Capital Acquisition Fund.

Judge Ericksen stated that the reroofing of the La Clinica building is budgeted under a specific line item in the Capital Acquisition Fund. The 911/EOC Remodel Project will pretty much be covered by grant funding during Fiscal Year 2010/2011. The relocation of the Community Corrections Department to Annex B will be during Fiscal Year 2010/2011.

Stone stated that Annex B will need to be remodeled slightly in order to accommodate the needs of the Community Corrections Department. The project needs to start by July 1, 2010, since their current lease ends in September or October, 2010.

Some discussion occurred on the proposed relocation of the Community Corrections Department. It was noted that they currently pay \$47,000 per year for their office space. Stone noted that we would be paying for the first third of the year for the current

location. Two-thirds or three-fourths of the cost would be available for reimbursing the cost of the project.

The cost of the Assessment and Taxation Office Remodeling Project is figured between \$20,000 to \$60,000.

Stone noted that he feels the County has a great shot in receiving a Parks and Recreation Grant for the Hunt Park Renovation Project. The required match for the grant is 25%. In-kind contributions could be used to meet the match requirement.

Stone noted that the County budgeted \$10,000 for the Courthouse Steps Project.

The Hunt Park Well was discussed at great length. Stone noted that the state gave the County three options; connect to another public system, rebuild the existing well, or dig a new well. He noted that rebuilding or drilling a new well would potentially cost the same.

Stone noted that he is working on a waiver; the state looks at the construction standards first and then looks at the waiver. He is requesting that the state allow the County to treat the water and add a line to the cistern. Stone received notification this morning to submit an application for funding of a fixed no interest loan thorough the Oregon Business Development Department.

Some discussion occurred regarding the proposed projects.

Stone stated that the Court made a decision last week on the Planning & Development Department Remodeling Project without the knowledge of these other projects. The question is does the Court want to go forward on the remodeling project.

Judge Ericksen stated that the Court needs to move forward on relocating the IT Room. The County will take \$25,000 out of the Capital Acquisition Fund for this project, leaving \$58,000 of uncommitted funding.

Stone stated that the County would be looking at an additional \$30,000 to complete remodel at the Planning & Development Department. The USDA funding is not a sure thing.

A lengthy discussion occurred regarding the Planning & Development Department Remodeling Project. Items discussed pertained to the length of the project, the cost to relocate the Department during construction, the concerns of Public Works employees, and the costs of the other facility projects.

Judge Ericksen stated that he would like to go ahead with the project, but he has some concerns with depleting the funding and the perception of staff.

Stone stated that he feels we will be in the same scenario next year and the year after.

Judge Ericksen stated that the overall project needs to be a high priority. If we don't go forward we need to insure that the Public Works Department does not spend their \$30,000 this year and that they put the money into next year's budget. We need to discuss the Public Works Department establishing a building improvement fund.

Cornett stated that they are not opposed to waiting to begin the Planning & Development Department Remodeling Project. If the project is delayed they would like some definitive timeline.

Commissioner Lennox stated that he is supportive of delaying the remodeling.

Stone suggested that we transfer the funds from the Public Works Fund to the Capital Acquisition Fund.

Judge Ericksen stated that we would need to have a conversation with the Public Works Department about building a fund or rolling over these dollars.

{{{Commissioner Lennox moved that Wasco County withdraw the awarding of the Planning & Development Department Remodeling Project due to funding constraints and that we reject the proposal from Mike O'Brien Construction. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}

The Court recessed at 11:55 a.m.

The Court reconvened at 1:04 p.m.

Monica Morris, Staff Accountant, stopped in to inform the Court that she will be gone tomorrow for a meeting.

Judge Ericksen told Morris that there were several grants that were accepted and appropriated by the County Court which have not been placed in the budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Some discussion occurred regarding the acceptance of these grants.

Judge Ericksen informed Morris that the Court rescinded their decision of September 23, 2009, in regards to awarding the bid for the Planning & Development Department Remodeling Project.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL of the Regular Session Consent Calendar of October 7, 2009, (Attached as Exhibit E).

{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to approve the Regular Session Consent Calendar of October 7, 2009, as presented. Commissioner Lennox seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}

{{{Commissioner Lennox moved to appoint Commissioner Holliday to the Wasco County/Hood River County Forestland Classification Committee. Judge Ericksen seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}

{{{Commissioner Lennox moved to approve the Special Session Minutes of December 30, 2008, as presented. Judge Ericksen seconded the motion; it was then passed by a vote of two to zero. Judge Ericksen and Commissioner Lennox voted yes, while Commissioner Holliday abstained from voting.}}}

CONSIDERATION of items listed on the Discussion List of October 7, 2009, (Attached as Exhibit F).

Item #1 – The Court is waiting to discuss this issue with Mid-Columbia Senior Center Director Scott McKay.

Item #2 – Commissioner Lennox would like the County Court to designate a project that would benefit the County and be supported by the Community Outreach Team when they go back to Washington, D.C.

Item #3 – The Court discussed upcoming openings on various County Boards, Committees and Commissions. County Boards, Committees and Commissions which were discussed are as follows: Budget Committee, Budget Director, Commission on Children and Families, Courthouse Safety Committee, Economic Development Commission, Extension Service District Budget Committee, Extension Service District Budget Officer, Hospital Facility Authority Board of Directors, Library Service District Budget Committee, Library Service District Budget Officer, Mid-Columbia Council of Governments Board of Directors, Mt Hood Economic Alliance, Museum Commission, NORCOR Budget Committee, and Weed Council.

Staff will set up a tour of the Fort Dalles Museum and Anderson House and Barn Complex with members of the Wasco County/The Dalles Museum Commission in early spring. Tyler Stone, Wasco County Employee & Administrative Services Director, and Fred Davis, Wasco County Facilities Manager, will be invited to attend.

Item #4

{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to appoint Tyler Stone, Tim Lynn, Paul Woodin, Wilford Carey and Judge Ericksen to the Wasco County Strategic Investment Program Advisory Committee. Commissioner Lennox seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}

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Item #5 – Discussion occurred regarding the applications received for the Secretary I Position in the Office of the County Court. One member of the County Court will serve on the interview panel. A second interview will be scheduled with the County Judge and Executive Assistant.

Item #6 – Staff was instructed to keep this item on the Discussion List for future discussion.

Item #7 – This item will also be left on the Discussion List for future discussion.

Item #8

{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to appoint Dan Spatz to the Wasco County Historical Museum Board to replace William Hulse. Commissioner Lennox seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}

Item #9 – The Court discussed the AOC Product Tasting Event to be held at the Annual Association of Oregon Conference in November, 2009.

Commissioner Lennox suggested that the County serve cornbread and honey at the event.

Item #12 – This item will also be left on the Discussion List for further discussion next year. The Court will not be regulating smoking and charcoal barbeques.

Item #14 – The County is not ready to surplus a County vehicle, nor are they ready to approve the request from Dan Hendrix, Shaniko Volunteer Fire Chief, to have the County donate a surplus vehicle to the City of Shaniko. When the County has declared the vehicle as surplus the Court will then consider the request from Hendrix. This item will be placed On Hold until that time.

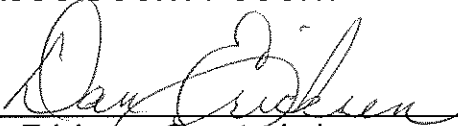
The Court signed:

- Special Session of November 26, 2008.
- Special Session of August 26, 2009.
- Regular Session of September 23, 2009.
- Order #09-167 in the matter of the reappointment of Clint Windom to the Wasco County Elderly & Handicapped Transportation Funds Advisory Committee.
- Order #09-168 in the matter of the reappointment of Lee Bryant to the Wasco County Elderly & Handicapped Transportation Funds Advisory Committee.
- Order #09-169 in the matter of the reappointment of Louise Sargent to the Wasco County Elderly & Handicapped Transportation Funds Advisory Committee.
- Order #09-170 in the matter of the reappointment of Dave Mason to the Wasco County Elderly & Handicapped Transportation Funds Advisory Committee.

- Cooperative Agreement between Wasco County Court and Hood River County Board of Commissioners and Oregon Department of Forestry, State Forester.
- State of Oregon Intergovernmental Agreement #09-DA-63 between the Oregon Department of Justice, Wasco County, and Wasco County District Attorney.
- Policy #09-008 in the matter of adopting an Animal Welfare Policy.
- Policy #09-009 in the matter of adopting a Professional Development Activities Policy.
- Policy #09-010 in the matter of adopting an Environmental Issues Policy.
- Policy #09-011 in the matter of adopting a Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act Policy.
- Wasco County Fair & Rodeo Business Plan, Mission, and Purpose.
- Order #09-171 appointing Brian Ahier to the Mid-Columbia Council of Governments Board of Directors.

The Court adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

WASCO COUNTY COURT



Dan Ericksen, County Judge



Sherry Holliday, County Commissioner



Bill Lennox, County Commissioner

Rec'd 10/7/09
Exhibit A

October 7, 2009

Phillip Sisson

1072 Canyon Way

The Dalles, Oregon 97058

1. - wanted to have work done, not aware of needed permits
-called the following two city offices for information

2. - called Wasco County Planning Codes Services at 541-506-2506 on Friday, when offices were closed, the message machine directed me to Zoning and Code Services at 541-298-4461
- the woman I spoke to at length about this project, at Wasco County Zoning and Code Services, told me a permit was not needed for this specific project

3. - called Wilson Trucking and Excavating, owner and licensed contractor David Wilson, to have the work done
- Mr. Wilson told me no permit was needed and began the work

4. - work was underway and almost complete when found out to in violation by not having a permit

5. - double permit fee for violation

6. - asking to refund the fine for permit violation

Wasco County Court

Economic Development Commission Update: October 7, 2009

EDC News

- **Project Assistance:** Staff has worked with several groups recently on project assistance, primarily to identify funding opportunities. This has included the Wasco County Fairgrounds well, the Maupin Translator District and The Dalles Riverfront Trail.
- **September EDC Meeting:** The EDC had a productive meeting in September. Discussion focused on improving the Needs and Issues process and choosing a project for the EDC. Needs and Issues will be changed to highlight project readiness and also to better identify policy issues that the EDC could assist with. A variety of project ideas were discussed but the EDC decided to first take an economic tour of the County to meet with communities, learning firsthand of projects for the EDC to take on. The EDC requests assistance from the Court on coordinating the tour and invites the Court to participate.
- **PubTalk:** At the September meeting, the EDC agreed to help host a PubTalk in The Dalles. Staff will be working with Robin Cope with the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network to plan the event. The meeting will be Tuesday, November 17, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.. A location, keynote presenter and company presenters are being scheduled at present.
- **Conferences:** Staff will be attending several events in October that could assist with Wasco County economic development, including the Oregon Summit on Entrepreneurship and the Oregon Telecommunications Conference. The latter will be held in Hood River next year for the first time with MCEDD acting as host.

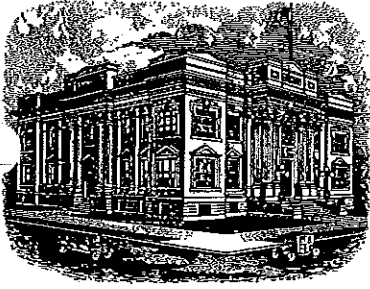
Other Economic News

- **Department of Energy Grants:** The US DOE is developing guidelines for a grant proposal that will use \$454 Million from ARRA for retrofit energy efficiency projects. The majority of funds will target a select number of innovative programs that are structured to provide whole-neighborhood building energy retrofits. A smaller portion is reserved for cities and counties that were not eligible to receive population-based formula grant allocations from DOE under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program (this includes Wasco County). These funds are intended to help expand local energy efficiency efforts and reduce energy use in the commercial, residential, transportation, manufacturing, or industrial sectors. EDC Staff will be watching for more details to determine how Wasco County might participate.
- **Employment:** (*Source: Oregon Employment Department*) Wasco County had a net loss of 120 jobs in August 2009, primarily due to a one month spike in manufacturing jobs in July which were lost in August.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates:

	August 2009	July 2009	August 2008
Oregon	12.2%	11.8%	6.9%
Wasco County	10.1%	10.8%	6.4%

--Jessica Metta, EDC Staff



WASCO COUNTY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SUITE 304
511 WASHINGTON STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON 97058-2237
PHONE (541) 506-2680
FAX (541) 506-2681

Exhibit C

ERIC J. NISLEY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

LESLIE C. WOLF
CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SARAH E. CARPENTER
DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT
(541) 506-2679

VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(541) 506-2685

October 7, 2009

The Wasco County Court
Wasco County Courthouse
The Dalles, OR 97058

RE: Change from Court to Commission

Dear Judge Ericksen, Commissioners Lennox and Holliday:

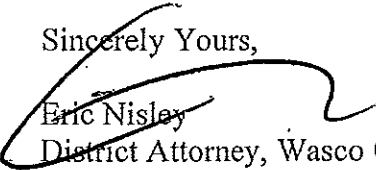
I am unable to attend the County Court session today because I am in court. However, I am writing to express my support for the change of the County Court to a County Commission.

This move makes a great deal of sense. Firstly, it will remove the constant confusion of the County Court and Circuit Court. Secondly, it will balance the power of County Administration to three persons instead of one—taking pressure off Judge Ericksen while giving stronger voices to the other commissioners. This second factor has many positive aspects. For example, when Judge Ericksen is absent (even for a short time) it is often difficult to get things done. With the County administration given to three instead of one, it will be a simple matter of the County Commissioners resolving delegation in advance when one commissioner is absent.

The change also allows the County to explore new methods of managing County resources. There are a number of possibilities for how the County could be managed that could not easily be accomplished before this change. For example, each commissioner could be responsible for oversight of particular departments where that person has expertise. The flexibility gained by this change should not be underestimated. I strongly urge the Court to adopt this resolution and begin the process of determining how the County could be run in the future.

I am aware that some members of the County Charter Committee perceive this motion as intruding upon their process. They are incorrect. This is a statutory process authorized by the legislature. The Charter process is a constitutional process authorized by the people.


Sincerely Yours,


Eric Nisley
District Attorney, Wasco County

**WASCO COUNTY COURT
REGULAR SESSION
OCTOBER 7, 2009**

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Special Session of November 26, 2008.
2. Special Session of August 26, 2009.
3. Regular Session of September 23, 2009.
4. Order #09-167 in the matter of the reappointment of Clint Windom to the Wasco County Elderly & Handicapped Transportation Funds Advisory Committee.
5. Order #09-168 in the matter of the reappointment of Lee Bryant to the Wasco County Elderly & Handicapped Transportation Funds Advisory Committee.
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7. Order #09-170 in the matter of the reappointment of Dave Mason to the Wasco County Elderly & Handicapped Transportation Funds Advisory Committee.
8. Cooperative Agreement between Wasco County Court and Hood River County Board of Commissioners and Oregon Department of Forestry, State Forester.
9. State of Oregon Intergovernmental Agreement #09-DA-63 between the Oregon Department of Justice, Wasco County, and Wasco County District Attorney.
10. Policy #09-008 in the matter of adopting an Animal Welfare Policy.
11. Policy #09-009 in the matter of adopting a Professional Development Activities Policy.
12. Policy #09-010 in the matter of adopting an Environmental Issues Policy.
13. Policy #09-011 in the matter of adopting a Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act Policy.
14. Wasco County Fair & Rodeo Business Plan, Mission, and Purpose.

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15. Order #09-171 appointing Brian Ahier to the Mid-Columbia Council of Governments Board of Directors.

**WASCO COUNTY COURT
REGULAR SESSION
October 7, 2009**

DISCUSSION LIST

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Discussion on the request from the Mid-Columbia Senior Center for the County to commit to renting space at the Senior Center for the Veterans' Service Office (between \$400 to \$500 per month, currently paying \$183.33 per month or \$2,200 per year).
2. Discussion on selecting a County Project to be included on the Community Outreach Team's Project Listing.
3. Discussion on terms to expire in 2009 on various Boards, Committees and Commissions.
4. Appointment of the Strategic Investment Program (SIP) Advisory Committee.
5. Discussion on Interview Panel for Secretary I Interviews.
6. Discussion on Model Executive Session News Media Attendance Policy.
7. Discussion on Draft Continuity of Operations Planning Policy.
8. Consideration of the request from the Wasco County Historical Museum, dated September 29, 2009, to appoint an individual to the Board to replace Bill Hulse.
9. Discussion on the email received from Heidi Ochsner, Hood River County, regarding the AOC Product Tasting Event.
10. Discussion on the remodel of the Assessment & Taxation Office.
11. Discussion on the request from the Wasco County Economic Development Commission for the County to pay for the rental of vans to transport members of the Commission on a tour of Wasco County.
12. Discussion on the County Court Order #09-125 in the matter of Declaring a Ban on Residential Burning in Wasco County, Oregon.
13. Amend Court's Motion of September 23, 2009, in the award of the Planning & Development Department Remodel.

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14. Consideration of the request from Dan Hendrix, Shaniko Volunteer Fire Chief, regarding donation of surplus vehicle.

ON HOLD:

1. Discussion on Amending Document Approval Policy.
2. Discussion on filling the Position of Wasco County Finance Director.
3. Discussion on the establishment of an Ordinance that would allow the enforcement of the burn ban.
4. Motion to rescind the Agreement between Wasco County, Oregon, and the North Wasco County School District #21, approved on March 4, 2009.
5. Change to Fire Protection Funding enacted by the Oregon State Legislature.