

**CROOK COUNTY COURT MINUTES
OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 SPECIAL SESSION
Open Portion**

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Court and Fair Board met in a Special Session on September 18, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in the Central Oregon Community College, located at 510 SE Lynn Blvd, Prineville, OR 97754.

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

Fair Board Members: Stanley Flynn, Gail Merritt, Linda Cross, Linda Smith, Susan Hermreck, Mike McCabe

Others Present in Person or Via Zoom: Legal Counsel Eric Blaine; Administrative Executive Assistant Sarah Puerner; Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly; Office Assistant Haley Crow; Contract County Administrator Andy Parks; Natural Resources Policy Coordinator Tim Deboodt; Ag Extension Manager Kim Herber.

SPECIAL SESSION

The meeting was **called to order at 3:30 p.m.**

The purpose of this meeting is to review the roles and responsibilities of the Fair Board, review five-year financials, discuss options to address funding deficiency, and discuss other issues that may arise.

Agenda:

1. Review of roles and responsibilities
2. Review of five-year financials
3. Discussion of options to address funding deficiency
4. Discussion of other issues
5. Executive session (real estate)
6. Adjourn

Contract County Administrator Andy Parks opened the meeting with an overview of the agenda. The primary topic was to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Court and the Fair Board. Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly presented the operating agreement, which has been in place since 2012. Following this, the board examined the five-year financial statements, including assumptions and forecasts, noting that the Fairgrounds have consistently overspent their budget, necessitating transfers from other funds to cover deficits, with the amounts varying annually.

Discussion then shifted to exploring alternative revenue sources to offset the Fairgrounds' operational costs. One suggestion was to expand RV parking to boost year-round revenue, as the County already collects RV registration fees in partnership with the Crook County Parks and Recreation District. However, an administrative rule currently prevents the Fairgrounds from managing these fees directly, which restricts

additional funding opportunities. Legal Counsel Eric Blaine committed to investigating this matter further.

The board also debated whether to set limits on fairground rental and alcohol sales, and the need to establish clear parameters for these activities moving forward. It was noted that the City of Prineville contributes \$13,000 annually to the Fairgrounds—a figure that has remained unchanged for years. Given that events at the Fairgrounds significantly benefit the city, particularly through Transient Room Tax (TRT) revenue, there was a proposal to negotiate for an increase in this contribution.

Additional revenue-generating ideas included seeking year-round sponsorships for events and specific facilities, such as covered buildings. Lastly, the importance of lobbying for state funding was emphasized as a critical measure to address the funding shortfall at the Fairgrounds.

At 4:53 p.m. the Court read into Executive Session under the following statute(s): ORS 192.660(2)(e) For the purpose of conducting deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

MOTION to direct staff to confer with the realtor of record 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 5:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Puerner