

**CROOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES  
OF JULY 17, 2024, REGULAR MEETING  
Open Portion**

**Be It Remembered** that the Crook County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on July 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the County meeting room located at 320 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; Will Van Vactor; Alex Solterbeck; Mona Glade; Brad Haynes; Rebecca Keegan; Tim Deboodt; Justin Alderman; Dock Kerbow; Mike Ervin; Katie Plumb; Stephen Gilday; Krystal Chellis; Sarah Beeler; Stephanie Wilson; Christina Haron; Marixa Richardson; Shelby Fisher; Sheriff Gautney; Susanne Walters-Moore; Michael Warren; and members of the public.

**REGULAR SESSION**

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

Public Comment: None

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve Minutes
2. Approve Personnel Action Forms  
**Removed** - Pulled Jake Zapf's PA form because it is premature, and the position needs to be looked at before approving.
3. Approval of HRIS System

**MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the exception of the personnel action form for Jake Zapf. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Discussion item #4: Budget clarification for 2024-25 Crook County Ag Extension Service District Budget, LB-1:**

**Requester:** Tim Deboodt

**Details:** Budget Officer Tim Deboodt for the Ag Extension Service District presented budget information to the Board of Commissioners. He explained that the LB-1 form published in the Central Oregonian on June 11th did not include specific expenditures for capital improvements (vehicle purchase and building maintenance) and the County's Internal Service Charge. However, these costs were included in the total requirements as published. The budget adopted by the Board of Commissioners on June 20th was exactly as approved by the Service District Budget Committee on May 22, 2024. The budget details were shared in a public meeting on May 22nd, and all budget documents were available for public review from May 23rd to June 20th, containing the correct

information. No further action is required, as this update was simply to inform the Board about the publication mistake. Budget Analyst Jamie Berger confirmed that no additional steps are needed.

**Discussion item #5: Review of FS Objection Resolution Offer and Decide Response:**

**Requester:** Tim Deboodt

**Details:** Natural Resources Policy Coordinator Tim Deboodt attended the Regular Session to present an Objection Resolution Offer Letter regarding the Mill Creek Vegetation Management Project. Crook County has been actively involved in the Forest Service's planning process for this project, providing input on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) in September 2023. In May 2024, the County submitted an Objection Letter in response to the draft Decision Notice. Following an objection resolution hearing in June 2024, the Forest Service issued an objection resolution offer letter. However, the County's Natural Resources Advisory Committee has recommended that the Board of Commissioners reject the offer, as it fails to address the County's concerns, does not meet the project's stated Purpose and Need, and is not in the best interest of Crook County citizens.

**MOTION** to approve the letter to Shane Jeffries Forest Supervisor for Objection Resolution Offer letter for Mill Creek Vegetation Management Project. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Discussion item #6: Community Health Advisory Council Update:**

**Requester:** Katie Plumb

**Details:** Health and Human Services Director Katie Plumb attended the Regular Session to provide the annual update on the Community Health Advisory Council (CHAC) to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Hermreck requested that this presentation be rescheduled to the July 17th regular session. CHAC is a legislatively mandated advisory body that advises the Crook County Board of Commissioners on behavioral and public health issues. The council currently has eight appointed members, and with the upcoming official appointments of Katie Plumb and Seth Crawford, the county bylaw requirements will be met. The council meets every other month and encourages input from community members, who contribute valuable insights and topics to the discussions, even if they are not official members of the council.

**Discussion item #7: Approve Order and Resolution No. 2024-36 in the matter of voluntarily enrolling Crook County Deputy District Attorneys into the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System:**

**Requester:** Kathy Puckett

**Details:** County Counsel Eric Blaine attended the Regular Session to request the Board of Commissioners' approval of an order allowing District Attorneys to be enrolled in the Oregon PERS retirement program. This is the formal step to include District Attorneys in PERS, and the necessary funds have already been allocated in the budget. Approving the order will have no additional financial impact.

**MOTION** to approve Order 2024-36. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 2-1 with Commissioner Barney in opposition.

**Interim Manager Report:**

Will Van Vactor expressed his appreciation to Kim Fox and her team for inviting him to their regular check-in meeting, allowing him to gain a deeper understanding of the services they provide to the community. He also shared that the City notified him about a County-owned property with overgrown weeds and grass. The Facilities team promptly addressed the issue before it became a larger problem, and he thanked everyone for their ongoing teamwork and support. Additionally, Will noted that the Wildfire Risk Map is now available for public viewing on the Department of Forestry website and emphasized the importance of the County receiving feedback from the public on this matter.

**Commissioner Updates:**

Commissioner Crawford has been working with the Senior Center, which is currently facing financial challenges. Organizations like Facebook have stepped in to provide assistance, and it's important for us to offer support where possible. Due to past decisions, there is a possibility that the Senior Center could eventually fall back under the County's management. However, improvements are being made, and financial aid from these organizations is helping to address the situation.

**Public Comment:** None

At 9:37 a.m. the Board of Commissioners 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; 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 Board of Commissioners convened back into Open Session, inviting members of the public into the meeting room.

**MOTION** to direct the County's Realtor of Record to prepare the offer documents and to authorize execution outside of a meeting. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**MOTION** to direct staff to prepare the response as discussed in the Executive Session. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was **adjourned at 10:53 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Sarah Puerner / Breyanna Cupp**