

**CROOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES  
OF AUGUST 7, 2024, REGULAR MEETING  
Open Portion**

**Be It Remembered** that the Crook County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on August 7, 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, Commissioner Brian Barney, and Commissioner Susan Hermreck

Absentees: None

Others Present in Person or Via Zoom: Legal Counsels Eric Blaine and John Eisler; Executive Administrative Assistant Sarah Puerner; Casey Daly; Will Van Vactor; Alex Solterbeck; Breyanna Cupp; Christina Haron; Sarah Beeler; Jamie Berger; Stephanie West; Kelly Coffelt; Linda Pepper; Kari Hathorn; Andy Gallagher; Mike Warren; Dave Fields; Richard Meyers; Brandi Ebner; Rory Rodge; Don Tschida; and members of the public.

**REGULAR SESSION**

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

Public Comment: None

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve Minutes
2. Request for approval to apply for annual Ready to Read Grant
3. Letter to State Representatives Regarding State Border Relocation Negotiations
4. Crook County Solid Waste Application for a Disposal Fee Credit
5. Order 2024-40 In the matter of approving a one-time additional PTO accrual or payout for long-term employees
6. Order 2024-41 In the matter of adopting a procedure for implementing a compensation review committee

**MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Discussion item #7: Recognition of Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday:**

**Requester:** Commissioner Barney

**Details:** Commissioner Brian Barney read a proclamation recognizing August 9, 2024, as Smokey Bear's 80th birthday in Crook County. Smokey Bear has long been a cherished and iconic symbol of wildfire prevention, reminding generations of Americans about the importance of protecting our forests, wildlife, and natural resources. This milestone marks eight decades of Smokey's tireless efforts and continued dedication to raising awareness about wildfire safety. His message, "Only YOU can prevent wildfires," has played a vital role in shaping public attitudes toward fire prevention and preserving

the beauty of our natural landscapes for future generations. Crook County is proud to celebrate Smokey Bear's 80 years of service and his enduring legacy.

**Discussion item #8: Request to waive or reduce the rental fee of Crook County Fairgrounds indoor arena for Prineville's Hospice Auction to be held on December 7, 2024:**

**Requester:** Anna Contreras

**Details:** Prineville's St. Charles Hospice Auction Coordinator, Brandi Ebner, attended the Regular Session to request a rental fee waiver for the Crook County Fairgrounds. She explained that the hospice auction is an annual event, and the fairgrounds is the only venue capable of accommodating the 700 expected attendees. Crook County has consistently supported this event, and waiving the rental fees helps reduce costs, allowing the organization to raise more funds to support local hospice patients and their families.

**MOTION** to waive the rental fees for the Prineville Hospice Auction on December 7<sup>th</sup> and will come out of the Community Benefit Fund. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Discussion item #9: Presentation for Crook County Soil & Water Conservation District:**

**Requester:** Christina Haron

**Details:** Andy Gallagher, District Manager for the Crook County Soil & Water Conservation District, attended the Regular Session to provide the Board of Commissioners with an annual update on the district's programs and current initiatives, noting that it has been an exciting year. He highlighted the Sage Grouse program, which supports private landowners in enhancing their property for wildlife habitat conservation while also helping them maintain their land. Andy also discussed several key grants and projects the district is working on, including: Ochoco Fish Passage Project: Focused on improving fish migration pathways in the Ochoco area; Gillens Beaver Creek Project: Aimed at restoring natural habitats and ecosystems along Beaver Creek; Blue Mountain Ranch Paulina Valley Restoration: A major effort to restore the ecological balance of Paulina Valley; and Wildfire Recovery: Ongoing recovery efforts and securing funding for projects aimed at mitigating wildfire damage and restoring affected areas. These initiatives reflect the district's commitment to conservation and sustainable land management in Crook County, while continuing to secure the necessary resources through grants and partnerships.

**Discussion item #10: Consideration of County Manager Hiring Standards, Criteria, and Policy Directives:**

**Requester:** John Eisler

**Details:** Assistant County Counsel John Eisler attended the Regular Session to request the Board of Commissioners' consideration of the County Manager Hiring Standards, Criteria, and Policy Directives. In April, the County contracted with GMP Consultants to assist in recruiting and selecting a permanent County Manager, and 21 applications have been received thus far. Mr. Eisler provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the hiring standards, criteria, and policy directives. Before the Board moves forward with

discussing specific candidates in today's Executive Session, the public must first have the opportunity to provide feedback on these aspects of the hiring process. Although the public has previously had opportunities to comment on the general County Manager position, this session offers a focused chance for input specifically on the ongoing recruitment and selection process.

Commissioner Crawford opened the public hearing. With no comments received, the public hearing was closed.

**MOTION** to formally adopt the standards, criteria, and policy directives as presented. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Interim Manager Report:** None

**Commissioner Updates:** None

**Public Comment:** None

At 9:32 a.m. the Board of Commissioners 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)(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 Board of Commissioners convened back into Open Session, inviting members of the public into the meeting room.

**MOTION** for staff to proceed as directed in the Executive Session by scheduling finalist interviews for August 20<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4:00 p.m. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**MOTION** to approve the grant of the utility easements in favor of the City of Prineville as discussed in the Executive Session. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was **adjourned at 10:34 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Sarah Puerner / Breyanna Cupp**