

**CROOK COUNTY COURT MINUTES  
OF APRIL 4, 2023 WORK SESSION  
Open Portion**

**Be It Remembered** that the Crook County Court met in a regularly scheduled Work Session on April 4, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Conference room located at 203 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; Legal Assistant Lindsay Azevedo; Assistant Finance Director Christina Haron; Senior Accountant Cheyenne Fullerton; Payroll/Benefits Administrator Kathy Puckett; Clerk Cheryl Seely; Director Kim Barber; Director Will VanVactor; Manager Kim Herber; Manager Brent Bybee; Assessor Jon Soliz; Library Co-Managers Cindy York and Sean Briscoe; Sheriff John Gautney; Commander Bill Elliott; Chief Administrative Deputy Stephanie Wilson; Manager Tim Deboodt; Andy Parks; Mike Ervin; Joseph Elmore; Kelly Coffelt and Mike Warren.

**WORK SESSION**

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

Agenda Item #1, Public Comment: None

Agenda Item #2, Oregon Paid Sick Leave and Hartford Update re: FICA & Payroll Reporting:

Requester: Christina Haron, Kim Barber, Kathy Puckett

Details: Payroll/Benefits Administrator Kathy Puckett attended the work session to update the County Court regarding payroll taxes and payroll reporting for the Oregon Paid Sick leave. Initial cost estimate without the payroll reporting and tax payments made by Hartford was \$52,036.90, with Hartford remitting tax payments and filing payroll tax forms for us, the cost increased to \$79,018.99. Most of the increase is the taxes the County would be paying individually if we handled this reporting internally. This arrangement is very similar to how the long-term disability tax payments and payroll reporting are handled with that carrier.

Agenda Item #3, Legislative Tracker Update/Discuss Comment Submittal:

Requester: Will VanVactor

Details: Community Development Director Will VanVactor attended the work session to discuss the Legislative Tracker update and comment submittal with the Court. Mr. VanVactor is tracking a few bills and would like to submit comments. The interested bills are House Bill 3197 regarding urban growth boundaries, House Bill 2487 regarding wedding venues, and Senate bill 644 regarding ADUs.

Agenda Item #4, Update re: FEMA BiOp as Applies to Floodplain Regulations:

Requester: Will VanVactor

Details: Community Development Director Will VanVactor attended the work session to discuss the FEMA BiOp as it applies to floodplain regulations. FEMA has issued this BiOp as a result of litigation that started around 2016. If FEMA rules are adopted, this could severely limit development in floodplain. Mr. VanVactor would like to be proactive and is going to keep the Court updated as this progresses.

Agenda Item #5, Review Extension Amendment Proposal for Oregon Living With Fire Program Agreement:

Requester: Eric Blaine

Details: Legal Counsel Eric Blaine attended the work session to discuss the extension amendment proposal for Oregon Living With Fire program agreement. The Oregon Living with Fire MOU has been in effect since July 2021 between Crook, Jefferson, Klamath, and Deschutes Counties. The MOU is to outline the cooperation and mutual assistance between the Counties for the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy in Central Oregon. The amendment extends the termination date from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2028.

Agenda Item #6, Discuss County Court Meeting Schedule:

Requester: Andy Parks

Details: Andy Parks attended the work session to discuss the County Court meeting schedule. The County Court meetings have in the past been noticed with a template that allowed noticing without specifics as to agenda items or discussion items. Upon review of public meeting notice requirements, the County has updated the published notice format. This change will require some adjustments to meeting agenda item deadlines. It was also briefly discussed whether to turn video cameras on during the meetings as well as the location for future meetings.

Agenda Item #7, Landfill DEQ Assurance Letter:

Requester: Christina Haron

Details: Assistant Finance Director Christina Haron attended the work session to present a Landfill DEQ Assurance letter to the Court and ask for approval of said letter. This letter acknowledges Crook County's compliance with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations for financial assurance of closure and post-closure care activities of the municipal solid waste landfills operated by Crook County.

**MOTION** to authorize Judge Crawford to sign the letter to Pauly, Rogers and Co., on behalf of Crook County regarding the landfill's financial assurance to the Department of Environmental Quality. Motion seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Public Comment:**

Joseph Elmore asked who Andy Parks is and what his role is with the County. Mr. Elmore did not understand why Mr. Parks was working with the Sheriff's Office and why he is contracted with the County. Mr. Elmore also mentioned that the pay difference is way below grade for the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff John Gautney addressed the Court with a written statement that he read in response to the comments that the Court made in a public meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Sheriff Gautney mentioned that what was said in the previous meeting was an insult to the Sheriff's Office and he wanted to voice his official complaint on this kind of behavior from those he trusted.

At 9:55 a.m. the Court read into Executive Session under the following statutes: ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection, ORS 192.660(2)(e) For the purpose of conducting deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions, and 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 County Court convened back into Open Session, inviting members of the public into the meeting room.

**MOTION** to authorize the realtor of record to make the offer as discussed in the Executive Session. Motion seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**MOTION** to authorize staff to correspond with the counter party as discussed in the Executive Session. Motion seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**MOTION** to authorize staff to correspond with the counter party as discussed in the Executive Session. Motion seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business before the Court, the meeting was **adjourned at 11:25 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Sarah Puerner**