

**CROOK COUNTY COURT MINUTES
OF FEBRUARY 28, 2024, WORK SESSION
Open Portion**

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Court met in a regularly scheduled Work Session on February 28, 2024, 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 Susan Hermreck, and Commissioner Brian Barney

Absentees: None

Others Present in Person or Via Zoom: Legal Counsels Eric Blaine and John Eisler; Executive Administrative Assistant Sarah Puerner; Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly; Community Development Director Will Van Vactor; Building Official Randy Davis; Finance Director Christina Haron; Chief Information Officer Stephen Chellis; Clerk Cheryl Seely; Library Director Sarah Beeler; Health and Human Services Director Katie Plumb; Landfill Manager Jacquie Davis; Administrative Assistant Mona Glade; Administrative Assistant Breyanna Cupp; Sheriff John Gautney; Undersheriff Bill Elliott; Natural Resources Policy Coordinator Tim Deboodt; Office Assistant Haley Crow; Appraiser Jason Elliott; Assessment Technician Stephanie West; Assessment Technician Linda Pepper; Office Manager Alexandria Solterbeck; Chief Administrative Deputy Stephanie Wilson; District Attorney Kari Hathorn; Commander Andrew Rasmussen; Contract Administrator Andy Parks; Dr. Doug Gruzd; Mike Ervin; Garth Finley; Monty Kurtz; and members of the public.

WORK SESSION

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

Public Comment: None

Discussion item #1: Consider Approval of Water Rights Purchase from OID:

Requester: Casey Daly

Details: Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly attended the Work Session to ask the Court to consider approving a water rights purchase from Ochoco Irrigation District. This is to purchase 21.6 acres of water rights. This purchase will be able to water the fairgrounds entirely. The cost is \$10,800.00 from a \$2 Million grant. This item will move to consent agenda for final approval on March 6th.

Discussion item #2: Consideration of grant approval - Crook County Cultural Coalition:

Requester: Haley Crow

Details: Fairgrounds Office Assistant Haley Crow attended the Work Session to request the Court's consideration for grant approval. The grant in question amounts to \$1,500.00 and is provided by the Crook County Cultural Coalition. This funding is intended to support the swine and rabbit shows scheduled for this year's fair, which in turn offers support to community members with physical and/or mental disabilities.

Additionally, the 4-H Association's contribution will cover judges' fees and supplies for orientation day. With the contribution from the 4-H Association and this grant amount, the department will be on budget. This item will move to consent agenda for final approval on March 6th.

Discussion item #3: Rank Choice Voting:

Requester: Cheryl Seely

Details: County Clerk Cheryl Seely attended the Work Session to discuss the upcoming ballot measure concerning Rank Choice Voting, slated for the November general election. Rank Choice Voting, also known as HB2004, is scheduled for implementation in 2028 but will appear on the ballot in 2024. Funding presents a challenge for counties tasked with updating their systems to accommodate this change. The implementation of ranked votes will require additional time and procedural adjustments due to the unique nature of voting by mail. Currently, Maine and Alaska are the only states utilizing Rank Choice Voting, with 13 other states implementing it in select municipalities, while 5 states have entirely prohibited its use.

Comments:

Tim Deboodt- there could be several measures on the ballot for different kinds of rank choice voting. Have they settled on a particular measure?

Garth Finley - Which states rejected this? Clerk Cheryl Seely answered TN, MT, SD, FL, and ID.

Mike Ervin- Alaska is currently trying to get rid of the Rank Choice Voting. It will be difficult to audit the Rank Voting.

Discussion item #4: Update on ERP progress and data conversion challenges:

Requester: Christina Haron

Details: Finance Director Christina Haron attended the Work Session to provide the court with an update on the ERP progress. ERP is anticipated to be going live with one fund extension going live on March 1st with subsequent funds going live thereafter for measured implementation. There is a challenge in transferring information from Novaline to Towncloud. To avoid transferring incorrect data from our current system to the new one, we are requesting Towncloud to conduct additional data validation and conversion tasks, such as removing duplicates, extracting vendor information, verifying data accuracy, and retrieving project details. Importantly, this request will not impact the budget, as no additional funds are being sought for the ERP implementation.

Discussion item #5: Community Development Monthly Update:

Requester: Will Van Vactor

Details: Community Development Director Will Van Vactor and Building Official Randy Davis attended the Work Session to provide the Court with the monthly Community Development update. In terms of building, progress has been slower this month, largely due to weather conditions, resulting in a decrease of approximately 200 permits compared to the yearly average. However, the department is utilizing this time to undergo training on new mechanical and electrical codes. In commercial development, the department is facing challenges with staffing shortages, particularly in commercial structures certifications, following the retirement and relocation of an

employee. In planning, activities have slowed down presently, although we have received an application for a Dollar General store in Juniper Canyon, marking a unique development. Regarding code compliance, we are addressing complaints from Juniper Acres, having received a total of 38 complaints to date. These complaints span various issues, and we anticipate receiving a report from COIC to facilitate further discussion with the commissioners on these matters.

Comments:

Garth Finley- What kinds of complaints are these? Community Development is unsure of what the complaints are until they get the report back but are assuming these complaints are based on solid waste and illegal construction.

Discussion item #6: Seeking input on a proposal in the Horse Ridge Recreation Management Area:

Requester: Andy Parks

Details: Contract County Administrator Andy Parks attended the Work Session to discuss a letter that was received from BLM. BLM is seeking input on a proposal for the Horse Ridge Recreation Management Area. The project area is located approximately 13 air miles southeast of Bend, on the Southside of State Highway 20. Public comment is due by March 13th.

Comments:

Judge Crawford- Talked to a Rancher that lives out in this area and is selling his ranch due to all the trails and things that are already out there that he doesn't like.

Tim Deboodt- This is in Deschutes County, a lot of trail systems not authorized by BLM. This is to bring some management to the area that has been unmanaged. Lots of comments because it does look on the Badlands area. Enforcement will be an issue with BLM. People want the forest and the desert experience when they come visit.

Administrator Report:

Andy Parks- Solid Waste Manager Kevin McCarthy will be at the March 13th Work Session to provide an update.

Court Member Updates:

Susan Hermreck- Received a letter from Marilyn Malloy who received the prestigious 2024 Cecil Sly Award from Prineville Kiwanis. Commissioner Hermreck would like to write a letter on behalf of the County Court to Marilyn and thank her for her outstanding contributions.

MOTION to write a letter to Marilyn Malloy on the awarding of her Cecil Sly Award and her accomplishments in our County and to sign outside of Court. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

At 9:40 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 by law from public inspection.

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 waive the confidentiality in the case of Kari Hathorn, our District Attorney, and send her the PERS material from Attorney Aaron Landau on or about February 27, 2024. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

MOTION to direct staff to proceed with the counter parties 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 11:45 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Puerner / Breyanna Cupp