

**CROOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
OF JULY 3, 2024, REGULAR MEETING
Open Portion**

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Court meeting on July 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the County meeting room located at 320 NE Court Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754.

Board Members Present: Commissioner Seth Crawford and Commissioner Brian Barney

Absentees: Commissioner Susan Hermreck

Others Present in Person or Via Zoom: Legal Counsels Eric Blaine and John Eisler; Executive Administrative Assistant Sarah Puerner; Mona Glade; Christina Haron; Breyanna Cupp; James Preuss; Will Van Vactor; Brad Haynes; Stephanie O’Neal; Alex Solterbeck; Sarah Beeler; Casey Daly; Jacquie Davis; Sandy Kerbow; Jerry Hicks; Erin Harris; Steve Waring; Micheal Stremme; Ken Fahlgren; John Morgan; Dusty Flegel; Andrea Weaver; Kelly Coffelt; Katie Slattery; Jamie Berger; Tasha Lundbam; Deborah Stremme; and members of the public.

REGULAR SESSION

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

Public Comment:

Ken Fahlgren and John Morgan submitted public comment cards regarding the Allen Creek access discussion. Since this topic is listed as Discussion Item #12 on the agenda, we will hold their comments until that item is addressed.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve Minutes
2. Order 2024-37 In the matter of the appointment to the Crook County Library Board of Trustees
3. Extension #3 to Professional Services Contract
4. Renewal of USDA APHIS Agreement
5. Reproductive Health grant award
6. Reproductive Health grant award #2
7. Amendment proposal to Crook County Community Health Advisory Council Bylaws
8. Order 2024-38 In the matter of appointment to the Community Mental Health Advisory Board
9. Promotion of Camille Krueger
10. Amendment 4 to community mental health program funding agreement no. 026007

MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Crawford highlighted the consent agenda, which included the appointment of Michael Stremme to the Library Board. Mr. Stremme expressed his excitement about joining, and the Commissioners shared their enthusiasm for having

him on the board. Additionally, Commissioner Crawford announced the appointment of James Preuss as the new Facilities Director, noting the Board's pleasure in welcoming him to the team.

Discussion item #11: Proclamation stating that July is recognized as Park and Recreation Month in Crook County, Oregon:

Requester: Steve Waring

Details: Steve Waring, Executive Director of the Crook County Parks and Recreation District, requested that the Board of Commissioners officially recognize July as Parks and Recreation Month in Crook County. The U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month nationwide, and this recognition has no budget impact on the county. Commissioner Crawford read the proclamation in support of the designation. Steve Waring expressed his gratitude to the Board for the ongoing collaboration between the County and the City on various projects and events. He also highlighted upcoming community events that residents can participate in.

MOTION to pass the Proclamation. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 2-0.

Discussion item #12: Review of Crook County Order 2009-67:

Requester: Jerry Hicks

Details: Realtor Jerry Hicks and Retired Forester John Morgan attended the Regular Session to request the Board of Commissioners correct an error in the legal description of Order 2009-67, which impacts access to the Foley Butte timber tract, now owned by Nuveen Capitol Partner. County Counsel Eric Blaine explained the concept of road vacation for counties and confirmed there is no budget impact for the county. The legal error affects access to the property, with three differing legal descriptions, two of which support the existence of a gate at the road's entrance. Jerry Hicks presented the property's history and offered to gather signatures from affected landowners to expedite the correction. AmeriTitle Title Manager Erin Harrison and Managing Forester John Morgan also provided insights, emphasizing that the current road description inaccurately reflects public access and should be corrected to align with private access intent. Former Commissioner Ken Fahlgren supported this, recalling the original intent to limit access due to property damage. County Counsel Blaine and the Commissioners agreed to review the information before making a decision. Blaine advised against recording a new public road document without involving the property owners, and Commissioner Barney recommended obtaining landowner consent to avoid future issues.

Interim Manager Report:

Will Van Vactor reminded everyone that James Preuss has joined the County as the new Facilities Director and encouraged any department heads who haven't met him yet to reach out and introduce themselves. He also provided an update on the HR Director recruitment, noting that the engagement letter has been signed with the same firm handling the County Manager recruitment, so that process is moving forward.

Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner Crawford mentioned that he received a letter from the Governor’s Office on Friday regarding the water issue and potential funding options. He expressed optimism about the positive news and plans to develop a solution. Commissioner Crawford also discussed homelessness and upcoming laws with County Counsel Eric Blaine, emphasizing the need to prevent camping within the community and expressing a desire to see these measures adopted as soon as possible. County Counsel Eric Blaine advised that the existing camping ordinance should remain in effect for the time being.

Commissioner Barney asked Jerry Hicks if the property owners had signed the necessary documents. Mr. Hicks responded that he expects the signatures to be completed today. Acknowledging Mr. Hicks's deadline, Commissioner Barney emphasized the need to expedite the process once the approvals are received. Commissioner Crawford added that he is willing to call a special meeting if necessary. Mr. Hicks confirmed he would send over the notarized consent notices from the property owners once they are finalized.

Public Comment: None

At 10:07 a.m. the Board of Commissioners convened 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

MOTION to execute funding documents outside of court, as presented in the Executive Session, once finalized and legal counsel has approved in consultation with Commissioner Barney. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 2-0.

MOTION to direct outside counsel as discussed in the Executive Session following full execution of the funding agreements. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 2-0.

MOTION for County Legal Counsel to correspond with the counter party regarding the authorities as discussed in the Executive Session. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 2-0.

MOTION to direct staff to prepare the recording documents including the recitals as discussed in the Executive Session and to be signed outside of court. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 2-0.

There being no further business before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was **adjourned at 11:07 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Puerner / Breyanna Cupp