

**CROOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
OF JUNE 12, 2024, WORK SESSION
Open Portion**

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled Work Session on June 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Conference room located at 203 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; Stephen Chellis; Bill Elliott; Cate Duke; Breyanna Cupp; Jacquie Davis; Jennifer King; Will Van Vactor; Christina Haron; Chelsea Watson; Tim Deboodt; Brad Haynes; Alex Solterbeck; Jon Soliz; Elaina Huffman; Shelby Fisher; Katie Plumb; Rebecca Keegan; Sarah Beeler; Jamie Berger; Kari Hathorn; Stephanie O'Neal; Patrick Tasa; Mike Ervin; Wanda Smith; Courtney Voss; Linda Pepper; Stephanie Wilson, Sheriff Gautney; and members of the public.

WORK SESSION

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

Public Comment: None

Discussion item #1: Update on Workers Compensation and Renewal Information:

Requester: Kathy Puckett

Details: WHA Account Executive Jennifer King attended the Work Session to present the Workers' Compensation Rates and Renewal. She reviewed year-over-year changes in the policy, including updates on claims and rates. Notably, there have been improvements in claims from both the County and the Sheriff's Office over the past year. Workers' compensation coverage remains a requirement for the County, and the rate has decreased from 1.46 to 1.37. The renewal rate is based on the County's payroll, and approximately \$400K in dividends will be returned.

Discussion item #2: Request letter of support for grant application:

Requester: Cate Duke

Details: CLEAR Alliance Executive Director Cate Duke attended the Work Session to request a letter of support for a grant application aimed at developing a Cannabis Impaired Driving Prevention Education curriculum and resources. Impaired driving remains a significant issue on Oregon roadways, and since the legalization of recreational cannabis, there has been a sharp increase in serious injury and fatal crashes involving cannabis impairment. CLEAR Alliance seeks to create educational curriculum and public awareness campaigns focused on prevention, utilizing funding from an ODOT grant to address this growing concern.

MOTION to accept Cate’s letter and sign the letter of support to apply for ODOT grant. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #3: Republic Services Subscription Service Expansion - Yard Debris Recycling UGB:

Requester: Jacquie Davis

Details: Courtney Voss from Republic Services attended the Work Session to propose expanding the yard debris recycling service to include the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Currently, this curbside service is available only within city limits. Republic Services aims to offer this as an optional subscription, allowing citizens to opt in or out. The monthly service rate would be \$22.24, with an alternative once-a-month option at \$12.12. While Republic Services anticipates limited participation, the service would be available for those interested. They hope to implement this expansion by July. This item will be placed on the consent agenda for the upcoming Regular Session.

Discussion item #4: IT Support Update:

Requester: Stephen Chellis

Details: Chief Information Officer Stephen Chellis attended the Work Session to request approval from the Commissioners to proceed with Bridgetech as the County's Managed Services Provider (MSP) for core IT Helpdesk services. This request follows a six-month evaluation and RFP process that included five independent MSPs. Bridgetech was selected for providing the best value, an upgraded service level, and being the right-sized organization to support the County’s IT helpdesk needs. The company offers a team of 100% US-based IT specialists and delivers economies of scale for core IT support services. Currently, the helpdesk function, supported by 1 FTE and 1 temporary employee, costs approximately \$14,000 per month or \$170,000 annually, including salary and benefits. The Bridgetech contract would cost \$11,997 per month, totaling \$143,964 annually, resulting in savings of about \$27,000 per year. Please see the attached contract, addendum, and introductory documents. This item will be placed on the consent agenda for the upcoming Regular Session.

Discussion item #5: Ratifying appointment of Rebecca Keegan to the Ag Extension Manager position:

Requester: Will Van Vactor

Details: Interim County Manager Will Van Vactor attended the Work Session to request that the Board of Commissioners ratify the appointment of Rebecca Keegan as the permanent Ag Extension Manager. Rebecca has been serving in this role on an interim basis, and her permanent appointment now requires formal ratification by the Board. In addition to her responsibilities as Ag Extension Manager, Rebecca will provide support to the Finance and Road Departments on an as-needed basis. The position is fully budgeted for in both the Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 budgets. This item will be placed on the consent agenda for the upcoming Regular Session.

Interim Manager Report:

The compensation project is on track to roll out as planned, with an effective date of June 1st. The Juneteenth holiday week was brought up, specifically regarding the timing of the regular session. Rebecca Keegan noted that the Extension Office budget meeting

is scheduled for June 20th to approve the budget. All commissioners agreed to hold the regular session on June 20th, instead of the 18th. Sarah will make the necessary adjustments to reflect the new regular session date and time for June 20th.

Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner Hermreck attended the COACT meeting last week and ODOT would like the County to do a letter of support for funding. The letter is critical because it is due on June 14th.

MOTION to sign the letter of support and sign by Friday for COACT. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

At 9:29 a.m. the Board of Commissioners read into Executive Session under the following statute(s): 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; 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)(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 Board of Commissioners convened back into Open Session, inviting members of the public into the meeting room.

No motions were made at the conclusion of the meeting.

There being no further business before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was **adjourned at 10:47 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Puerner / Breyanna Cupp