

Minutes of the May 23, 2017 County Court work session meeting.

Person attending are: Commissioner Jerry Brummer; Commissioner Brian Barney; County Clerk Cheryl Seely; Sheriff John Gautney; Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown, Public Health Director; Kylie Loving, County Grant Coordinator; Judge Crawford via conference call; Raun Atkinson, Deputy District Attorney; Melissa Kessler and Gail (last name not provided), two private citizens working with the local Wild Horse Coalition; other citizens working with the local tobacco cessation coalition.

- Gail and Melissa are concerned about the Forest Service doing something to the wild horse herds in the Ochoco National Forest. They believe the Forest Service may be contemplating some “progressive horse management.”
- They ask that the County proceed to “coordination” with the Forest Service on the wild horse component of the Crook County Natural Resource Political Action Committee’s “natural resource plan” document.
- Commissioner Brummer and Commissioner Barney prefer to move forward on the document as a whole rather than to adopt it piecemeal. Judge Crawford agrees.
- Gail and Melissa state that something from the Forest Service, regarding wild horses, is expected to be issued this July.
- Sheriff Gautney discusses a tuition reimbursement request for Bill Elliot regarding his efforts to earn advanced certificate(s) to qualify for a promotion.
  - This will be further deliberated upon at the next regularly County Court meeting.
- Eric Blaine presents on Rager Ranger Station. Local resident Pete Sharpe has asked the County to re-contact the Forest Service to indicate an interest in leasing the Station for some use.
- The commissioners direct staff to send a follow-up letter to the Forest Service indicating that interest, in cooperation with the local Parks and Rec District.
- Eric Blaine presents on a lease with the school district for 30 laptop computers originally purchased with BTOP grant funds.
  - BTOP funds could only be used for certain limited purposes, including technology education.
  - The laptops are at the end of their useful life, and have been operated by the School District since the lease was originally executed roughly 5 years ago.
  - It is proposed to sell the laptops to the District for some nominal price, rather than take possession of them at the expiration of the lease.
  - County IT and the local Extension Service district have confirmed that they do not have any need for this equipment.
  - Consensus of the Commissioners is to sell the leased equipment to the School District for some nominal price.
- Eric Blaine discusses how to manage the operation of County offices during the forthcoming August 21 eclipse.

- Traffic is expected to be extremely heavy, and visibility will be reduced that morning.
  - Other public agencies are considering late starts or closures that day, except for essential public services.
  - Discussion on whether to start late, or close County offices, and if so which ones and for how long.
  - The Commissioners ask for a report on what other Counties are doing, and then prepare several options for consideration at a later meeting.
- Eric Blaine presents on Oregon State University's request to use the County's mobile computer classroom for educational courses in eastern Oregon.
  - The commissioners approve the use in principle, so long as the RV can be requisitioned by the County on relatively short notice.
  - The legal department will forward a use agreement to OSU for their review.
- Karen Friend at COIC has asked that the County ratify its February appointment to the COIC board. They state that they need this ratification prior to June 1.
  - COIC recently discovered that their process for appointments did not correspond to the requirements of its charter, and seeks to update those practices.
  - Commissioner Brummer moves to ratify the previous appointment to the COIC board, designating the area of representation – Crook County represents Agriculture and Agribusiness through its representative Casey Kaiser. Commissioner Barney seconds. Motion approved 2-0.
- Kylie Loving presents on tobacco cessation programs; their origins, grant sources, and goals.
  - It is proposed to post a notice regarding the tobacco quit-line at the point of sale among local merchants.
  - Local merchants were polled regarding this program and 18 of 21 already post the quit-line information voluntarily.
  - Some retailers state that it is their corporate policy not to post anything unless there is a law requiring it.
  - Local retailers are not necessarily opposed to a law changing the legal smoking age to 21; however, they have reservations about a law which required a license to sell tobacco; a law preventing price promotions; or a law capping the number of retailers who can sell tobacco products.
  - Local retailers had a mixed reaction on a law that might limit the sale of tobacco near schools.
  - The committee recommends the creation of a policy draft regarding several options for the County Court's consideration.
- Judge Crawford states that he is in support of an ordinance requiring the posting of the quit-line information.
- Discussion on the enforcement of existing laws.

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- Mr. Atkinson states that one very effective motivator for compliance is the risk of losing a license, though under current law there is no license to sell tobacco products.
- Licensing fees are meant to cover costs of the program, and are not meant to be revenue generators.
- Commissioners Brummer and Brian believe that tobacco regulation would be better as a matter of statewide legislation.
- The committee will work on a draft ordinance regarding posting quit-line information.
- Commissioner Brummer would like to present additional information regarding the Lakeview Stewardship meeting and their successes.
- Judge Crawford wants to contact the Natural Resources PAC and ask them to move forward in three to four weeks.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Blaine