

**CROOK COUNTY COURT MINUTES
OF MARCH 6, 2024, REGULAR MEETING
Open Portion**

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Court met in a Regular Court meeting on March 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the County meeting room located at 320 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; Finance Director Christina Haron; Clerk Cheryl Seely; Contract County Administrator Andy Parks; Office Manager Alex Solterbeck; Assessor Jon Soliz; District Attorney Kari Hathorn; Natural Resources Policy Coordinator Tim Deboodt; Extension Manager Kim Herber; Administrative Assistant Breyanna Cupp; Chief Information Officer Stephen Chellis; Assessment Technician Stephanie West; Health and Human Services Director Katie Plumb; Assessment Technician Linda Pepper; Budget Analyst Jamie Berger; Community Development Director Will Van Vactor; Chief Administrative Deputy Stephanie Wilson; Administrative Assistant Mona Glade; Monty Kurtz; Mike Ervin; Dock Kerbow; Rick Treleaven; and members of the public.

REGULAR SESSION

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

Public Comment:

Monty Kurtz – Mr. Kurtz expressed gratitude to the staff, Administrator, and Commissioners for their diligent and professional work, commending the staff for their budget and planning presentations and Finance for implementing new software and systems. Mr. Kurtz criticized Judge Crawford for his involvement in hiring directors and other positions, questioning why he is paid more than any other Commissioner in Oregon, except for Multnomah County, despite his long tenure. Mr. Kurtz urged the commissioners to consider changes in structure and pay to ensure that the hard work and money spent are not wasted, emphasizing the need for continuous improvement in the county.

Mike Ervin – Mr. Ervin wanted to echo a few comments from Monty Kurtz's sentiments. He noted it's essential to make a decision regarding the governance and the county administrator's position. A good leader should prioritize this for the benefit of county residents. If we had been working together as a cohesive commission, addressing the county administrator position would be more manageable. If the governance change isn't progressing, clear communication is necessary, so the public is informed about the commissioners' actions and plans.

Consent Agenda:

1. Consider Approval of Water Rights Purchase from OID
2. Consideration of grant approval - Crook County Cultural Coalition
3. No public comments were received for the Title III request to pay for the Drones and accessories and funds will be spent in accordance with the applicable law as originally approved by the County Court on January 3, 2024.

MOTION to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #4: TownCloud Contract for Data Conversion Services:

Requester: Christina Haron

Details: Finance Director Christina Haron attended the Regular Session to request \$20,000 for data conversion services, the next step in the ERP implementation. This funding will enable Towncloud to perform the necessary data conversion services for transitioning from Naviline to Towncloud. The contract for these services is \$20,000, covering 150 hours at \$150 per hour. This expense has been budgeted using ARPA funds.

MOTION to approve the \$20,000 expenditure for data conversion. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #5: Secure Rural Schools (Title III) Spending Approval Request-Increase for CWPP request:

Requester: Christina Haron

Details: Finance Director Christina Haron attended the Regular Session to request an increase in spending approval for Title III funds. Ms. Haron requested an additional \$10,000 in Title III dollars to update the Crook County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, following the original request approved on December 6, 2023. COIC has firmed up the scope of work, incorporated rate increases, and adjusted the mileage reimbursement rate, resulting in an \$8,424 cost increase for the CWPP. This request covers the entirety of the expected costs related to updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan with no additional outlay from the County.

MOTION to approve funding from the Secure Rural Schools Title III for an increase from the CWPP request of \$10,000. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

MOTION to accept the COIC contract. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #6: Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:

Requester: Christina Haron

Details: Finance Director Christina Haron attended the Regular Session to request approval of an additional \$10,000 from the Risk Management Fund to update the Crook County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, following the original request approved on January 3, 2024. COIC has refined the scope of work, increased their rates, and adjusted

the mileage reimbursement rate, resulting in an \$8,605 cost increase for the NHMP. The requested funding will come from the County's Risk Management Fund, included in the current budget appropriation. This fund, supported by all County departments for cost recovery, is used for mitigating county-wide risks such as liability insurance deductibles and additional workers' compensation.

MOTION to approve an additional \$10,000 from the Risk Management Fund to update the Crook County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan per original request approved on January 3, 2024. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

MOTION to accept the COIC contract to produce a 5-year update of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #7: Behavioral health services contract with PacificSource Community Solutions:

Requester: Eric Blaine

Details: Rick Trelevan from BestCare attended the Regular Session to present a proposed amendment to the Pacific Source Community Solutions contract. This amendment updates the Behavioral Health Services agreement between the County and the regional Coordinated Care Organization, which serves Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook Counties. The proposed changes will alter some of the terms for payment and reimbursement services.

MOTION to approve the 2024 amendment to the Participating Provider Agreement between PacificSource Health Care and the Central Oregon Community Mental Health Programs. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Administrator Report:

Andy Parks noted that Andy Pearson is seeking permission to request a \$2,500 grant from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. This is in addition to the previous grant in the amount of \$66K. This would be used for employee wages and other emergency management. Money will be matched by the Sheriff's Office. This must be replied to by today due to the deadline.

MOTION to approve the extra \$2,500 from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Central Electric is seeking a letter of support for their project. They would like letters submitted by Friday. Mr. Parks is seeking authorization or approval to draft the letter and to be signed out of court.

MOTION to draft a letter in support of the Central Electric Project and sign out of Court to submit by Friday. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

MOTION to approve the prototype letter from Crook County to the US Department of Energy regarding the Central Electric Community Partnership. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Parks noted that Vance Jacobson will be presenting an update on the compensation study at an upcoming work session and will answer any questions from staff and clear up anything before returning to talk with Commissioners. Krystal Chellis for the HRIS Project has returned the signed contract and is awaiting Judge Crawford's signature. Christina Hannigan is returning to Human Resources effective Monday, March 4th. Airport Manager Kelly Coffelt to review the five-year financial forecast for the IGA with the City for the management of the Airport.

Court Member Updates: None

At 9:36 a.m. the Court convened into Executive Session under the following statute(s): ORS 192.660(2)(a) To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent; and 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.

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 for Legal to draft a letter to Dogami in accordance with the discussion we have had today. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

MOTION for Legal to draft a letter to Ed Fitch conveying our position and to be signed by Will Van Vactor. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

MOTION to direct staff to unenroll the Deputy DA's from PERS and to fully restore the 401k benefits. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 2-1.

MOTION to direct staff to facilitate conversation between District Attorney Kari Hathorn and Attorney representative Aaron Landau. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business before the Court, the meeting was **adjourned at 12:09 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Puerner