

**CROOK COUNTY COURT MINUTES
OF DECEMBER 19, 2023, REGULAR MEETING
Open Portion**

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Court met in a Regular Court meeting on December 19, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the meeting room at City Hall located at 387 NE Third Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754.

Court Members Present: Judge Seth Crawford, Commissioner Brian Barney, and newly appointed Commissioner Susan Hermreck.

Absentees: None

Others Present in Person or Via Zoom: Legal Counsels Eric Blaine and John Eisler; Administrative Executive Assistant Sarah Puerner; Clerk Cheryl Seely; Rebecca Keegan; James Staniford; Chief Information Officer Stephen Chellis; Community Development Director Will Van Vactor; Juvenile Director Erika Frickey; Airport Manager Kelly Coffelt; Contract County Administrator Andy Parks; Office Manager Alex Solterbeck; Finance Director Christina Haron; Operations Manager Katrina Weitman; Levi Roberts; Linda Pepper; Facilities Director Nick Lilly; Budget Analyst Jamie Berger; Systems Administrator Chelsea Watson; Library Director Sarah Beeler; Amber Blanchard; Health and Human Services Director Katie Plumb; Tim Deboodt; Shelby Fisher; Mona Glade; Stephanie West; Monty Kurtz; Mike Thomas; Linda Smith; Rick Smith; Ray and Bonnie Sessler; Ronda Sneva; Avery Laytens; Jayme Goodwin; Garth Finley; Barbara Vieu; Mike Ervin; and members of the public.

REGULAR SESSION

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

Public Comment:

Mike Ervin noted that the County conducted eight interviews for the vacant commissioner position. At the conclusion of the interviews, Judge Crawford and Commissioner Barney agreed to select their top two candidates and compare their selections. Candidates were to be notified of the results by Friday at 5 pm. Mr. Ervin had some questions regarding this process and requested that Commissioner Barney and Judge Crawford provide answers to his inquiries in a timely fashion.

Discussion item #5: Consider appointment of Susan Hermreck to Commissioner Position #1:

Requester: Andy Parks

Details: Contract County Administrator Andy Parks attended the Regular Session to discuss the appointment of Susan Hermreck to Commissioner Position #1. The County Court interviewed eight candidates for the vacant position on December 7, 2023. Both Judge Crawford and Commissioner Barney selected Susan Hermreck as their top choice.

MOTION to approve Order 2023-49 in the matter of appointing Susan Hermreck to fill the vacancy in the nonpartisan office of County Commissioner Position #1. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 2-0.

Susan Hermreck was appointed to the vacant Commissioner Position #1. Clerk Cheryl Seely administered the oath of office, officially swearing her in. Following the oath, Commissioner Hermreck joined the Court at the front of the room, marking the beginning of her tenure. The Court and attendees welcomed her warmly, expressing confidence in her ability to contribute positively to the community and address the challenges ahead.

Consent Agenda:

1. Review of updated IGA for ePermit System
2. Consider approval of Amendment # 2 to Indefeasible Right To Use (IRU) agreement with PrineTime Internet Solutions, LLC, for County facilities fiber connections
3. Justice Center was awarded Pacific Power E-Mobility Grant
4. Human Resources Roadmap

MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #6: Community Development Strategic Plan:

Requester: Will Van Vactor

Details: Community Development Director Will Van Vactor attended the Regular Session to present the final version of the Community Development Strategic Plan. Throughout 2023, the Community Development Department worked on preparing this strategic plan. The plan outlines the Department's core mission, based on an analysis of its strategic posture, and identifies goals and objectives for a five-year period. Additionally, it includes key performance indicators to monitor and track the Department's performance over time.

MOTION to adopt the Community Development Strategic Plan that was presented today. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #7: 2023-25 Victims Of Crimes Act Grant Agreement:

Requester: Julie Martinez

Details: District Attorney Kari Hathorn attended the Regular Session to discuss the 2023-2025 Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) Grant agreement with the Court. The Victim Assistance program has been funded by the VOCA/CFA NC grant for many years. The current grant totals \$259,346.74 for the two-year cycle running from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2025.

MOTION to pass the 2023-25 Victims of Crimes Act Grant Agreement in the amount of \$259,346.74 for the two-year grant cycle. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 2-0.

Discussion item #8: Goods and Services Contract TEC Equipment:

Requester: Rebecca Keegan

Details: James Staniford from the Road Department attended the Regular Session to discuss a goods and services contract with TEC Equipment with the Court. The department received three quotes for sanders and recommends moving forward with the quote from TEC Equipment.

MOTION to approve the purchase of the Swenson sanders from TEC Equipment. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #9: Order 2023-48, County policy on property tax foreclosure overage payment management:

Requester: Eric Blaine

Details: Legal Counsel Eric Blaine attended the Regular Session to discuss Order 2023-48 with the Court. This order establishes a procedure for qualified individuals to submit claims for proceeds from the sale of real property foreclosed by the County for non-payment of ad valorem real property taxes, when such proceeds exceed the delinquent taxes, interest, and fees owed. All state property, unless exempt, is subject to ad valorem real property taxation. ORS 312.214 and 312.216 set presumptions for real property ownership, including that failure to pay property taxes leads to tax foreclosure. After three years of tax delinquency, the County must initiate foreclosure. Qualified owners or interest holders can redeem the property within two years by paying the owed taxes, interest, and fees. After five years of nonpayment, redemption rights are extinguished, and the County can sell the property, distributing proceeds to qualifying taxing districts. Order 2023-48 outlines a process for individuals to claim surplus proceeds from these sales. It sets deadlines for claims submission, criteria for establishing entitlement to payments, and guidelines for distributing proceeds among multiple claimants.

MOTION to approve Order 2023-48. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #10: Juvenile Crime Prevention Fund Reinstatement and Amendment 1:

Requester: Erika Frickey

Details: Juvenile Director Erika Frickey attended the Regular Session to discuss the Juvenile Crime Prevention Fund Reinstatement and Amendment No. 1 to Grant No. 15666. The reinstatement and amendment provide approximately \$133,000 in funding over the next biennium. These funds are crucial for the continued employment of a prevention counselor, who plays a vital role in addressing and mitigating juvenile crime within the community. The prevention counselor's responsibilities include working directly with at-risk youth, implementing preventive measures, and supporting programs designed to reduce juvenile delinquency. The Court recognized the importance of this funding and the positive impact it has on the community, expressing their support for the continued investment in juvenile crime prevention efforts.

MOTION to approve the grant number 15666. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Administrator Report:

Andy Parks noted that there will be several year end actions for next week's work session.

Court Member Updates: None

At 9:32 a.m. the Court convened 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.

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 direct staff to proceed as directed in the Executive Session. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

MOTION to direct staff to proceed as directed in the Executive Session. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business before the Court, the meeting was **adjourned at 10:33 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Puerner