



**Curry County  
Local Public Safety Coordinating Council**

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**MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, March 7, 2017: 2:00 P.M.**

Curry County Blue Room  
94235 Moore St., Gold Beach, OR 97444

**Attendees:**

**CURRY COUNTY:** *Vice Chair Jay Trost, Joel Hensley (alternate for Sgt. Denney), Commissioner Court Boice, Sheriff John Ward, Captain Mick Espinoza (alternate for Sheriff John Ward),*

**STATE:** *Sgt. Dave Aydelotte (alternate for Lt. Tyler Lee's replacement, OSP), District Attorney Everett Dial*

**PORT ORFORD:** *Chief Hank Hobart*

**GOLD BEACH:**

**BROOKINGS:** *Chief Chris Wallace, Lt. Donny Dotson (alternate for Chief Chris Wallace)*

**Other:** *Secretary Olivia Davis (alternate for Lea Sevey), John Spicer (Public Defender), Erin Porter (alternate for Ken Dukek)*

**Nonvoting members:** *Chief John Brazil (Harbor Fire Department)*

**Nonvoting attendees:** *Becky Campbell (GB City Council), Gordon Clay, Brett Webb, Tracy Wood*

*1. Introductions/Pledge of Allegiance*

Vice Chair Jay Trost opened the meeting and introductions were made. Trost asked attendees to identify themselves for the audio record. Trost asked Commissioner Boice to assist with the public notice requirement for future meetings. Pledge was not done.

*2. Approval of Agenda – [Special meeting – no agenda]*

*3. Approval of Minutes –*

**MOTION:** Dial made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Dotson.

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
CC: Trost	x	
CC: Boice	x	
CC: Ward	x	

CC: Hensley	x	
OR: Dial	x	
OR: Aydelotte	x	
GB: (no voting member present)		
PO: Hobart	x	
Other: Porter	x	
Other: Davis	x	
Other: Spicer	x	
<b>Motion passes unanimously</b>	x	

4. *Public Comment* \*Members of the public may address the council regarding a matter on the agenda. You may be asked to hold your comments until the council takes up the matter. Please limit comments to three minutes. - no one present for public comments.

5. *New Business* –

- a. Announcement done by visitor Gordon Clay – Free workshop by Amy Sales – Mental Health this Friday 3-10-17. Open to Law Enforcement also. He said that there is a problem with 911 and suicidal callers. He also announced funding is coming for the ASSIST program for suicide prevention. It will cost \$40 for the workbook, a 2 day program. He also talked about SAFE Oregon, a school based program. He will have protocol samples available for suicidality.

Ward asked about his comment regarding problems with 911 and suicidal callers. Clay said it was a matter of attitude. He said that a woman was wrestled to the ground and that “when 911 comes with guns drawn” people don’t want to call.

6. *Old Business* -

- a. Trost opened the floor to continue the discussion around the budget as a continuation from the last meeting. He summarized that the previous discussion was around how the cities would be affected if the budget were to be cut by 30% to 60% reduction.

Sheriff’s Office - Espinoza said it would be a reduction of 7 FTE from their budget. They would probably take 4 from the jail and 3 from dispatch. Operations would change with some jail function and jail beds down to 10 beds. This is as low as it could go. P & P brings in mandated funds to supervise offenders and funds to house them. It’s not enough to cover everything. Trost asked how many beds that covers. Espinoza responded that its really for felony cases. He went on to say that the cities could contract for beds but then they need to look at how they can cover that in their budgets. By reducing jail beds it would reduce to half of the cost at what they are at for the jail. Marine is covered by the state. The substation would be shut down. Appointments would have to be made for things like licensing and making reports. Patrol would be reduced. If we don’t get any road funds we won’t have a patrol. We will have Search and Rescue, Marine and the jail. The 30% reduction changes “the integrity of what we do.” He said they are already at cuts. They have state mandated

training that they will still have to do. They won't purchase equipment, vehicles. They will have solo dispatchers. They won't be doing any additional transports because of the manpower and expense.

Hensley said that the jail would be 2 two man teams on rotation. They won't have anyone to cover vacations or sick time. Court security and hospital beds is mandated. Hensley talked about having to opt out of transporting offenders between counties which will be a problem because agencies help each other with transports. Espinoza said that medical issues will demolish any budget so that it will be looked at closely. Trost asked about investigations. Ward said there may not be a detective. Trost said that he thought part of the theory was that part of the reduction in everyone's budget was to help the sheriff's office's budget. Espinoza said that the three positions that are open won't be filled and added that there would be about \$500,000 that they wouldn't be taking out of the road funds.

Dotson asked about if there was an inmate that belongs to another county what would happen. Espinoza said that we would do what we could to help that county out but there would be constraints. Dotson asked about equipment. Espinoza said that they are okay for now on vehicles and equipment. Ward added that they have 2 spare vehicles because of the small staff they have now through the end of 2018 but that could change at any time.

Ward said that the 2 two man teams for jail staff means that there will be overtime (8 hours per person per month) not counting any sick time. Brazil added that there will be burn-out.

Hensley said that the overtime would be a factor but will still be less than adding another person.

Espinoza asked "How are you going to get 8 people to stay?" The pressure and liability will be at its worst.

Hensley said that Last year they booked 881 males and 327 females for a total of 1200 bookings. With the cuts it can be expected to be 10% of that will be booked [and lodged]. "Only the worst of the worst will go to jail."

Ward said "Crime will pay."

District Attorney's Office – Dial said that he is already understaffed (smaller than in 2006). Most counties of our size have about 3 DDAs, some have 4. Curry has 2. Support staff is currently 2, most counties have considerable more. He reported that he either loses his highest paid DDA and then more support staff. But, he added, that he'd not like to do that because the current person in that position is so valuable. He continued that he'd stop filing on most misdemeanor cases and reduce filing on B misdemeanors. They'd file mostly felony cases. With a 60% cut he'd lose a minimum of 3 people. With that situation they'd probably file only felony cases and play it by what the time constraints would be. It might mean that they'd have to ask county council to help out but it would be difficult because it's a different kind of law practice. He said it depends on the case load and who is in the defense consortium. It wouldn't affect his victim advocate because she is nearly entirely grant funded. Ward said that if they couldn't file anything but felony cases they might not need victim assistance which is "all backwards."

Juvenile Department –74% of the budget is personnel so at 30% reduction they would lose the restorative justice portion (if parks were to stay in their department). If parks

were out then the loss would be: restorative justice, prevention and school based services. This means there is only formal probation supervisions and all other methods would be gone. That also reduces the different revenues such as community service funds. At 60% reduction that means a department of 1 with a part-time admin. So any time that person is gone if a youth needs to be detained it just wouldn't happen. They have to be driven to Douglas County which takes a day to go there and back so 1/3 of the services would be in transports. Then if a youth that should be supervised gets a probation violation then there is an issue with PREA.

Parole and Probation – Espinoza said that the state funding is depending upon the number of offenders that are supervised so therefore a reduction in offenders that can be supervised means a reduction in revenue from the State. P & P stands on its own currently. More than likely if they take 30% from the state due to state issues then that creates its own problem.

Countywide – Trost said that according to the assessor the county takes in \$1.6 million and it takes \$5.5 million just to operate. It's been supplemented by other funds in the past. A sustainability model would mean you have to capture county services with a \$1.6 million base.

Boice said that it almost seems like that “we should be sworn to secrecy because once word gets out its going to make your jobs even more tough.” He added that he tentatively challenged the group to keep this information quiet and expressed concerns for the community. Trost interjected that it's a public meeting and therefore that isn't possible with minutes and the nature of the type of meeting. Dial said these are hypotheticals.

Brazil asked for clarity around the assessors report that was submitted. Trost said that for every dollar that is cut back from that department is money that is cut from the budget also because it affects the money they bring in.

Trost brought the meeting around to the “Collateral effects” and asked for input. He added that if there is lack of law enforcement can affect the value of property.

Webb said that his biggest fear is a homeowner having to protect his own property.

The ‘train wreck’ discussion and the law enforcement levy discussion commenced.

Brazil said that one of the things that emergency services will not be able to do is spending more time holding scenes while waiting for law enforcement response. The fire departments support and stand by a lot currently. A new cut in law enforcement response will affect their ability to do that. For example, they may have to go to not going to a scene until law enforcement arrives so that his department isn't pulling volunteers off their paid jobs to wait around for law enforcement to arrive and have them potentially waiting for several hours. He said “I can't ask my volunteers to do that and I can't extend the liability to send them in before law enforcement.” He gave examples of assisting outside his fire districts will not be able to happen and responding to an auto accident.

Ward asked how many un-attended deaths does law enforcement respond to in a year? Espinoza said that it is probably a 100 in a year. Ward said that those deaths have to be investigated by a medical examiner before the body can be removed. And the DA has to file on those deaths. Also suicide deaths. Espinoza said that common decency would dictate that this be handled carefully. Brazil said they have a moral obligation to do so. Campbell asked for clarification about the 10 beds that really would be 5 beds and so if there was one bed for the Gold Beach police to utilize and it was full then the person is released into the City [of Gold Beach] resulting in more offenders on the streets in all the towns. She added there is a quality of life issue.

Ward said there is also the issue of the offenders with mental illness. Dial said the mentally ill were already abandoned when they closed the state mental hospitals. He added that sometimes the mentally ill can be helped but it can go all the way to trial and the judge finds them unable to stand trial. He gave an example of a severely mentally ill person who was released from a mental ward who went on to do great physical damage to another person.

Hobart – said that medical also needs law enforcement when they respond to a scene which results in life or death. He added that the county to the east has been devastated by the loss in their law enforcement and people have moved away because they don't want to raise children in that environment.

Dotson – he agreed with Hobart. Added that they all depend on the jail, juvenile, other patrol for backup. Once this is put into place it's difficult to imagine just how it's going to look.

Spicer – He asked what would happen if an inmate needed to go to the hospital? He added that besides property crimes, assaults and trespasses will just be released. Not just a reduction but law enforcement won't be effective. He asked about domestic violence cases - law enforcement won't be able to protect the citizens.

Aydelotte – They staff about 4 patrol troopers and 3 fish and wildlife. The Troopers are on duty 1 at a time with a short overlap. This doesn't account for when there are vacations, sick time, and off for training. This means really just 1 person on at a time and the ability to do back up for another agency is minimal. OSP supports the sheriff's office departments in the counties they operate in as best they can.

Wood – (Gold Beach PD officer) – They rely on the SO for backup. This delays response time and can also push them into overtime.

Dotson – He said “it looks like we are redefining that now an A Misdemeanor is acceptable.”

Espinoza – “You're going to have people that need help and the reality is...”

Trost – “More assaults on officers.”

Dial – “Don't offenders sit in jail and read the [sentencing] guidelines?”

Ward – “What happens when a firefighter goes to a scene and gets a gun pulled on him?”

Dial – “All the counties around us have about 6 pending murder cases at a time...we’re just lucky...I can’t say whether that will change or not but common sense would say that it would change.”

Brazil – “I don’t intend to put my people in those positions.”

Trost asked the group what action the Council would like to take? If there was a LPSCC letter that was adequate to take [to the BOC]...and asked if that was part of the answer.

Ward – “Law enforcement should contact their local city council and other groups, write letters to them.”

Dial – “Should continue the status quo...” [with the road funds].

Hobart agreed. He added it was the responsible thing to do.

Trost said that was this group’s job as public safety is to advise the best way to keep the public safe. Brazil said it was the commissioner’s job to make decisions to do the same. Brazil reminded the group about the liability of not funding law enforcement.

Boice said to consider one spokesman to go to the BOC to bring the message to the meeting. He asked Dotson what is happening in Del Norte County (California). He responded that it’s difficult to compare. But added that’s because they have Pelican Bay State Prison. Boice said that should be incentive enough.

Hobart said that there are 6 minds to convince [the budget committee] and after a brief discussion determined that really they needed to convince 4 minds [for a quorum]. He added that their own levy [in Port Orford] is coming up.

Trost said that on April 1<sup>st</sup> there is a budget announcement that will be made. The CBAC will present, the county council will present. Espinoza said he recommends that in public comments people say what they think would hold more weight than a letter.

Trost said that a letter has to be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> to get on the BOC meeting by the 22<sup>nd</sup>. He said that CBAC has a presentation to the BOC workshop and LPSCC can have a presentation to the workshop and have members speak also.

Boice said that he thought the city councils should be addressed but it might be too late to do that now.

Trost asked for someone to move to have a presentation during the workshop. Boice said he can help get it on the agenda. Trost asked if there were individuals in the room who would be willing to assist with that presentation. Ward suggested that Campbell be a part of that [GB City Councilperson] presentation. She said she would if there were others presenting. The final list is: Trost, Hensley, Hobart, Aydelotte, and

possibly Brazil and Dotson along with non-members Webb, and Campbell as a representative of the City of Gold Beach (and she can speak to past experience of having a jail shut down in her previous city).

Spicer reviewed the road funds and what those are and what they are supposed to be used for.

Trost asked for a motion again. Motion made by Hobart and seconded by Ward.

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
CC: Trost	<i>x</i>	
CC: Boice	<i>x</i>	
CC: Ward	<i>x</i>	
CC: Hensley	<i>x</i>	
OR: Dial	<i>x</i>	
OR: Aydelotte	<i>x</i>	
GB: <i>(no voting member present)</i>		
PO: Hobart	<i>x</i>	
Other: Porter	<i>x</i>	
Other: Davis	<i>x</i>	
Other: Spicer	<i>x</i>	
<b>Motion passes unanimously</b>	<i>x</i>	

7. *Good of the Order*  
 a. *none*

8. *Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items –*

No Date discussed for next Meeting.

*Adjournment*

Trost closed the meeting at 3:45 pm.

*If you are a LPSCC member and cannot attend the meeting, please let Sgt. Denney or Secretary Sevey know at least 24 hours in advance.*

*All LPSCC meetings are held in accessible locations. Auxiliary aids will be provided upon request with 48 hours advance notification. Please call 541-247-3296 if you have questions regarding this notice.*

*Statutory Authorization ORS 423.560*