



CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approval Date:

December 11, 2019

City Hall Council Chambers
898 Elk Drive Brookings, Oregon

www.co.curry.or.us

WEEKLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

October 23, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Paasch at 5:00 p.m. Present were Chair Christopher Paasch, Vice-Chair Court Boice, Commissioner Sue Gold.

Also present: Director of Operations Julie Schmelzer, Legal Counsel John Huttli, and Administrative Assistant John Jezuit

The Pledge was recited by all.

2. LINE OF DUTY CASUALTY REPORT

Boice read the report.

3. AMENDMENT/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Boice asked if Jim Webber could have extra time in public comments to speak. Paasch agreed.

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Webber spoke about the activities at the Divide Camp located in Joseph, Oregon. The camp is a nonprofit wilderness camp experience for post 9/11 combat wounded veterans. The camp is no cost for veterans and does not turn any veteran down. Dani Padilla, Park Property Manager, Southwest Oregon, OPRD (Oregon Parks and Recreation Department) spoke about requiring reservations from Memorial Day, 2020 through the end of September, 2020.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve: Employee Transfer Road Maintenance and Construction Worker I to Sr. Accounting Specialist – Roads
- B. Approve: Termination of 2017 Local Agency Agreement # 32317 for S. Bank Chetco River Road Slide Repairs – Roads
- C. Approve: Chip Rock Quote 2020-2021. Quote Award with Signatory Authority to Roadmaster
- D. Approve: Amendment # 3 to Current Contract 159808 – CCH (Curry Community Health)
- E. Approve: Credit Cards for Certain County Employees - BOC (Board of Commissioners) Administration

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

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

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Special Districts Agreement – Commissioner Paasch

Paasch spoke about Special Districts in Curry County noting there are 42 of them, their accruals on taxes, the impact of increasing population on the Special District tax base, the drag of Special Districts on total County tax revenues, and the disparity between the districts in above average financial shape compared to those in below average financial shape citing SWOCC (Southwest Oregon Community College) versus the County as an example. Paasch also observed if the county were run like a business, funds would be reallocated, and he is looking for ways for certain districts to move some of this around. Paasch stated he is here to make sense to the residents of this county because some Special Tax Districts were set up by Commissioners and Commissioners should be allowed to change those Special Districts. Paasch stated he and Director Schmelzer approached the Chetco Library District Board to see if they would be willing to give a portion of their reserves to help fund operations that need more revenues. The Library District Board did not decline the request, rather asked the Board of Commissioners to make a formal request regarding fund reallocation. Therefore Paasch said he is proposing three (3) annual donations from the Chetco Library to be split between the Sheriff's Department, Agness Public Library District, and the Langlois Public Library District, thus helping other Districts that are not well funded. Paasch wants Board of Commissioners approval for a formal draft of the suggestion to open a conversation with the Chetco Library District Board. Huttel agrees with Paasch. Gold stated she agrees districts are out of whack, suggested looking at State laws to resolve the imbalance, feels citizens could get a referendum to put item on the ballot to lower the tax rate, and emphasized if the Special Tax District rate is lowered, the revenue savings will not automatically go to the County. Boice stated, due to fire, we live with the highest level of risk in the western United States observing we almost lost Brookings because of the Chetco Bar Fire. Boice also stated our number one responsibility is public safety and wanted to remind the citizens our fire districts are continually straining for funds. Boice concluded he cannot support the proposal without having more districts included.

Citizen Maureen Trebake (inaudible) stated funding for the Sheriff's office was voted down, recommended using current library funds on programs which impact youth, and suggested attracting a software company to the area to generate revenue. Phoebe Skinner questioned how lowering tax rate would generate tax revenue for the County, cautioned against making Special Districts rely on donations, and would like to see the County paint a picture so that people would want to help the County. Jeremy Skinner, Library Director Gold Beach Public Library, believes donations cannot be made by a Board as each Library District represents their District's taxpayers and suggested a ballot measure to repeal the taxing districts.

Motion by Paasch to ask the Chetco Library to donate \$250,000 per year for 3 years to the Sheriff's Department, \$50,000 per year for 3 years to the Agness Library District, and \$50,000 per year for 3 years to Langlois Library District. The motion was not seconded. Motion dies due to lack of second.

B. Repeal Ordinance 18-07 – Commissioner Boice

Boice feels the Ordinance stands in the way of loaning road funds to taxing districts. Boice spoke about the benefits those funds would have in the Districts as well as increased interest income for the County and opportunities to generate Federal matching funds. Boice strongly favors looking at every individual loan application based on the entity's collateral, stated he will not promote high risk loans, and observed if the County desperately needs a large amount of Road Funds, the board will be dealing with a lot bigger issue than absence of Road Funds. Gold asked about what

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in Ordinance 18-07 is not good, the possibility of the absence of Road Funds when needed, and stated Ordinance 18-07 is not onerous. Citizen David Barnes expressed surprise at this is being brought up again stating Ordinance 18-07 is very similar to HB 3435 and is not too onerous. Theresa Lawson read the highlights of her letter stating citizens are deeply concerned about road funds. Michele Mishe (inaudible) spoke about the need for strong safeguards to protect the taxpayers interest. Paasch stated he does not find 18-7 cumbersome.

Motion by Boice to repeal Ordinance 18-7 and redraft the ordinance. Motion died for lack of a second.

C. HB2377 and Workforce Housing Discussion – Commissioner Boice

Boice stated HB 2377 encompasses a 10 year based tax break, and asked the Board for consensus to pass an ordinance or resolution to remind the community we're open for business as we have a chance to make have an incentive for housing development. Barnes stated he read HB2377, spoke about reasons why it may not work in Curry County, and feels since the 10 year tax break ends in 2027, it may not be applicable with 8 years left. HuttI said he understood the language states the tax break may continue for a full 10 years. Paasch would like to move this to meeting, possibly a workshop in Brookings and directed staff to add to next workshop agenda. Schmelzer said she had asked Counsel HuttI to write an ordinance and he has already created a draft which will be discussed at a later date.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Schmelzer spoke about

- It is charity fraud awareness week and Schmelzer has more information available about the matter for anyone interested;
- Port Orford Cemetery Maintenance District lack of a Board and the impact on burials;
- The possibility of the Parks Department working on Port Orford Cemetery issues;
- Office hours - specifically all departments open Monday to Friday;
- The Board's meeting schedule which is on the County website;
- The State providing education and instruction on Budget law on December 10, 2019, and invited the Cities and Port Boards to attend; and
- Conversations with the Port of Brookings Harbor and the Parks Department about management of the Port's RV park.

8. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

A. Commissioner Paasch spoke about

- The ongoing talks with CCH (Curry Community Health) Public Health as public safety is the most important responsibility of the Board;
- NACo (National Association of Counties) and the veteran's treatment court in the Brookings area which is taking cases retroactive to 1 year;
- HUD (Housing and Urban Development) statistics showing a continuing decrease of homeless veterans; and
- The amount of rock in the Chetco River and the efforts to resolve the issue involving Representative Peter DeFazio's funding bill.

B. Commissioner Boice spoke about

- BLM Office District Supervisor moving Coos Bay to Medford;
- October 26, 2019 is National Drug Take Back Day;
- DeFazio's SRS (Secure Rural Schools) program;

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- Senator Ron Wyden's help with SRS funds;
- Gains in struggle over opioid epidemic issues; and
- Proposed new county logos.

C. Commissioner Gold spoke about

- Attending a youth forum about helping high school dropouts;
- Meeting with local High School principals about student mental health issues; and
- Involvement with SWOCC and Beyond planning meeting.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(None)

10. HIRE ORDERS


(None)

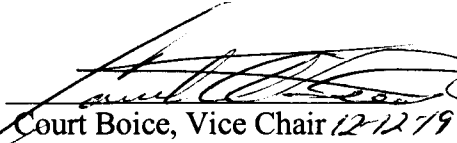
11. **OTHER** (ORS.192.640(1) ". . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.")

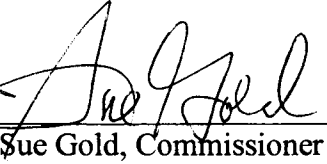
12. ADJOURN

Chair Paasch adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Dated this 11th day of December, 2019.


Christopher S Paasch, Chair


Court Boice, Vice Chair 12-12-19


Sue Gold, Commissioner

Minutes prepared by: John Jezuit, Administrative Assistant