



## **CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Approval Date:**  
**October 16, 2019**

Commissioners' Hearing Room, Courthouse Annex  
94235 Moore Street, Gold Beach, Oregon

[www.co.curry.or.us](http://www.co.curry.or.us)

### **WEEKLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES** **October 2, 2019**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Paasch at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chair Christopher Paasch, Vice-Chair Court Boice, Commissioner Sue Gold.

Also present: Legal Counsel John Huttel, Director of Operations Julie Schmelzer, Administrative Assistant John Jezuit.

The Pledge was recited by all.

#### **2. LINE OF DUTY CASUALTY REPORT**

Commissioner Boice gave the report.

#### **3. AMENDMENT/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Boice asked to change length of break from 10 minutes to 20 minutes as he had another meeting to attend.

Huttel requesting adding Executive Session ORS 192.660(2) (d), Labor negotiations.

Motion by Gold, seconded by Boice, to approve agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Gene Clasen gave the Board a handout suggesting using TLT (Transient Lodging Tax) revenues to promote Rogue River bird watching by advertising in national birding magazines. David Barnes asked the Board to rescind decision about changing break time from 10 to 20 minutes as it is an inconvenience to the public who are at the meeting. Christine Neil, on behalf of the county's SEIU (Services Employees International Union) members, encourages the Board to come up with another offer than the one proposed in union negotiations.

#### **5. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Coast Community Health – Linda Maxson, Chief Executive Officer.

There was not presentation as Maxson did not attend the meeting.

B. Recognition: 5 Year Service Award Christine Neil – Wendy Lang, Juvenile Director

Lang praised Neil's work and decades of the Neil family's County employment history.

C. Restoration of Front Lawn Curry County Courthouse – Wendy Lang Juvenile Director

For detailed information on any agenda item, refer to Audio/Video.

Lang spoke about adding benches, with sponsorships, in front of the courthouse. None of the Commissioners objected.

**D. Quarterly Report - Wendy Lang, Juvenile Director**

Lang stated a lot of things going on extremely well, stated some changes have been made, commented the start of school will generate more referrals, praised the extra work done by her staff, stated more training needed due to the lower age of the incoming cases, reported they are working on a grant for victim's advocate, noted there are a couple of house and senate bills focusing on prevention, and mentioned last week's trade show expo. Gold asked about CTE (Career & Technical Education) program success in the high school. Paasch stated work has started on bringing the trade show expo to Curry County and asked Lang to speak about a recent High School graduation in juvenile court. Schmelzer stated she is proud of Lang's work. Boice observed Lang's Dad was a district attorney here.

**E. Military Losses Due to Suicide – Commissioner Paasch**

Paasch spoke about the seriousness of this issue nationally, praised President Trump for helping military veterans, stated suicide is becoming an epidemic, spoke about the battlefield conditions that contribute to veteran suicides, encouraged reaching out to veterans, and showed an emotionally charged video about veteran's suicide. Gordon Clay spoke about suicide statistics in Curry County.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve: Minutes Business Meeting of September 18, 2019
- B. Approve: Minutes Special Meeting of September 25, 2019
- C. Approve: Advanced Health CAC (Community Advisory Council)
- D. Approve: New Hire - Juvenile Administrative Assistant
- E. Approve: FTE (Full Time Equivalent) Increase for an Employee in District Attorney's Office
- F. Appoint: Members to BOPTA (Board of Property Tax Appeals)
- G. Approve: Deputy Code Enforcement Officer Job Position from Part Time to Full Time
- H. Approve: Temporary Pay Increase Senior Accounting Clerk - Schmelzer amended the increase from 15% to 10% to be consistent with past practices.

Motion by Boice, seconded by Gold, to approve consent agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Forensic Audit – Commissioner Paasch**

Schmelzer stated, instead of a full forensic audit, which costs a lot of money, we can ask our auditor to do an in depth review of a select department at a contract cost of about \$6,000, but less than \$10,000. Schmelzer suggested starting with the Finance Department. Paasch agrees with Schmelzer stating the County does not need a full forensic audit right now and stressed the importance of taxpayers understanding the Board is closely watching County finances. Boice suggested, based on some public perception about recent county hiring practices, to start with the Commissioners first. Gold stated in order to move forward, let's dig in, look at where everything is going, and look at ways we can improve.

For detailed information on any agenda item, refer to Audio/Video.

Motion by Boice, seconded by Gold, to contract with our auditors to do an in depth review of a department. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Amnesty Program – Julie Schmelzer, DOC (Director of County Operations)**

Paasch stated he has had conversations with Jim Kolen, Assessor; Becky Crockett, Planning Director; and Dave Fortman, Code Enforcement Officer about unpermitted buildings. Paasch explained the Amnesty Program would waive penalties on any owners of property that is not up to code, plan, or permitted who come in voluntarily between January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020. The property owners will need to file for a permit and then be assessed for property taxes. Paasch stressed we are asking people to come in, feels revenues generated will allow proper staffing of the Assessor's Office, and noted after June 30, 2020, the penalties, developed by Schmelzer and Huttl will be severe. Gold stated it is important to note, those buildings will have to inspected and brought up to code. Gold also stated the owners will be responsible for back property taxes.

Boice questioned the time frame, asked for good public notice, observed the public perception of not wanting anyone on their property, and advised the Board to be prepared for the backlash. Boice commented he wants people to feel comfortable coming into the planning department and building departments. Huttl suggested, to avoid confusion about what happens between now and January 1, 2020, starting the program now and revisit the program in April, 2020. All commissioners agreed. Crockett stating, this is an exciting program, warned sometimes there is difficulty interpreting county or state codes which may affect time frame. Schmelzer explained the Order presented in the meeting packet was for a program to start immediately, and expire in April 2020.

Motion by Boice, seconded by Gold, to approve amnesty program starting now and ending in April, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Authorizing an Agreement with OPRD (State of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department) to Exchange Property – John Huttl County Counsel.**

**Per Boice's request, Agenda Item 7C moved to before Agenda Item 7A.**

Citizen Gary Garman supports the Floras Land Swap and thanked the Board for their work. Bob Morrow praised the Board for their work, suggested accepting OPRD's language on trails, and encouraged work on phase II by using the remaining 400 acres to obtain McVay Rock State Recreation Site. Huttl stated the only difference between the two (2) options before the Board, is the trail element wording. OPRD prefers starting the five (5) year trail process two (2) years after closing. Paasch stated OPRD did say they could complete the trail in five (5) years after closing. Boice stated he is comfortable with the OPRD wording. Gold agrees with Boice stating OPRD needs time to put out quality product.

Motion by Boice, seconded by Gold, to approve the State Parks version of the agreement. Motion carried 2 - 1 (Boice, Yes; Gold, Yes; Paasch, No.)

**D. Moss Adams – Julie Schmelzer, DOC**

Schmelzer spoke about the beginning of the Strategic Plan development process and introduced Colleen Rozillis, Senior Manager, Moss Adams. Rozillis stated Moss Adams is a local government consulting firm, gave a PowerPoint presentation addressing the stages of,

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the scope of, and the timeline for Moss Adams work creating a Strategic Plan for Curry County. Rozillis started by asking what is the role of government in the County, showed a screen about Value Examples, asked each Commissioner to pick the three (3) most important Value Examples, also asked each Commissioner about their vision for the future, and introduced Annie Rose Favreau, Senior Consultant, Moss Adams, who spoke about what Moss Adams has learned about the County through their interviews so far. Boice commented on the diverse needs of longtime residents balanced against the needs of short time residents, chose accountable and transparent as the value examples important to him, stated his vision for the future is to remember how the past impacts today's county, and observed the challenge for us in the next 14 -16 months is to make this a reality. Paasch agrees with what was presented so far, stated he can't imagine not having a strategic plan, and noted he is looking forward to seeing the completed strategic plan. Paasch chose proactive, ethical, accountable, and very collaborative as the value examples important to him and stated his vision for the future is striving to bring more tourism to the County and well planned sustainable growth. Gold chose accountable, sustainable, and professional as the value examples important to her and stated her vision for the future is a place where people want to live and is economically stable. Huttel stated there are opportunities for the Board to be involved in the process along the line. Schmelzer stated January, 2020 is a good time to present the Strategic Plan and confirmed Moss Adams will survey the management team, all employees, and the public. Rozillis observed all the Commissioners stated accountability was one of the three (3) most important value examples and asked each Commissioner what does accountability mean to you. Each commissioner replied 'trust'.

## **8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Schmelzer spoke about

- Finance is looking at processes to get us more efficient in payroll and hiring practices.
- Finance is doing more on a works program.
- Insurance and what options are available.
- The suicide council 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at next meeting, October 16, 2019.

## **9. COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

A. Commissioner Boice spoke about

- The upcoming Emergency Preparedness Expo and praised Jeremy Dumire for organizing the Expo.
- His letter to Governor's Wildfire Response Council about SW Oregon Rogue Siskiyou Regional Fire and Emergency Training Center.
- His 2017 plan and critical disasters since 2011.
- Fire statistics over the past 10 years.
- The SOD (Sudden Oak Death) Task Force is an ongoing issue.
- Coos Curry Housing Task Force.
- The Coos Forest Collaborative removing rare plants.
- Working on law enforcement with the Sheriff throughout the county.
- The PSU (Portland State University) study on consolidated dispatch services.

B. Commissioner Gold spoke about

- Her recent jail tour and the upcoming fee on electric bills for supporting the jail.
- For detailed information on any agenda item, refer to Audio/Video.

- Continuing with SWOCC (Southwest Oregon Community College) seminars.
- Her meetings with elementary school principals in the county on October 26, 2019 and October 29, 2019. No Superintendents will be there.

C. Commissioner Paasch spoke about

- His letter to USACE (United States Army Corp of Engineers), Jackson County Board, and Josephine County Board inviting them to an October 31, 2019 joint meeting with OPRD in Grants Pass at 10AM about the Rogue River issues economic development we face.
- His anticipation of fishing guide organizations from the northwest attending the joint October 31, 2019 meeting as well.

**10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection; and,  
 ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Chair Paasch entered Executive Session at 11:35 a.m. and exited at 12:19 p.m.

Staff to proceed as directed.

**11. HIRE ORDERS**


(None.)

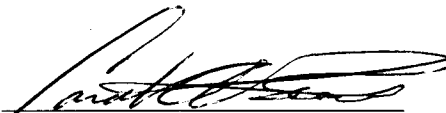
**12. OTHER** (ORS.192.640( 1) ". . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.")

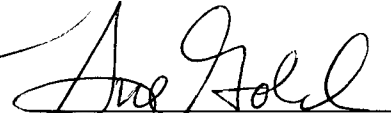
**13. ADJOURN**

Chair Paasch adjourned the meeting at 12:19p.m.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October , 2019.

  
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 Christopher S Paasch, Chair

  
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 Court Boice, Vice Chair  
 10/16/19

  
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 Sue Gold, Commissioner

Minutes prepared by: John Jezuit, Administrative Assistant

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