

**CROOK COUNTY COURT MINUTES
OF FEBRUARY 15, 2023 REGULAR MEETING
Open Portion**

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Court met in a Regular Court meeting on February 15, 2023, 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 Jerry Brummer and Commissioner Brian Barney

Absentees: None

Others Present in Person or Via WebEx: Legal Counsels Eric Blaine and John Eisler; Administration Executive Assistant Sarah Puerner; Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly; Director Kim Barber; Shop Superintendent James Staniford; Assistant Finance Director Christina Haron; Budget Analyst Jamie Berger; Commander Bill Elliott; Sheriff John Gautney; Director Will VanVactor; Manager Brent Bybee; Museum Director Sandor Cohen; Assessor Jon Soliz; Andy Parks; Redmond Mayor-Elect Ed Fitch; Jim Newton; Ramona McCallister; Joseph Merrill; Erika Montgomery; Jodie Barram; Dr. Jennifer Fenton; Joe Stutler; Tawndy Byrd; Ashley McCormick; Jim Steeprow; Kurt Lockhart; Bryan Zednik; Dean Davis; Donna Kriege; Priscilla Smith; Dar Fishel; Steve Morey and members of the public.

REGULAR SESSION

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

Public Comment:

Redmond Mayor-Elect Ed Fitch spoke regarding the concerns arising from the Woodward property. Mr. Fitch stated that there is an initial list of 22 people who have had adverse impacts from contamination of the ground water in the area and asked the Court to play a role in the situation.

Jim Newton is a geologist who spoke of his concerns regarding the site. Mr. Newton has looked at reports provided from Knife River, and he believes these reports were poorly prepared. He believes this is a similar situation that was seen in La Pine years ago and that the County has a responsibility in representing the citizens of Crook County.

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

Discussion item #7: Request to place Local Option Levy for the Bowman Museum on the May ballot

Requester: Ramona McCallister

Details: Ramona McCallister with the Historical Society Board of Directors attended the Court session to request to place Local Option Levy for the Bowman Museum on the May ballot. The Bowman Museum is attempting to get a five-year levy passed with

continuation of the current level of funding. If the levy passes, the Bowman Museum will continue at its current level of funding. If the levy does not pass, the Bowman Museum will be forced to cut spending from its present level. Ms. McCallister stated that, as a board, we have an aggressive plan for promoting the levy to pass voter approval. It goes without saying that the consequences would be detrimental should the budget provided by taxpayer funding not continue for the important services our local museum provides the public. This funding is a major resource in providing Director Sandor Cohen, his staff, and our volunteers with the resources to maintain and enhance museum collections for public access.

MOTION to approve Order 2023-10 in the matter of instructing the County Judge to file with the County Clerk a Notice of County Measure Election in the matter of continuing the Bowman Museum Local Operating Levy. Motion seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #8: Requesting County Court signatures on partition plat for County owned property

Requester: Will VanVactor

Details: Director Will VanVactor attended the Court session to request County Court signatures on a partition plat for County owned property. The purpose of this partition is to separate the airport into its own parcel. The final plat was prepared by Todd Catterson at Armstrong Surveying.

MOTION to approve the partition plat as presented in the County Court's agenda. Motion seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #9: Final Plat approval of the Brasada Phase 14 Replat (217-22-002105-PLNG)

Requester: Brent Bybee

Details: Manager Brent Bybee attended the Court session to request Final Plat approval of the Brasada Phase 14 Replat (217-22-002105-PLNG). The purpose of the Replat is to adjust the size of individual lots and create two additional lots from Lot Z for use of the Phase 14 residents.

MOTION to approve replat 217-22-002105-PLNG. Motion seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #10: Traffic Control Plan Approval in existing Road Crossings

Requester: Joseph Merrill

Details: Joseph Merrill from King of the Kastle appeared before the Court to request approval of a Traffic Control Plan in existing Road Crossings. Mr. Merrill hosts side-by-side races and this request is for a race in June 2023. The race will access several County roads as crossing points.

MOTION to approve the traffic control plan for the event to be held June 3, 2023. Motion seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #11: Request to have Indoor Arena Rental Fee waived for Crook County Stock Growers

Requester: Erika Montgomery

Details: Erika Montgomery from the Stock Growers Association appeared before the Court to request indoor arena fees be waived for their second annual ranch roping fundraiser. The fundraiser brings in people from across the state, and from out of state. This adds revenue to the community through purchases of lodging and food. The money raised from the event goes towards scholarships, purchasing a steer and add-ons at Fair, and to ranchers feeding kids. Recipients are all residents of Crook County. The fee to be waived is \$2,015.

Discussion item #12: Update from Oregon Living With Fire

Requester: Jodie Barram

Details: Jodie Barram, Joe Stutler, and Dr. Jennifer Fenton from Oregon Living With Fire appeared before the Court to provide a program update as it pertains to Crook County. The County contributes to the work being done to implement the National Cohesive Strategy through Oregon Living With Fire. The co-coordinators convene stakeholders and pursue grant opportunities to create fire adapted communities, resilient landscapes and a safe, effective wildfire response.

At 10:07 a.m. the Court convened into Executive Session under the following statute(s): ORS 192.660(2)(d) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

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 to direct the County's legal representative to correspond with counter party as discussed in Executive Session. Motion seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

MOTION to expand the funding for the wage study for the Sheriff's Office by \$15,000. Motion seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business before the Court, the meeting was **adjourned at 10:22 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Puerner