

Crook County Board of County Commissioners Minutes of December 3, 2025, Regular Session

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Board of County Commissioners met in a Regular Session on December 3, 2025, at 9:00 AM in the Crook Annex Meeting Room, located at 320 NE Court Street, Prineville, OR 97754.

Regular Session

Board Members Present: Seth Crawford, Brian Barney

Board Members Absent: Susan Hermreck

Others Present in Person or Via Zoom: County Counsel Eric Blaine; County Manager Will Van Vactor; Executive Assistant Breyanna Cupp; Assistant County Counsel Bryan Libel; Landfill Director Jacquie Davis; Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly; Natural Resources Manager Tim Deboodt; Community Corrections Lieutenant Aaron Boyce; Administrative Division Manager Stephanie Wilson; Budget Manager Jamie Berger; Finance Director Christina Haron; Legal Assistant Alex Solterbeck; County Clerk Cheryl Seely; HR Director Meghan McKee; IT Director Blaine Cheney; Assessor Jon Soliz; Health and Human Services Director Katie Plumb; Public Health Modernization Manager Stephanie O'Neal; Rob Brober; Heart of Oregon Conservation Program Director Patrick Orr; Tawndy Byrd; Julie Thompson; Ashley McCormick; Adam Mikulski; Karen Mikulski; Triangle; and members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 09:00 AM.

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of 2025-2027 IGA for the Financing of Local Public Health Services in Crook County Agreement #185807-4**
- 2. Order Appointing Community Health Advisory Council Members**
- 3. Termination of Lease Agreement with Parks and Recreation District**

MOTION: Seth Crawford moved to approve the consent agenda. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 2-0.

Discussion

4. Plat Signatures for Ironhorse 1 phase 3 and 4

Requester:

Rob Broberg, Owner

Presenter(s):

Rob Broberg, Owner

Details: Rob Broberg of Development Solutions attended the Regular Session to address the board to request acceptance and approval of the plat for the final remaining property in the Iron Horse development. The plat consists of 27 lots, which were created following the city's construction of a new street and the relocation of the canal. This plat represents the last available space within the Iron Horse area.

MOTION: Seth Crawford moved to approve the Ironhorse 1 phase 3 and 4. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye; Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 2-0.

5. Request for Signature for Acceptance of CJC Treatment Court Grants for TCP-27-12 and TCP-27-13 Grant Agreements

Requester:

Aaron Boyce, Community Corrections Lieutenant

Details: Community Corrections Lieutenant Aron Boyce attended the Regular Session to request signatures for acceptance of two awarded Criminal Justice Commission Treatment Court grants. These long-standing programs were applied for in May and June and include two separate grants: one designated for Drug Court and one designated for Mental Health Court.

MOTION: Seth Crawford moved to approve CJC court grant for TCP-27-12 and TCP-27-13 Grant Agreements. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 2-0.

6. Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Budget Award and Special Recognition

Requester:

Will VanVactor, County Manager

Presenter(s):

Christina Haron, Finance Director; Jamie Berger, Budget Manager

Details: County Manager Will Van Vactor attended the Regular Session and announced that Crook County has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award for the FY 2026 budget, recognizing excellence in governmental budgeting. The award reflects the county's commitment to transparency, accountability, and clear, reader-friendly financial planning for the fiscal year beginning July 1, and includes special recognition for excellence in long-range operating financial planning. Will expressed appreciation to Jamie Berger, Budget Manager, for meticulous

planning and expertise; to Christina Haron, Finance Director, for leadership and financial oversight; and to department heads, staff, the Budget Committee, and the Board for their contributions and review of the budget. Will noted that a press release would be issued and emphasized that the award sets a benchmark for future budgets, with planning for FY 2027 to begin later this month.

Commissioner Barney thanked the team and congratulated them on the accomplishment, calling it a real honor and a lot of work. He mentioned possibly getting a photo with the certificate for the press release and expressed appreciation for the staff's efforts, noting they do a great job making everything work for the Board and the county. Commissioner Crawford commended the team for their work and expressed appreciation for their efforts, noting they did a great job.

7. Crook County Landfill Recycling Program Updates

Requester:

Jacquie Davis, Landfill Director

Details: Landfill Director Jacquie Davis attended the Regular Session and provided an update on a new recycling option available to the public. County Manager Will Van Vactor thanked staff, including Breyanna and Chelsea, for their work on the new agenda platform, noting it was the first day of use and expressing enthusiasm for the new format. Jacquie explained that in July the State of Oregon unified its recycling system and reviewed the current statewide recycling guide for curbside recycling, as well as existing options at Prineville Disposal's depot and the landfill's commingled trailer. Jacquie then described a new recycling trailer pilot program through Circular Action Alliance (CAA), the state's producer responsibility organization. Crook County is participating as one of the first counties in the pilot, which will eventually include all counties by the end of 2027. The new trailer, located only at the landfill, accepts additional materials not allowed in curbside recycling, including plastic bags and stretch wrap, plastic lids, rigid plastic packaging handles, five-gallon plastic buckets, aluminum foil and cooking trays, and shredded paper. Jacquie noted the program is largely self-managed by CAA, with the county reimbursed for trailer storage and a portion of staff labor. CAA provides the trailer, signage, advertising, monitoring, and pickups, with county staff primarily checking for contamination and swapping out full collection bags as needed.

8. Heart of Oregon Corps Update on Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (COYCC)

Requester:

Patrick Orr, Heart of Oregon Conservation Program Director

Presenter(s):

Patrick Orr, Heart of Oregon Conservation Program Director

Details: Patrick Orr, Conservation Program Director with Heart of Oregon Corps attended the Regular Session to report on the most recent Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps season and thanked the Board for its \$5,000 grant, which supported youth and crew leader wages and transportation. He explained that the

program serves youth ages 16–24 across Central Oregon and that this season employed nine Prineville youth in an eight-week crew completing 1,338 hours of conservation work, as well as four additional youth in a three-week bridge crew program, resulting in meaningful wages for participants. Projects included fire fuels reduction, habitat restoration, trail work, and facilities maintenance, primarily in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. Patrick also highlighted workforce development components such as college tours, career exploration, and resume building, and shared positive participant survey results showing increased connection to public lands, improved confidence about future careers, and high overall satisfaction. He expressed appreciation for the county's ongoing support and requested consideration of increased funding for the upcoming season to help diversify projects amid declining and more restricted federal funding.

Commissioner Barney noted his involvement with the RAC and expressed appreciation for the Heart of Oregon program, particularly enjoying seeing youth participate in presentations. He explained that funding comes from federal Title III funds, which have specific guidelines for use. He acknowledged that county funds are limited and that funding pressures exist across state, local, and private sources. Commissioner Barney thanked Patrick for the presentation and recognized the program as a valuable project.

9. First Reading and Hearing of Ordinance 356: Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Ordinance

Requester:

Bryan Libel, Assistant County Counsel

Details: Commissioner Barney opened the public meeting on Ordinance 356 which amends Crook County Code Chapter 10 to authorize commercial entities to use off-highway vehicles on county roads on a limited basis, and to establish rules and procedures for that use.

MOTION: Brian Barney moved to to read by title only. Seth Crawford seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 2-0.

Assistant County Counsel Bryan Libel attended the Regular Session and presented the first reading and public hearing of Ordinance 356, which amends Crook County Code Chapter 10 to authorize commercial entities to obtain licenses allowing the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on county roads to access nearby public lands for recreational purposes. The ordinance prohibits OHVs on county roads except for licensed commercial use or agricultural duties with appropriate slow-moving signage. It outlines the types of OHVs permitted, safety requirements, age restrictions for drivers and passengers, commercial liability insurance, and mandatory safety training for drivers, passengers, and tour guides. The ordinance also details the application process, county review procedures, possible limitations related to weather or traffic, license terms and conditions, and the process for appealing county licensing decisions.

Public Comment on Ordinance on 356:

Adam Mikulski asked for clarification on what types of roads are included under the ordinance, specifically whether it applies to paved or gravel roads. It was clarified that the ordinance applies to all county roads, including paved, dirt, and other roads maintained by the county. Commissioner Barney clarified that the ordinance applies only to commercial licenses and is not intended for personal use of OHVs by the public. He noted that there are specific requirements for insurance, safety, and equipment, which are detailed in the ordinance packet. He added that residents on county roads could apply for a commercial license to operate OHVs along those roads.

Assistant County Counsel Bryan Libel explained that the proposed ordinance applies to two groups: individuals performing agricultural duties with a slow-moving vehicle sign, and commercial entities, such as businesses offering guided tours on public lands, that need to use county roads for access. Adam noted that this could apply to mine operators using county roads for work, which would fall under agricultural activities. Commissioner Barney clarified that the agricultural portion is already covered under state law (ORS) regarding slow-moving signs. Adam acknowledged he should comply with the requirement for slow-moving signs.

Tim Deboodt asked whether the ordinance requires commercial entities to provide proof of a license or permit to conduct commercial activities on public land before the county issues an OHV permit. He also inquired if there is an annual or time-based requirement for renewing the permit. Commissioner Barney noted that the ordinance includes strict procedures for commercial entities, including maintaining current state licenses, providing proof of insurance, and signing a contract that indemnifies the county. He added that the process is well-structured and carefully considered.

Commissioner Barney announced the closing of the current public hearing and the opening of a second public hearing on Ordinance 356, scheduled for Wednesday, December 17th, during the Board of Commissioners' next regular session in the same meeting room.

Commissioner Crawford shared that he met with individuals (not commercial entities) interested in similar access and would like to work with them to explore ideas for possible future consideration, potentially expanding access to regular citizens. Commissioner Barney responded that discussions are open to anyone interested in participating.

Manager Report

Details: County Manager Will Van Vactor announced a special meeting is scheduled for Friday to continue discussions regarding few of our internal service departments. The meeting will cover Administration, Finance, Legal, and Human Resources.

Commissioner Updates

Details:

Commissioner Crawford reported on a recent AOC meeting, highlighting positive discussions about potential methane use to help fund a future flare purchase. He noted there is still progress to be made but emphasized the opportunity to generate revenue from extracted gas. He also provided an update on the gas tax initiative, reporting that over 175,000 signatures have been collected—well above the required number—to place it on the ballot, and thanked everyone involved in the effort.

Commissioner Barney shared that he toured the Deschutes County Courthouse addition, noting the project is expected to be completed by May. He highlighted that the addition will include three new courtrooms and four additional courtrooms, commenting on the quality of work and expressing interest in the project.

Executive Session

10. None scheduled.

MOTION: Seth Crawford moved to Adjourn. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 2-0.

There being no further business before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was **adjourned at 09:38 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Breyanna Cupp, Executive Assistant