

**CROOK COUNTY COURT MINUTES  
OF AUGUST 30, 2023, WORK SESSION  
Open Portion**

**Be It Remembered** that the Crook County Court met in a regularly scheduled Work Session on August 30, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Conference room located at 203 NE Court Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754.

Court Members Present: Judge Seth Crawford; Commissioner Brian Barney; Commissioner Jerry Brummer

Absentees: None

Others Present in Person or Via Zoom: Legal Counsels Eric Blaine and John Eisler; Administration Executive Assistant Sarah Puerner; Finance Director Christina Haron; Airport Manager Kelly Coffelt; Jeff Hurd; Director Will Van Vactor; District Attorney Kari Hathorn; Library Director Sarah Beeler; Andy Parks; Clerk Cheryl Seely; Tim Deboodt; Monty Kurtz; Sandy Kerbow; Courtney Voss, and members of the public.

**WORK SESSION**

The meeting was **called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

**Public Comment:**

Monty Kurtz asked if there was a timeline for when the County will do a strategic plan versus individual departments? Judge Crawford answered that he would get back to Monty after the meeting with the requested information.

**Discussion Item #1: Update expiring strategic plan for Crook County Library:**

**Requester:** Sarah Beeler

**Details:** Library Director Sarah Beeler attended the work session to discuss with the Court an update to an expiring strategic plan for the Crook County Library. The expiring strategic plan covers the years 2019-2024 and the cost for developing the plan was not included in the library's budget. The expected cost will be \$20,000-\$30,000. There are grant funds and carryover from FY23 that will be used. Friends of the Crook County Library have agreed to contribute \$2,000 and additional grants will be sought for this project.

**Discussion Item #2: Review/approval of FAA grant offer for RWY project:**

**Requester:** Kelly Coffelt

**Details:** Airport Manager Kelly Coffelt attended the work session to discuss approval of a FAA grant offer for RWY project. This is an FAA AIP project and FAA funds that are available are \$454,725.00. This does require a 10% match of funds for \$50,525.00. Crook County has already been awarded a grant from the Oregon Department of Aviation for \$45,000 so the net match funds needed is \$5,525.00. This item will be added as a discussion item to the September 6<sup>th</sup> Court session.

**Discussion Item #3: Community Development Monthly Update:**

**Requester:** Will Van Vactor

**Details:** The Building Department reported that numbers went down in July, but the department is still busy with significant plan reviews for Central Oregon Processing. The Planning Department also reported numbers are down compared to this time last year, but the department remains steady with work. The Onsite Department reported that numbers are up compared to this time last year, and these applications have been a strong indicator of trends. Code Compliance has been quite busy and continues to receive complaints. The department opened seven new cases in July and closed out four cases.

**Discussion Item #4: Grant Agreement – Crook County DoD Grant for Military Airspace and Energy Planning:**

**Requester:** Will Van Vactor

**Details:** Community Development Director Will Van Vactor attended the work session to discuss a grant agreement with the Court. The County was awarded a grant from the Department of Defense to adopt an overlay for military airspace and associated standards modifications for private airports, zoning, notification requirements, and other necessary updates. The total project cost will be \$101,551 with a federal contribution of \$91,273 and a County contribution of \$10,278. Mr. Van Vactor requested that the Court approve signing the grant today due to deadlines.

**MOTION** to approve the US Department of Defense grant for military airspace and energy planning. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Discussion Item #5: Contract with Bureau of Reclamation for Noxious Weed Control:**

**Requester:** Jeff Hurd

**Details:** Jeff Hurd attended the work session to discuss a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation for Noxious Weed Control. This is an updated five-year contract, and the County was able to negotiate a higher rate using the County's cost recovery policy to fully capture the hourly costs of employees. Without the contract, the County's Weed Department will be significantly affected by budget projections over the next five years.

**MOTION** to authorize staff to clarify contract and to enter into a one year or as this contract is presented as today. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Administrator Report:**

- ODOT: Gas Tax – Andy Parks provided a news article to the Court. The title of the article was “ODOT: The gas tax is fading away and taking maintenance down with it”. The article mentioned that the gas tax has been the foundation of how Oregon funds its transportation system and every transportation agency across the state relies on it to some degree. With gas consumption declining, tax revenues will decline as well.
- Courtney Voss with Republic Services attended the work session to discuss issues with a few of the roads within Crook County. Recently a number of roads were found to have operational challenges and these particular roads are not under the responsibility of the County or BLM, so residents have been responsible for maintenance of the roads. One road in particular is Grizzly Mountain Road. Republic cannot provide door to door service any longer with the quality of the roads and are

possibly looking into placing a container at the intersection and have residents bring their trash down. Republic Services will be working on setting up a process to provide more notice to residents when future issues arise.

Court Member Updates: None

At 9:45 a.m. the Court read into Executive Session under the following statute(s): ORS 192.660(2)(h) Consulting with Counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed; ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt from disclosure by law, including written advice from your attorney.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the County Court convened back into Open Session, inviting members of the public into the meeting room.

**MOTION** to authorize staff to reach out to the counter party as discussed in the Executive Session. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business before the Court, the meeting was **adjourned at 12:07 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Sarah Puerner**