

## **CROOK COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **NOVEMBER 24, 2025**

Crook County Budget Committee met in a scheduled meeting. The meeting was held on Monday, November 24, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. and was held at the Crook Administration Conference Room, located at 203 NE Court Street, Prineville, OR 97754.

Committee Members Present: William "Bill" Anderson, Scott Tibbs

Absentees: None

Others Present in Person or Via Zoom: County Manager Will Van Vactor; Finance Director Christina Haron; Budget Manager Jamie Berger; Calista Songstad; Doug Olson; Patty Olson; Laura York; and members of the public.

The meeting was **called to order at 11:00 a.m.**

County Manager Will Van Vactor opened the meeting and stated that the meeting was convened as a subcommittee of the Budget Committee for the purpose of reviewing applications for the citizen membership of the Budget Committee. He noted that, consistent with the process used the previous year, the Board appointed him to serve as a third member of the subcommittee for reviewing applications.

#### **Appoint Budget Subcommittee Chair:**

**Details:** Will Van Vactor then indicated that the subcommittee could proceed with its work and referenced the agenda item regarding the appointment of a Budget Subcommittee Chair. He noted that, as this is a subcommittee, a chair would need to be appointed.

**MOTION:** Bill Anderson moved to appoint Scott Tibbs as our subcommittee chair. Will Van Vactor seconded. Bill Anderson votes Aye, Will Van Vactor votes Aye. No discussion. Motion Passed 2-0

#### **Review and discussion of applications:**

**Details:** The committee began its review of applications with Stephen Brown, the incumbent member of the Budget Committee, who reapplied for an additional three-year term after serving a two-year staggered term. Members discussed Mr. Brown's qualifications and experience, noting his extensive background in budget committees and treasurer positions, strong financial analysis skills, and the continuity he provides for the committee. It was noted that he voluntarily attended budget law training in Redmond, demonstrating commitment beyond required participation, and that he has maintained good attendance and active engagement with thoughtful contributions. Additional comments highlighted Mr. Brown's involvement in county-related interests, including possible work with the fairgrounds, as well as his residency and engagement within the community.

The committee reviewed the application of Greg Munn, a recent Crook County resident who relocated from Deschutes County. Scott Tibbs noted that while Mr. Munn's prior experience was outside Crook County, he brings an extensive background in financial operations and budget committees, which is highly commendable. Bill Anderson highlighted Mr. Munn's roughly 30 years of professional experience, including his roles as CFO and Treasurer in Deschutes County, and noted his active volunteer involvement with various local organizations such as High Desert ESD, the City of Prineville, Neighbor Impact, and Crook County Schools. Will Van Vactor added that Mr. Munn's extensive experience and prior involvement in financial matters make him highly qualified for service on the Budget Committee, with no additional comments beyond those already stated.

The committee reviewed the application of Doug Olson, who has an extensive background in budgeting and financial operations, particularly in the coastal region. Scott Tibbs highlighted Mr. Olson's significant volunteer work, having held multiple committee seats relevant to finance. He also noted that Mr. Olson relocated to Central Oregon, likely in retirement or semi-retirement, while maintaining a family-connected business in the area. This experience, along with his background in finance, makes him highly qualified for the Budget Committee. Bill Anderson acknowledged Mr. Olson as a newcomer to the region but appreciated his strong background. He mentioned that Mr. Olson's experience as a business owner provides valuable practical management perspective. Bill also noted Mr. Olson's brief tenure as a county commissioner in Tillamook and his extensive involvement on various boards, including Evergreen schools, with significant experience in planning and budgeting. Bill remarked on Mr. Olson's 20 years of service on the Tillamook County Budget Committee, which he considered a commendable commitment. Will Van Vactor expressed his admiration for the quality of all candidates, noting Mr. Olson's exceptional experience, including his former role as chair of the Tillamook County Budget Committee for over two decades. He added that, like Bill, he was impressed by the candidate's qualifications and experience. Scott Tibbs reiterated Mr. Olson's strength as a candidate, mentioning that while serving on the Tillamook County Budget and Compensation Committees, the county had a combined structure like the one used in their own county last year.

The committee reviewed the application of Laura York, a long-time Oregon native with significant budget experience. Scott Tibbs noted that Ms. York previously served a five-year term on the Crook County Budget Committee, which is highly relevant experience. He mentioned that, although he did not personally know Ms. York, she had attended a budget law class in September, showing her continued engagement and willingness to contribute to the community. Bill Anderson acknowledged Ms. York's impressive background, highlighting her significant experience in management with large organizations, including her work with the Oregon Department of Forestry. He also noted her involvement with the Crook County School District Budget Committee, Extension Service, and other public organizations. Bill stated that Ms. York's two prior attendances at budget law classes further demonstrated her commitment. He praised the overall strong pool of candidates for the position. Will Van Vactor added that Ms. York's involvement with the School District Budget Committee, Ag Service District, and

museum boards reflected a solid commitment to Crook County. He emphasized her hands-on experience with local budgets and reaffirmed that she, like other candidates, brought valuable experience and dedication to the committee.

Scott Tibbs provided a summary of the discussion, noting that this is his second term on the Budget Committee, but his first time sitting on the subcommittee responsible for selecting applicants. He expressed being impressed with the depth and quality of the candidates who applied, commenting that it was surprising to see such strong resumes from individuals interested in serving on the committee, particularly in a community like Crook County. Will Van Vactor agreed, stating that the committee is fortunate to have such a high caliber of candidates. Scott Tibbs then asked if anyone had any final comments before moving on to discuss the recommendation.

During the discussion on candidates, Scott Tibbs inquired about how the subcommittee proceeded with recommendations the previous year. Bill Anderson explained that last year, the decision was based on maintaining continuity after the staggered terms, particularly because one member had completed a partial term. He suggested that a similar approach should be taken this year, especially with Stephen Brown, who had completed a two-year term and expressed interest in continuing. Bill emphasized Mr. Brown's background and his positive working relationships with the Budget Committee, the commissioners, and the subcommittee. He proposed reappointing Stephen Brown to the position, stating that while the decision was difficult due to the strong pool of candidates, maintaining continuity seemed like the best choice.

Scott Tibbs agreed, adding that the relationships and synergies formed with Stephen Brown were valuable and difficult to replicate with a new member. He noted that introducing a new person into the mix could create more challenges, particularly given the ongoing budget issues the committee was facing. He emphasized the importance of leveraging existing relationships and maintaining momentum to continue working effectively for the county. Scott expressed that he felt reappointing Stephen Brown would be in the best interest of the team.

Will Van Vactor echoed the thoughts of his colleagues, stating that while there were strong candidates, the decision ultimately came down to the value of continuity versus the potential for a new perspective. He noted that continuity would be especially helpful in the context of the upcoming budget process, and that, for him, it was the deciding factor in favor of reappointing Stephen Brown.

**MOTION:** Will Van Vactor moved that the Crook County Budget Committee subcommittee elect a new Crook County Budget Committee member to recommend proceeding with choosing Stephen Brow. Bill Anderson seconded restated motion. Unanimous vote. No discussion. Motion Passed 3-0

**Public Comment:**

Doug Olson addressed the committee and expressed his support for the decision made, noting the value of continuity and experience based on his prior involvement with similar groups. He stated that he had no objections to the outcome and appreciated the committee's consideration of his application. Mr. Olson also indicated his interest in remaining engaged in other service opportunities. The committee thanked Mr. Olson for attending, applying, and sharing his comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was **adjourned at 11:21 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Breyanna Cupp**

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