

Minutes of the Emergency Public Meeting  
Of the Crook County Court  
Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Persons Present:

- Commissioner Jerry Brummer
- Commissioner Brian Barney
- Judge Seth Crawford (via phone conference)
- Betty Roppe, Mayor of Prineville
- Steve Forrester, Prineville City Manager
- Mike Ryan, Crook County Sheriff's Office Emergency Manager
- Jason Chaney, *Central Oregonian* newspaper
- Phil Stenbeck, Prineville Planning Director
- Pete Sharp, Crook County resident
- Eric Blaine, Assistant County Counsel

The meeting convened at 203 NE Court Blvd, Prineville, Oregon. The media was provided notice of the meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is to consider a letter addressed to a variety of State officials in opposition to a contemplated sale of real property, owned by the Department of State Lands, to a solar power development company. The 410-acre "shovel-ready" property is within the urban growth boundary, is served by city infrastructure, and there are a variety of EFU-zoned properties owned by Department of State Lands which would serve equally well for this transaction. Properties which are within UGB's and served by city infrastructure like water, sewer, and power are excellent for industrial purposes.

The reason for holding an emergency meeting was to ensure that the letter could be sent immediately, in order to ensure that it is received as soon before the conclusion of any sale as possible.

Discussion on the history of this lot: The City's most recent UGB expansion was directed to meeting the requirement of maintaining a 20-year supply of industrially zoned properties.

Discussion on Department of State Land: Per Economic Development of Central Oregon, this type of solar development is being contemplated in Redmond and throughout Central Oregon.

Discussion on whether the County will asked the City to send a similar letter: Phil Stenbeck urges against the City sending such a letter, because in the event that the sale goes forth, and the property is subject to any land use action, it is possible that the City Council may be asked to review an appeal. In order to forestall the possibility that the City Council is deemed to have pre-judged the matter, the City should refrain from making the same kind of statement contemplated by the County's draft letter.

Discussion on the Large Lot Industrial Land program: This is a program among Central Oregon counties and cities whereby the entire Central Oregon region is marketed for industrial

development. This cooperative program allows for a larger inventory of developable land than any one local jurisdiction would be able to provide.

Discussion on solar development: Part of the County's concern is that even if this sale is concluded, and the property is approved for solar development, it is possible that no development occurs on the property. Such a series of events would tie up valuable land for, essentially, speculation. The County Court emphasized that they are not opposed to solar development at all, but have concerns about using this particular property (which might be used for industrial uses that employ a higher number of people) for a solar development.

### **Motion**

Commissioner Brummer moves to approve the letter. Commissioner Barney seconds. Motion carries, 3-0.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Blaine